



MEDIA RELEASE
13 September 2021

MTAA SUPPORTS CALL FOR FUTURE OF PRIVATE HEALTH SUMMIT

The Medical Technology Association of Australia (MTAA) today supported calls from AMA President, Dr Omar Khorshid, for a national summit on the future of the private healthcare sector.

“Private healthcare is a vital pillar of Australia’s health system, providing choice and access for patients and taking the pressure off the public hospital system,” MTAA CEO, Ian Burgess, said today.

“The MTAA shares the AMA’s concern about the sustainability of the current system given the ageing of our population and the drift away from private healthcare by young people.

“We agree urgent action is required to ensure future generations can benefit from Australia’s balanced approach to health care.

“Since 2017, MTAA has been working to ensure spending on medical technology (MedTech) in the private system delivers the best possible value to consumers.

“Our agreement with government is on track to deliver over \$1 billion in savings and we are currently working with doctors, hospitals and consumers to ensure the long-term sustainability of the Prostheses List.

“This guarantees that doctors can choose the best possible device for their patients without the risk of unexpected out-of-pocket costs.

“However, the Prostheses List represents only around 10% of all private health insurance payments, so we agree a broader approach to reform is needed.

“We support the AMA’s call for a Summit and stress the importance of involving consumers and community representatives so the needed reforms can be guided by their needs and priorities.

“The MTAA also supports the active involvement of manufacturers, experts and other medical technology stakeholders in this process.

“Technology and innovation will drive the next generation of healthcare and we need to work together on changes which provide all Australians with access to the latest evidence-based, innovative technologies.

“We look forward to working with the AMA and other health stakeholders on the proposed Summit to deliver robust and sustainable private healthcare sector for the future,” Ian Burgess said.

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Media contact: 02 9900 0600 | media@mtaa.org.au

Did you know?

1. During COVID-19 the medical technology industry provided 7,500 ventilators, tens of millions of COVID-19 testing kits, and countless items of PPE including masks and gowns.
2. The medical technology industry currently employs more than 19,000 people.
3. The industry is highly skilled with over 52% of employees having a tertiary qualification, and 25% having a postgraduate qualification.
4. More than half of Australian medical device companies have grown from start-ups. 40% of all medical device businesses have been established since 2000.
5. In 2013-14, Australia exported medical devices to 167 different countries around the world for a total value of \$2.1 billion.
6. Medical technology (7.76%) is second only to Civil Engineering (8.5%) and pharmaceuticals in third (6.3%) when it comes to filing patents for innovative technology.

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.