



Media Release

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RUDD HAS NO PLAN TO WORK WITH STATES ON HEALTH

Kevin Rudd's decision to drop health from today's COAG Agenda shows he has no plan and no commitment to work with the States to fix the health system Shadow Parliamentary Secretary for Health Administration Mathias Cormann said in Perth today.

"Kevin Rudd's decision to pull health off the agenda for COAG today is an absolute disgrace," Senator Cormann said.

"Before the election we were told that in Government Kevin Rudd would implement a new era of cooperative federalism in health," he said.

"All we got so far is a budget measure which would have caused an unprecedented \$3 billion cost shift for funding of hospital treatment from the Commonwealth and the privately insured to the States and Territories.

"The Rudd government pursued its very short sighted proposal to increase the Medicare Levy Surcharge thresholds without consulting the States and Territories or without even costing or assessing the impact on public hospitals.

"Kevin Rudd and Nicola Roxon didn't even ensure that the States and Territories would have access to the limited Treasury modelling so they could plan properly on how to deal with the tsunami of additional demand that would be coming their way.

"Today State Premiers and Territory Chief Ministers should insist that the Federal Government conduct a proper assessment of the impact on State and Territory run public hospitals of their revised plan to increase the Medicare Levy Surcharge threshold for singles to \$75,000.

"If the Federal Government wants to persist with its ideologically driven attack on private health then Premiers and Chief Ministers should insist on full compensation for the impact of that measure on the public hospitals they have responsibility for.

"If Kevin Rudd does not commit today to properly compensate States and Territories for the impact of his misguided ideological war on private health we will all know that his supposed commitment to working with the States and Territories on health is nothing more than empty pre-election rhetoric," Senator Cormann said.

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