5 International comparisons

In this publication, apart from this chapter, the health expenditure estimates are derived using boundaries and definitions that have provided the basis for estimation of health expenditure in Australia since the 1970s. Those boundaries and definitions are not necessarily consistent with those used by other countries. This chapter compares Australia's expenditure on health with that of OECD member economies and a number of countries in the Asia-Pacific region. For the purpose of this comparison, Australian health expenditure estimates in this chapter have been derived using the framework for estimating and reporting national health expenditure developed by the OECD as part of its System of Health Accounts (SHA) (see Section 5.3 for further details). Therefore, the estimates of Australia's total health expenditure and recurrent health expenditure discussed here differ somewhat from similarly titled estimates in the other chapters of this report. For example, in Table 2.2 health expenditure as a proportion of GDP is shown as 9.1% in 2007-08, but using the SHA estimating framework, expenditure on health is estimated at 8.9% of GDP in 2007 (Table 5.1).

One method for comparing different countries' health expenditures is by reference to the proportion of GDP that is related to health expenditure — the 'health to GDP' ratio. This gives a measure of the proportion of a nation's productive effort that is spent on funding its health goods and services. Fluctuations in the health to GDP ratio can be due to movements in GDP as well as in health expenditure. Therefore caution should be exercised when drawing inferences about changes in health expenditure from changes in the health to GDP ratio itself.

Estimates of average health expenditure per person also allow comparisons to be made between countries and within a country over time without the potentially confounding effect that annual movements in GDP and different population sizes can have.

In this chapter both the health to GDP ratios and the average expenditure per person are used to compare Australia with other countries.

The comparison of average health expenditure per person is undertaken using a common currency unit. This is achieved using purchasing power parities (PPPs), sourced from the OECD, for the whole of GDP for each country to convert its expenditures, from the different national currency units into Australian dollars. The PPPs for the whole of GDP are used for this conversion because of the poor reliability of health-specific PPPs, particularly in the early part of the decade ending in 2007.

For comparing different countries with the OECD, as a whole, weighted averages have been calculated. For example, the weighted average of the per person health expenditure is 'total health expenditure' divided by the 'total OECD population'.

The months covered by the OECD data for a particular year differ from one country to another (see Box 5.1). The OECD averages (both weighted averages and medians) are (where possible) averages of member countries for which data are available for all the years presented.

| Box 5.1: Periods equ | Box 5.1: Periods equating to OECD year 2007 | | | | |
|----------------------|---|--|--|--|--|
| Country | Financial year | | | | |
| Australia | 1 July 2007 to 30 June 2008 | | | | |
| Canada | 1 April 2007 to 31 March 2008 | | | | |
| France | 1 January 2007 to 31 December 2007 | | | | |
| Germany | 1 January 2007 to 31 December 2007 | | | | |
| Japan | 1 April 2007 to 31 March 2008 | | | | |
| New Zealand | 1 July 2007 to 30 June 2008 | | | | |
| Sweden | 1 January 2007 to 31 December 2007 | | | | |
| United Kingdom | 1 April 2007 to 31 March 2008 | | | | |
| United States | 1 October 2006 to 30 September 2007 | | | | |

5.1 Health expenditure in OECD countries

The OECD median health to GDP ratio for 1997, 2002 and 2007 was 7.7%, 8.4% and 8.9%, respectively. Average expenditure per person for the whole of the OECD was estimated at \$2,725, \$3,722 and \$5,213 in those same years (Table 5.1).

Australia's health to GDP ratio (7.6%) was slightly lower than the OECD median in 1997, higher in 2002 (8.6%) and the same as the OECD median (8.9%) in 2007 (Table 5.1 and Figure 5.1). Average per person expenditure on health in Australia (\$2,371 in 1997, \$3,398 in 2002 and \$4,732 in 2007) was higher than the OECD median expenditure (\$2,259, \$3,075 and \$4,481, respectively, in all 3 years (Table 5.1).

The United States was by far the highest spender on health care, spending 16.0% of GDP in 2007 with an average expenditure per person that was more than double the amount for Australia (\$10,352 per person compared with \$4,732 for Australia) (Table 5.1).

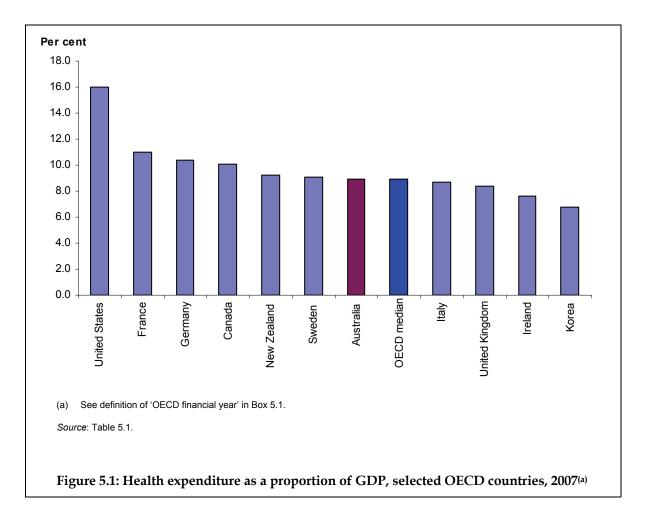
In 2007, Australia spent a similar proportion of GDP on health as Italy, Norway, Sweden and New Zealand, and more than the United Kingdom (Table 5.1).

