



MEDIA RELEASE

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CATHOLIC HOSPITALS WELCOMES MORRISON GOVERNMENT JOBS GUARANTEE FOR DOCTORS AND NURSES

Australia's largest grouping of non-profit health providers, Catholic Health Australia, welcomes the news that the Morrison Government will ensure its hospitals will be able to continue the fight against coronavirus.

The National Coronavirus partnership will provide the certainty that the not-for-profit hospital sector needs to maintain its full capacity and shift its service offerings towards fighting coronavirus, in the wake of the Morrison Government cancelling all but the most urgent surgery.

Catholic hospitals account for around 30 per cent of all private hospital patients and approximately 10 per cent of all healthcare needs across Australia.

The move would have forced some hospitals to furlough services and stand down staff just as the health sector prepares for the expected surge in COVID-19 cases.

Wednesday night's agreement with the Commonwealth will ensure staffing and capacity in our hospitals is maintained.

It was also agreed that the States and Territories would draw up plans to fully integrate public hospitals with the private sector in dealing with the coronavirus pandemic.

[Speaking to Sky on Wednesday night](#) about his meeting with the private hospital sector that afternoon, Health Minister Greg Hunt said the Government was *"guaranteeing their viability as we go forward over the coming six months because that is such an important message to the market and to the staff to maintain their viability and they in turn maintain their capacity."*

CHA Chief Executive Pat Garcia said the news would ensure that the private and non-profit hospitals remained viable and ready to deal with the coronavirus threat.

"This is a welcome common sense approach and ensures that Catholic hospitals can continue their state of readiness and work with all tiers of government. We urge the States and Territories to support the Commonwealth's plan to underwrite the viability of private and non-profit hospitals, so that we can beat this pandemic."

"This deal ensures that everyone in the health sector - the private sector, Catholic non-profits and the public hospitals - will be working together to fight this pandemic. Our doctors and nurses have been ready for weeks but this deal ensures they can remain at their posts."



CATHOLIC HEALTH

Australia

“We thank the Prime Minister, Minister Hunt and the bureaucracy for swinging into action so quickly and we hope that the funds will flow soon so that we can get on with our job of looking after Australians in their time of need. We look forward to working with our partners in state and territory governments in getting the best result - which is helping the sick and getting the country back to health.”

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