



anf position  
statement

# australian nursing federation

## medicare

Medicare is Australia's publicly funded universal access health insurance system. Medicare is funded through the tax system via the Medicare Levy. Medicare is available to all Australian citizens.

It is the position of the Australian Nursing Federation that:

1. Access to health care is a fundamental right for every Australian.
2. Access to health care should be available to all residents of Australia at the time of need, regardless of capacity to pay.
3. Publicly funded universal health insurance is an efficient and effective method for allocating health care resources affordably and equitably at the time of need.
4. Medicare is supported as Australia's publicly funded universal access health insurance system.
5. Medicare should be expanded to include selected services provided by allied health practitioners.
6. Medicare should be expanded to cover basic dental procedures.
7. Nurse practitioners and eligible midwives in private practice are able to access the Medicare Benefits Schedule (MBS) to enable patients to receive Medicare rebates for their services and provide medicines from the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) in the community.
8. Nurse practitioners and eligible midwives are able to access the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) for approved medicines within their scope of practice, to enable patients to receive PBS subsidies for their prescriptions.

*endorsed december 2007*

*reviewed and re-endorsed february 2011*