Australia's three tiers of government funded an average of 67.5% of total health expenditure in 2007, which was 7.1 percentage points below the OECD median of 74.6%. Of the countries that provided data for 2007, the Czech Republic had the highest proportion of government health funding (85.2%) – Mexico (45.2%) and the United States (45.4%) the lowest. Over the decade, the government contribution to the funding of health care in Australia edged up by 0.3 percentage points, while the average government share for the OECD overall increased by 0.7 percentage points (Table 5.2).

Government health expenditure in 2007 as a proportion of GDP was 6.0% in Australia, 0.6 percentage points below the OECD median, 0.9 percentage points below the United Kingdom, 1.1 percentage points below Canada and 1.3 percentage points below that spent by the United States (Table 5.2).

Australia's average out-of-pocket expenditure per person (\$393) was \$74 below the weighted OECD average in 1997, but \$49 above the weighted average in 2007 (Table 5.3). Australia's out-of-pocket expenditure as a percentage of total expenditure and total household final consumption expenditure (HFCE) rose between the two periods from 16.6% to 18.0% and from 2.2% to 2.9%, respectively. For the OECD as a whole, while out-of-pocket expenditure

rose as a percentage of total HFCE (2.6% to 2.7%), it declined as a percentage of total health expenditure (16.2% to 14.5%) (Table 5.3 and Figure 5.2).



| | 19 | 997 | 20 | 002 | 2007 | |
|------------------------------------|----------------------|---------------------|----------------------|---------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------|
| Country ^(b) | Health to GDP (%) | Per person (A\$) | Health to GDP (%) | Per person (A\$) | Health to GDP ^(b) (%) | Per person (A\$) |
| United States | 13.4 | 5,353 | 15.1 | 7,307 | 16.0 | 10,352 |
| France | 10.2 | 2,938 | 10.5 | 3,915 | 11.0 | 5,113 |
| Switzerland | 10.0 | 3,757 | 10.9 | 4,922 | 10.8 | 6,272 |
| Germany | 10.2 | 3,185 | 10.6 | 3,936 | 10.4 | 5,095 |
| Belgium | 8.3 | 2,599 | 9.0 | 3,598 | 10.2 | 5,105 |
| Austria | 9.8 | 3,189 | 10.1 | 4,096 | 10.1 | 5,343 |
| Canada | 8.8 | 2,841 | 9.6 | 3,854 | 10.1 | 5,531 |
| Denmark | 8.2 | 2,719 | 8.8 | 3,613 | 9.8 | 4,987 |
| Netherlands | 7.9 | 2,529 | 8.9 | 3,796 | 9.8 | 5,449 |
| Greece | 8.4 | 1,787 | 9.1 | 2,633 | 9.6 | 3,872 |
| Iceland | 8.1 | 2,790 | 10.2 | 4,229 | 9.3 | 4,713 |
| New Zealand | 7.3 | 1,785 | 8.2 | 2,468 | 9.2 | 3,564 |
| Sweden | 8.1 | 2,491 | 9.3 | 3,614 | 9.1 | 4,719 |
| Australia ^(c) | 7.6 | 2,371 | 8.6 | 3,398 | 8.9 | 4,732 |
| Norway | 8.4 | 3,102 | 9.8 | 4,863 | 8.9 | 6,763 |
| Italy | 7.7 | 2,281 | 8.3 | 2,979 | 8.7 | 3,814 |
| Spain | 7.3 | 1,715 | 7.3 | 2,338 | 8.5 | 3,793 |
| United Kingdom | 6.6 | 1,964 | 7.6 | 2,935 | 8.4 | 4,249 |
| Finland | 7.6 | 2,120 | 7.8 | 2,873 | 8.2 | 4,033 |
| Slovak Republic | 5.8 | 744 | 5.6 | 978 | 7.7 | 2,208 |
| Ireland | 6.4 | 1,843 | 7.1 | 3,172 | 7.6 | 4,862 |
| Hungary | 6.8 | 896 | 7.6 | 1,493 | 7.4 | 1,971 |
| Czech Republic | 6.7 | 1,217 | 7.1 | 1,601 | 6.8 | 2,309 |
| Korea | 4.3 | 822 | 5.3 | 1,336 | 6.8 | 2,397 |
| Poland | 5.6 | 657 | 6.3 | 982 | 6.4 | 1,470 |
| Mexico | 4.8 | 537 | 5.6 | 783 | 5.9 | 1,169 |
| Japan | 7.0 | 2,237 | 8.0 | 2,864 | n.a. | n.a. |
| Luxembourg | 5.6 | 2,603 | 6.8 | 4,129 | n.a. | n.a. |
| Portugal | 8.0 | 1,566 | 9.0 | 2,220 | n.a. | n.a. |
| Turkey | 3.1 | 330 | 5.9 | 647 | n.a. | n.a. |
| Weighted average ^{(d)(e)} | 9.6 | 2,725 | 10.7 | 3,722 | 11.3 | 5,213 |
| Median ^(d) | 7.7 | 2,259 | 8.4 | 3,075 | 8.9 | 4,481 |

