

## **MTAA welcomes commitment to improved rural and remote healthcare technologies**

The Medical Technology Association of Australia (MTAA) welcomes the announcement from a re-elected Turnbull Coalition Government to ensure private health funds provide rural and remote communities access to innovative and emerging technologies such as tele-health and remote monitoring. Plans to make private health funds more transparent, simpler and easier for people to understand is long overdue.

### **Susi Tegen, Chief Executive of the Medical Technology Association of Australia:**

“We welcome today’s announcement a re-elected Turnbull Coalition Government would increase transparency and simplify the private healthcare system so consumers are better informed about what their funds cover.

“A simpler, easier to understand system that gives power back to customers, not the insurers, is right.

“The Health Minister recently said “*consumers have made it clear they don’t believe they’re getting value for money.* This announcement continues the work of the Coalition Government reforming our healthcare system so it’s sustainable and transparent.

“The MTAA is pleased to see a re-elected Turnbull Government will act to end the disparity in access to private health insurance cover people living in rural and remote communities endure.

“Apart from a shortage of services and facilities in their communities, rural people are often required to travel vast distances to treatment, meaning they have longer time away from family and work. For example ending junk policies which offer access to gyms which might be 500km away, is about as useful as accessing a private health fund dentist 400km away in the nearest large city.

“Too often rural patients don’t get the access to new and innovative healthcare technologies. They have just as much right to them as their city counterparts.

“MTAA welcomes health fund policies which allow access to care remotely via telehealth and remote monitoring by their GP and specialists.

“We remain concerned by the private health funds campaign to slash \$800 million from the prostheses list, despite a process with all stakeholders already started and funding committed by government. Further, it fails to recognise this would represent a cut to hospitals which deliver care to patients, and, a 40% cut to the small, medium and large medical technology companies around Australia that deliver R&D, services and devices for patients.”

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## **About MTAA**

The Medical Technology Association of Australia (MTAA) is the national association representing companies in the medical technology industry. MTAA aims to ensure the benefits of modern, innovative and reliable medical technology are delivered effectively to provide better health outcomes to the Australian community.

MTAA represents manufacturers and suppliers of medical technology used in the diagnosis, prevention, treatment and management of disease and disability. The range of medical technology is diverse with products ranging from familiar items such as syringes and wound dressings, through to high-technology implanted devices such as pacemakers, defibrillators, hip and other orthopaedic implants. Products also include hospital and diagnostic imaging equipment such as ultrasounds and magnetic resonance imaging machines.

MTAA members distribute the majority of the non-pharmaceutical products used in the diagnosis and treatment of disease and disability in Australia. Our member companies also play a vital role in providing healthcare professionals with essential education and training to ensure safe and effective use of medical technology.