



# Media Release

## Senator Mathias Cormann

### *Acting Shadow Minister for Health and Ageing*

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#### SCATHING FINDINGS ON RUDD'S HEALTH "FIX"

The AMA's latest *Public Hospital Report Card 2009* is a scathing criticism of the Rudd Government's failure to "fix" Australia's hospitals.

Acting Shadow Minister for Health Senator Mathias Cormann said today it put the lie to Kevin Rudd's multitude of promises on health before the last election.

The report finds that performance in Australia's public hospitals continues to decline.

"This report, yet again, shows that Labor has been a complete failure in the health portfolio," Senator Cormann said.

"Kevin Rudd and Nicola Roxon promised they had a plan to fix public hospitals and that they would implement that fix by mid this year."

"Instead all we've seen are innumerable bureaucratic reviews, taskforces, committees and consultations followed by reviews of those reviews and a photo-op tour of a hospital-near-you," Senator Cormann said.

The AMA report revealed the reality of Labor's failure to meet any of its commitments in health and showed the situation in the nation's public hospitals was now worse than when Labor was elected.

It noted that –

- "...**patients** were still **dying** while waiting for beds" because of access block
- There had been **no significant improvement** in access block since last year
- The Prime Minister said extra Federal funding could provide **an additional 3,750 hospital beds** – there was **no evidence** to show they'd been supplied
- Health Minister Nicola Roxon's claims that a **"blitz" on surgery** waiting lists provided 41,000 additional procedures was **not borne out** by the actual data
- The "blitz" **did not occur**
- Elective surgery **waiting times** were **increasing**
- **Data** provided by Governments was **"unreliable"**
- Too often that **data** was **"manipulated"** for political purposes
- That Rudd Government policies could have a **negative impact** on public hospitals

"Labor promised the world in health and they've delivered next to nothing," Senator Cormann said.

"Australians need a government focused on ensuring timely and affordable access to quality health care and they're not getting it from the Rudd Government."

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