Table 5.1: Health expenditure as a proportion of GDP and per person, OECD countries, 1997 to 2007^(a)

(a) See definition of 'OECD financial year' in Box 5.1.

(b) Countries in this table are sorted in descending order according to the 2007 health to GDP ratio.

(c) Expenditure based on the OECD System of Health Accounts (SHA) framework.

(d) Averages for 2007 incorporate 2006 data for Japan, Luxembourg and Portugal, and 2005 data for Turkey.

(e) Average weighted by GDP or population.

Note: Expenditures converted to Australian dollar values using GDP purchasing power parities.

Sources: AIHW health expenditure database; OECD 2009.

| | 1997 | | 2002 | : | 2007 | |
|--|---|-----------------|---|-----------------|--|-----------------|
| Country ^(b) | Share of total health expenditure | Share of GDP | Share of total health expenditure | Share of GDP | Share of total health expenditure ^(b) | Share of GDP |
| Mexico | 44.7 | 2.1 | 43.9 | 2.5 | 45.2 | 2.7 |
| United States | 44.7 | 6.0 | 44.1 | 6.6 | 45.4 | 7.3 |
| Korea | 41.7 | 1.8 | 50.6 | 2.7 | 54.9 | 3.7 |
| Switzerland | 55.0 | 5.5 | 57.7 | 6.3 | 59.3 | 6.4 |
| Greece | 52.8 | 4.5 | 58.0 | 5.3 | 60.3 | 5.8 |
| Slovak Republic | 91.7 | 5.3 | 89.1 | 5.0 | 66.8 | 5.2 |
| Australia ^(c) | 67.2 | 5.1 | 66.9 | 5.8 | 67.5 | 6.0 |
| Canada | 70.1 | 6.2 | 69.6 | 6.7 | 70.0 | 7.1 |
| Hungary | 81.3 | 5.5 | 70.2 | 5.3 | 70.6 | 5.2 |
| Poland | 72.0 | 4.0 | 71.2 | 4.5 | 70.8 | 4.6 |
| Spain | 72.5 | 5.3 | 71.3 | 5.2 | 71.8 | 6.1 |
| Finland | 72.2 | 5.5 | 72.3 | 5.6 | 74.6 | 6.1 |
| Austria | 75.7 | 7.4 | 75.8 | 7.7 | 76.4 | 7.7 |
| Italy | 70.8 | 5.4 | 74.5 | 6.2 | 76.5 | 6.7 |
| Germany | 80.8 | 8.3 | 79.2 | 8.4 | 76.9 | 8.0 |
| France | 79.6 | 8.1 | 79.7 | 8.4 | 79.0 | 8.7 |
| Ireland | 73.9 | 4.7 | 75.8 | 5.4 | 80.7 | 6.1 |
| Sweden | 85.8 | 6.9 | 82.1 | 7.6 | 81.7 | 7.4 |
| United Kingdom | 80.4 | 5.3 | 79.9 | 6.1 | 81.7 | 6.9 |
| Iceland | 82.1 | 6.6 | 81.9 | 8.3 | 82.5 | 7.7 |
| Norway | 81.3 | 6.8 | 83.5 | 8.2 | 84.1 | 7.5 |
| Denmark | 82.3 | 6.7 | 82.9 | 7.3 | 84.5 | 8.2 |
| Czech Republic | 90.3 | 6.0 | 90.5 | 6.4 | 85.2 | 5.8 |
| Belgium | n.a. | n.a. | n.a. | n.a. | n.a. | n.a. |
| Japan | 81.5 | 5.7 | 81.5 | 6.5 | n.a. | n.a. |
| Luxembourg | 92.5 | 5.2 | 90.3 | 6.1 | n.a. | n.a. |
| Netherlands | 67.8 | 5.4 | 62.5 | 5.5 | n.a. | n.a. |
| New Zealand | 77.3 | 5.7 | 77.9 | 6.4 | n.a. | n.a. |
| Portugal | 65.7 | 5.3 | 72.2 | 6.5 | n.a. | n.a. |
| Turkey | 71.6 | 2.2 | 70.4 | 4.1 | n.a. | n.a. |
| Weighted average (28 countries) ^{(d)(e)} | 60.0 | 5.9 | 59.2 | 6.5 | 59.3 | 6.9 |
| Median (28 countries) ^(d) | 73.9 | 5.5 | 74.5 | 6.3 | 74.6 | 6.6 |

Table 5.2: Government health expenditure as a proportion of total health expenditure and GDP, OECD countries, 1997 to 2007^(a) (per cent)

(a) See definition of 'OECD financial year' in Box 5.1.

