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## Abstract

Over a three year period, the Australian Health Insurance Association (AHIA) has introduced a series of policies designed to reduce the financial pressure on the public sector. The combined effect of these policies has been to reduce the public sector's share of total health expenditure from 45.7 percent to 45.7 percent. This paper examines the impact of these policies on the private sector for their hospital care and in so doing reduce the pressure on the public sector. We piece together fragmentary early data from various sources and various time periods. We find that the increase in activity in the private hospital sector and the reduction in public hospital waiting times has indeed occurred.



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