

# **Health expenditure Australia 2001–02**

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# Preface

Health expenditure statistics show the volume and proportion of economic resources allocated to the production and consumption of health care which in turn contribute to the health and wellbeing of the nation. This involves measuring not only the overall level of expenditure but also expenditure on the different components of the health care system, and the sources of funding for health care.

*Health Expenditure Australia 2001-02* continues the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare's series of reports on health expenditures, which have been produced annually since 1986. This publication presents the most recent estimates for Australia for the year 2001-02, plus time-series data covering the period from 1991-92 to 2000-01.

A new feature of this issue is the inclusion of a detailed matrix showing a break-down of the Institute's preliminary estimates of national health expenditure for the latest year (2001-02). This innovation is aimed at providing analysts with more timely indications of the way expenditure on particular areas is expected to have moved in recent years. Users should, however, exercise caution when using these preliminary estimates as they are subject to change when firm data are received from data providers.

In recent issues the publication has provided individual health expenditure matrices at the national level for the previous decade and for each of the states and territories from 1996-97. With the exception of the state and national matrices from 1998-99, all previously published and revised matrices are now on the Institute's web site (<http://www.aihw.gov.au/expenditure/health>).

As was the case in the 2000-01 publication, there have been substantial revisions to estimates of health expenditure in earlier years, due to receipt of additional or revised data. Comparisons with years prior to 2001-02 should, therefore, be based on information provided in this publication, rather than by reference to earlier editions.

Richard Madden  
Director  
Australian Institute of Health and Welfare

# Abbreviations and symbols

DVA	Department of Veterans' Affairs
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
n.a.	not available
..	not applicable
nec	not elsewhere classified
—	nil or rounded down to zero