(b) Countries in this table are sorted in ascending order according to the 2007 share of government to total health expenditure.

(c) Expenditure based on the OECD SHA framework.

(d) The 28 countries included in the averages exclude Belgium and the Netherlands. Averages for 2007 incorporate 2006 data for Japan, Luxembourg, New Zealand and Portugal, and 2005 data for Turkey.

(e) Average weighted by total health expenditure or GDP.

Sources: AIHW health expenditure database; OECD 2009.

| | | 1997 | | | 2007 | |
|--|---|--|----------------------------------|--|--|-------------------------------|
| Country ^(c) | Per person out-of-pocket expenditure (A\$) | Share of total health expenditure (%) | Share of total HFCE (%) | Per person out-of-pocket expenditure ^(c) (A\$) | Share of total health expenditure (%) | Share o tota HFCE (% |
| Switzerland | 1,217 | 32.4 | 5.5 | 1,917 | 30.6 | 5.9 |
| United States | 785 | 14.7 | 2.9 | 1,264 | 12.2 | 2.8 |
| Norway | 553 | 17.8 | 3.3 | 1,022 | 15.1 | 3.4 |
| Belgium | n.a. | n.a. | n.a. | 934 | 18.3 | 3.6 |
| Korea | 403 | 48.9 | 4.1 | 856 | 35.7 | 4.6 |
| Australia ^(d) | 393 | 16.6 | 2.2 | 853 | 18.0 | 2.9 |
| Canada | 477 | 16.8 | 2.6 | 824 | 14.9 | 2.8 |
| Austria | 494 | 15.5 | 2.8 | 822 | 15.4 | 3.0 |
| Spain | 396 | 23.1 | 2.9 | 798 | 21.1 | 3.2 |
| Italy | 602 | 26.4 | 3.5 | 770 | 20.2 | 3. |
| Finland | 458 | 21.6 | 3.4 | 760 | 18.9 | 3. |
| Iceland | 500 | 17.9 | 2.6 | 755 | 16.0 | 2. |
| Sweden | n.a. | n.a. | n.a. | 750 | 15.9 | 3. |
| Denmark | 444 | 16.3 | 2.7 | 689 | 13.8 | 2. |
| Germany | 330 | 10.3 | 1.9 | 667 | 13.1 | 2. |
| Mexico | 285 | 53.1 | 4.1 | 596 | 51.1 | 4. |
| Slovak Republic | 62 | 8.3 | 0.9 | 579 | 26.2 | 3. |
| New Zealand | 279 | 15.6 | 2.0 | 498 | 14.0 | 2. |
| Hungary | 168 | 18.7 | 2.6 | 491 | 24.9 | 3. |
| United Kingdom | 277 | 14.1 | 1.5 | 487 | 11.4 | 1. |
| Ireland | 232 | 12.6 | 1.7 | 481 | 9.9 | 1. |
| Poland | 185 | 28.0 | 2.5 | 356 | 24.3 | 2. |
| France | 211 | 7.2 | 1.3 | 349 | 6.8 | 1.4 |
| Czech Republic | 119 | 9.7 | 1.2 | 304 | 13.2 | 1. |
| Netherlands | n.a. | n.a. | n.a. | 302 | 5.5 | 1. |
| Greece | n.a. | n.a. | n.a. | n.a. | n.a. | n.a |
| Japan | 376 | 16.8 | 2.2 | n.a. | n.a. | n.a |
| Luxembourg | 194 | 7.5 | 1.0 | n.a. | n.a. | n.a |
| Portugal | n.a. | n.a. | n.a. | n.a. | n.a. | n.a |
| Turkey | n.a. | n.a. | n.a. | n.a. | n.a. | n.a |
| Weighted average (25 countries) ^{(e)(f)} | 467 | 16.2 | 2.6 | 804 | 14.5 | 2. |
| Median (25 countries) ^(e) | 376 | 16.6 | 2.6 | 667 | 15.1 | 2.8 |

Table 5.3: Out-of-pocket health expenditure per person, and as shares of total health expenditure and household final consumption expenditure^(a), OECD countries, 1997 and 2007^(b)

(a) Total HFCE covers all goods and services, including health.

(b) See definition of 'OECD financial year' in Box 5.1.

(c) Countries in this table are sorted in descending order according to the 2007 per person out-of-pocket expenditure.

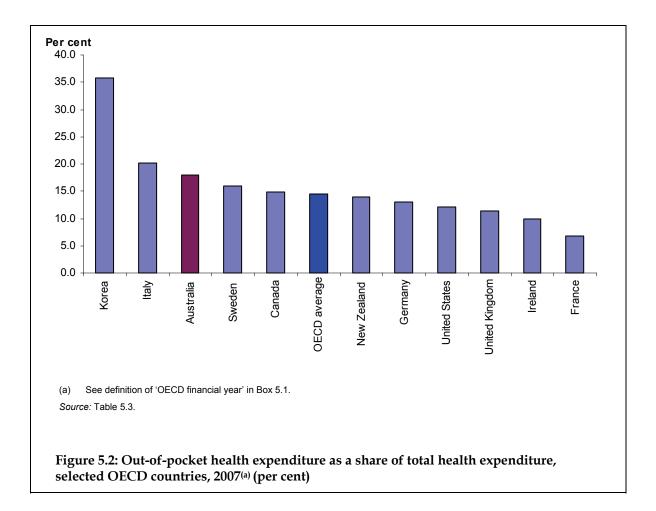
(d) Expenditure based on the OECD SHA framework.

(e) The 25 countries included in the averages exclude Belgium, Greece, Portugal, Sweden and Turkey. Averages for 1997 incorporate 1998 data for the Netherlands. Averages for 2007 incorporate 2006 data for Japan and Luxembourg.

(f) Averages weighted by population for per person out-of-pocket expenditure.

Note: Expenditures converted to Australian dollar values using GDP purchasing power parities.

Sources: AIHW health expenditure database; OECD 2009.



Factors contributing to the growth in the health to GDP ratio are inflation (both general inflation and excess health inflation) and changes in the level of goods and services used, from population growth and/or from more intensive per person use of goods and services.

The general rate of inflation is an indication of average price changes that apply throughout the economy, and the rate of excess health inflation indicates additional price rises specific to the health sector.

To enable comparison with Table 6.4 in *Health expenditure Australia* 2006–07 (AIHW 2008a), this part of the analysis compares Australia with seven European member countries and with the United States and Canada.

For the decade to 2007, Australia recorded zero excess health inflation. That means that health prices changed over the period at about the same rate as prices elsewhere in the economy. Over the same period, Canada and Denmark both recorded positive excess health inflation rates of 0.1%, while France, Spain and Switzerland recorded negative excess health inflation. The Nordic countries, Finland and Sweden recorded the highest rates of excess health inflation at 2.1% over the decade (Table 5.4).

Australia had an average annual real growth in per person expenditure of 3.7% between 1997 and 2007 (Table 5.4). This represents the growth in the average volume of health services per resident and was the third highest growth rate of the 10 countries.

| | | Average annual in | | | Averag | ge annual real growth | |
|----------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|------------------|--------|----------------------|-----------------------|-------|
| Country | Nominal change | General | Excess health | Health | Population component | Utilisation component | Total |
| Australia ^(b) | 8.6 | 3.4 | _ | 3.4 | 1.3 | 3.7 | 5.1 |
| Canada | 7.2 | 2.3 | 0.1 | 2.4 | 1.0 | 3.6 | 4.6 |
| Denmark ^(c) | 5.7 | 2.1 | 0.1 | 2.2 | 0.3 | 3.1 | 3.4 |
| Finland | 6.2 | 1.5 | 2.1 | 3.6 | 0.3 | 2.3 | 2.5 |
| France | 4.9 | 1.6 | -0.2 | 1.4 | 0.6 | 2.8 | 3.4 |
| Italy | 5.3 | 2.5 | 0.3 | 2.7 | 0.3 | 2.2 | 2.5 |
| Spain ^(c) | 7.5 | 3.2 | -0.6 | 2.6 | 0.7 | 4.0 | 4.7 |
| Sweden ^(d) | 7.7 | 1.4 | 2.1 | 3.5 | 0.2 | 3.9 | 4.1 |
| Switzerland ^(e) | 4.3 | 0.7 | -0.2 | 0.5 | 0.6 | 3.2 | 3.8 |
| United States | 7.1 | 2.3 | 1.1 | 3.4 | 1.0 | 2.6 | 3.6 |

Table 5.4: Components of growth in health expenditure, selected OECD countries, 1997 to 2007^(a), (per cent)

(a) See definition of 'OECD financial year' in Box 5.1.

(b) Expenditure based on the OECD SHA framework.

(c) 1997 to 2001.

(d) 1997 to 2002.

(e) 1997 to 2003.

Sources: AIHW health expenditure database; OECD 2009.

5.2 Health expenditure in the Asia–Pacific region

The economies within the Asia–Pacific region are quite diverse. They include highly developed economies like Australia and Japan (tables 5.1 to 5.3) as well as an emerging world economic power in China and developing economies like Malaysia, Thailand, Vietnam, Indonesia and Bangladesh (Table 5.5).

In 2006, Australia had the second highest health to GDP ratio among these countries, at 8.8%. Of the other countries in Table 5.5, Indonesia (2.5%), Myanmar (2.2%), Bangladesh (3.2%) and Papua New Guinea (3.2%) had relatively low health to GDP ratios.

Australia (\$4,419 per person) had the highest average expenditure on health and Myanmar (\$34 per person) had the lowest. Australia had the second highest out-of-pocket costs (\$825) after Singapore (\$1,357) while Papua New Guinea had the lowest (\$7).

There may be many reasons underlying the substantial differences between the levels of resourcing for health in these countries. In many cases, low GDP sometimes means that few resources are devoted to health because of different national development priorities.

It is also the case that many developing economies rely heavily on donor organisations. These are often international organisations that both fund and provide health services in developing countries. It is unclear from the available statistics if all the expenditure incurred and/or funded by donors is included in the national health accounts of developing countries.

| Country ^(b) | Health to GDP (%) | Per person ^(b) (A\$) | Government to total (%) | Per person out- of-pocket (A\$) | Out-of-pocket to total (%) |
|--------------------------|----------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Australia ^(c) | 8.8 | 4,419 | 66.6 | 825 | 18.7 |
| Japan | 8.1 | 3,639 | 81.3 | 551 | 15.1 |
| Singapore | 3.3 | 2,163 | 33.1 | 1,357 | 62.7 |
| Malaysia | 4.3 | 766 | 44.6 | 311 | 40.6 |
| Thailand | 3.5 | 372 | 64.5 | 101 | 27.2 |
| China | 4.6 | 304 | 40.7 | 150 | 49.3 |
| Samoa | 5.0 | 272 | 83.0 | 35 | 12.9 |
| Tonga | 4.9 | 255 | 74.6 | 55 | 21.4 |
| Sri Lanka | 4.2 | 241 | 47.5 | 109 | 45.5 |
| Fiji | 3.7 | 231 | 69.8 | 55 | 23.9 |
| Mongolia | 5.7 | 231 | 73.7 | 27 | 11.5 |
| Vietnam | 6.6 | 213 | 32.3 | 130 | 61.0 |
| Bhutan | 3.5 | 198 | 72.1 | 55 | 27.9 |
| Vanuatu | 4.1 | 176 | 65.0 | 31 | 17.5 |
| Philippines | 3.8 | 169 | 32.9 | 95 | 56.0 |
| Timor-Leste | 17.7 | 154 | 86.0 | 8 | 5.2 |
| Solomon Islands | 5.1 | 140 | 91.5 | 8 | 5.7 |
| Cambodia | 5.9 | 135 | 26.0 | 84 | 62.7 |
| India | 3.6 | 122 | 25.0 | 83 | 68.6 |
| Indonesia | 2.5 | 116 | 50.5 | 40 | 34.9 |
| Lao | 4.0 | 113 | 18.6 | 70 | 62.0 |
| Papua New Guinea | 3.2 | 87 | 82.0 | 7 | 7.5 |
| Nepal | 5.1 | 73 | 30.5 | 43 | 59.2 |
| Bangladesh | 3.2 | 52 | 31.8 | 31 | 60.2 |
| Myanmar | 2.2 | 34 | 13.1 | 29 | 86.3 |

Table 5.5: Health expenditure comparison for selected Asia-Pacific countries, 2006(a)

(a) For most countries, 2006 is the latest year for which final data are available.

(b) Countries in this table are sorted in descending order according to the per person health expenditure.

(c) Expenditure based on the OECD SHA framework.

Sources: AIHW health expenditure database; WHO database.

5.3 Australian health expenditure using the OECD system of health accounts framework

The AIHW is responsible for collecting, collating and reporting expenditure on health in Australia each year. It is also the national coordinating body for the provision of most data on health and social expenditures to the OECD and the World Health Organization (WHO). The Institute's responsibilities in this regard include reporting expenditure on health and welfare services, social security and housing.

The format that the Institute has used for domestic reporting of expenditure on health since 1985 is based on one that was adopted by the WHO during the 1970s. The Australian version, referred to as the Australian National Health Accounts (NHA), has changed little since the Institute's first national health expenditure report in 1985, despite considerable change in the way health care is delivered and financed. The WHO has recently adopted a reporting framework based on a system of health accounts developed by the OECD.

In 2000, the OECD published guidelines for a new method of international reporting for health expenditure. That publication, *A system of health accounts* (SHA) (OECD 2000), was developed to encourage international consistency in the way health expenditure is reported throughout the OECD member countries. The SHA includes an International Classification for Health Accounts (ICHA), which classifies expenditure on health in terms of:

- health care by function (ICHA-HC)
- health care service provider industries (ICHA-HP)
- sources of funding health care (ICHA-HF).

The functional classification refers to the goals or purposes of health care. At the broadest level these are disease prevention, health promotion, treatment, rehabilitation and long-term care.

The provider classification is a list of health care provider types. This has been refined and modified from the International Standard Industrial Classification (UN 2002).

The funder classification follows the System of National Accounts 1993 (OECD 1994) guidelines for the allocation of funds by sector.

The major difference between estimates derived using the Australian NHA and the SHA is the value of total expenditure. The NHA includes all the 'health' functional classifications defined in the SHA. It also includes the following 'health-related' functional classifications in its estimates of total health expenditure:

- capital expenditure of health care provider institutions
- research and development in health
- food, hygiene and drinking water control
- environmental health.

One health-related function, 'Education and training of health personnel', is excluded from both the NHA and SHA estimates of total health expenditure.

The SHA, on the other hand, includes all the 'health' functions, but only one health-related function, namely 'Capital formation of health care provider institutions' in its total health expenditure estimates.

The OECD'S SHA manual is currently being revised and extended to enhance its suitability as a global standard accounting framework for statistics on health expenditure and financing. It will also enhance the analytical power of the SHA and the usefulness of the statistical guidelines. This process is being coordinated by: the Health Division of the OECD; the Unit of Health and Food Safety Statistics in the Directorate General of Eurostat of the European Commission; and the Department of Health Systems Financing in the Cluster on Health Systems and Services of the WHO.

The AIHW undertook a major restructure of its health expenditure database to allow simultaneous reporting according to the NHA reporting matrix and the existing SHA classifications. This restructure applied to all years from 1998–99. Through the work of the

Health Expenditure Advisory Committee (HEAC), an Australian System of Health Accounts is being developed that can be mapped to the OECD's SHA, but which uses terminology that is relevant to the Australian domestic situation. When this is achieved, the Australian SHA will be better able to provide more detailed and comprehensive data for both national purposes and international comparability.

The following three tables provide a snapshot of the data for 2006–07 and 2007–08, following the OECD SHA format. In 2007-08 (OECD year 2007), the estimate of total health expenditure using the SHA was \$100.5 billion, which is \$3.0 billion lower than the NHA estimate (\$103.6 billion) (tables 2.1 and 5.6).

The definitions for the categories used in the OECD SHA can be found at: <a>http://www.oecd.org/dataoecd/49/51/21160591.pdf>.

| | | 20 | 06–07 | 2007–08 | |
|------------------|--|-----------------|-------------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| SHA code | Description | Amount (\$m) | Proportion (%) | Amount (\$m) | Proportion (%) |
| HF.1 | General government | 61,459 | 66.6 | 67,865 | 67.5 |
| HF.1.1 | General government excluding social security funds | 61,459 | 66.6 | 67,865 | 67.5 |
| HF.1.1.1 | Central government | 37,484 | 40.6 | 42,069 | 41.8 |
| HF.1.1.2, 1.1.3 | Provincial/local government | 23,975 | 26.0 | 25,796 | 25.7 |
| HF.1.2 | Social security funds | | | | |
| HF.2 | Private sector | 30,842 | 33.4 | 32,662 | 32.5 |
| HF.2.1 | Private social insurance | | | | |
| HF.2.2 | Private insurance enterprises (other than social insurance) | 7,216 | 7.8 | 7,862 | 7.8 |
| HF.2.3 | Private household out-of-pocket expenditure | 17,221 | 18.7 | 18,130 | 18.0 |
| HF.2.4 | Non-profit institutions serving households (other than social insurance) | n.a. | n.a. | n.a. | n.a. |
| HF.2.5 | Corporations (other than health insurance) | 6,405 | 6.9 | 6,670 | 6.6 |
| HF.3 | Rest of the world | n.a. | n.a. | n.a. | n.a. |
| Total health exp | enditure | 92,302 | 100.0 | 100,527 | 100.0 |

Table 5.6: Total health expenditure, by financing agents, current prices, 2006-07 and 2007-08

Note: Components may not add to totals due to rounding.

Source: AIHW health expenditure database.

| | | 20 | 06–07 | 2007–08 | |
|-------------------------------|--|-----------------|-------------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| SHA code | Description | Amount (\$m) | Proportion (%) | Amount (\$m) | Proportion (%) |
| Inpatient care ^(a) | | | | | |
| HC.1.1, 2.1 | Curative & rehabilitative care | 32,095 | 34.8 | 35,273 | 35.1 |
| HC.3.1 | Long-term nursing care | 426 | 0.5 | 290 | 0.3 |
| Services of day-car | e | | | | |
| HC.1.2, 2.2 | Day cases of curative & rehabilitative care | n.a. | n.a. | n.a. | n.a. |
| HC.3.2 | Day cases of long-term nursing care | | | | |
| Outpatient care | | | | | |
| HC.1.3, 2.3 | Outpatient curative & rehabilitative care | 28,802 | 31.2 | 31,527 | 31.4 |
| HC.1.3.1 | Basic medical and diagnostic services | 10,299 | 11.2 | 11,483 | 11.4 |
| HC.1.3.2 | Outpatient dental care | 5,738 | 6.2 | 6,094 | 6.1 |
| HC.1.3.3 | All other specialised health care | 3,265 | 3.5 | 3,565 | 3.5 |
| HC.1.3.9 | All other outpatient curative care | 7,683 | 8.3 | 8,347 | 8.3 |
| HC.2.3 | Outpatient rehabilitative care | 1,817 | 2.0 | 2,038 | 2.0 |
| Home care | | | | | |
| HC.1.4, 2.4 | Home care (curative & rehabilitative) | n.a. | n.a. | n.a. | n.a |
| HC.3.3 | Home care (long-term nursing care) | 24 | — | 31 | _ |
| Ancillary services t | o health care | | | | |
| HC.4.1 | Clinical laboratory | 1,578 | 1.7 | 1,690 | 1.7 |
| HC.4.2 | Diagnostic imaging | 1,879 | 2.0 | 1,989 | 2.0 |
| HC.4.3 | Patient transport and emergency rescue | 1,788 | 1.9 | 2,004 | 2.0 |
| HC.4.9 | All other miscellaneous ancillary services | 53 | 0.1 | 34 | _ |
| Medical goods disp | ensed to outpatients | | | | |
| HC.5.1 | Pharmaceuticals and other medical non-durables | 13,213 | 14.3 | 14,397 | 14.3 |
| HC.5.2 | Therapeutic appliances and other medical durables | 3,026 | 3.3 | 3,114 | 3.1 |
| Total expenditure on | personal health care | 82,884 | 89.8 | 90,350 | 89.9 |
| HC.6 | Prevention and public health services | 1,542 | 1.7 | 2,002 | 2.0 |
| HC.7 | Health administration and health insurance | 2,387 | 2.6 | 2,628 | 2.6 |
| Total expenditure on | collective health care | 3,929 | 4.3 | 4,630 | 4.6 |
| Total current expend | liture on health care | 86,813 | 94.1 | 94,980 | 94.5 |
| Health-related funct | tions | | | | |
| HC.R.1 | Capital formation of health care provider institutions | 5,489 | 5.9 | 5,546 | 5.5 |
| Total health expend | liture | 92,302 | 100.0 | 100,527 | 100.0 |

Table 5.7: Total health expenditure, by mode of production, current prices, 2006–07 and 2007–08

(a) In-patient includes all admitted patient services whether they are overnight admissions or same-day admissions. *Note:* Components may not add to totals due to rounding.

Source: AIHW health expenditure database.

| | | 20 | 06–07 | 200 | 07–08 |
|-------------------|--|-----------------|-------------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| SHA code | Description | Amount (\$m) | Proportion (%) | Amount (\$m) | Proportion (%) |
| HP.1 | Hospitals | 35,080 | 38.0 | 37,871 | 37.7 |
| HP.2 | Nursing and residential care facilities | n.a. | n.a. | n.a. | n.a. |
| HP.3 | Providers of ambulatory health care | 32,757 | 35.5 | 35,784 | 35.6 |
| HP.3.1 | Offices of physicians | 12,698 | 13.8 | 14,006 | 13.9 |
| HP.3.2 | Offices of dentists | 5,749 | 6.2 | 6,106 | 6.1 |
| HP.3.3–3.9 | All other providers of ambulatory health care | 14,310 | 15.5 | 15,672 | 15.6 |
| HP.4 | Retail sales and other providers of medical goods | 15,524 | 16.8 | 16,708 | 16.6 |
| HP.5 | Provision and administration of public health programs | 1,540 | 1.7 | 1,976 | 2.0 |
| HP.6 | General health administration and insurance | 7,401 | 8.0 | 8,188 | 8.1 |
| HP.6.1 | Government administration of health | 3,548 | 3.8 | 3,474 | 3.5 |
| HP.6.2 | Social security funds | | | | |
| HP.6.3, 6.4, 6.9 | Other social insurance | 3,853 | 4.2 | 4,714 | 4.7 |
| HP.7 | Other industries (rest of the economy) | n.a. | n.a. | n.a. | n.a. |
| HP.9 | Rest of the world | n.a. | n.a. | n.a. | n.a. |
| Total health expe | enditure | 92,302 | 100.0 | 100,527 | 100.0 |

Table 5.8: Total health expenditure, by provider, current prices, 2006–07 and 2007–08

Note: Components may not add to totals due to rounding.

Source: AIHW health expenditure database.