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Report on Government Services 2013

## PRIMARY AND COMMUNITY HEALTH SERVICES (CHAPTER 11)

This chapter reports on primary and community healthcare services, with a particular focus on general practice, primary healthcare services for Indigenous people, public dental services, drug and alcohol treatment, maternal and child health, the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) and a range of other community health services (p. 11.1). The primary and community health sector is the part of the healthcare system most frequently used by Australians. It is important in preventative healthcare as well as in the detection and management of illness and injury – through direct service provision and through referral to acute (hospital) or other healthcare services, as appropriate (p. 11.2).

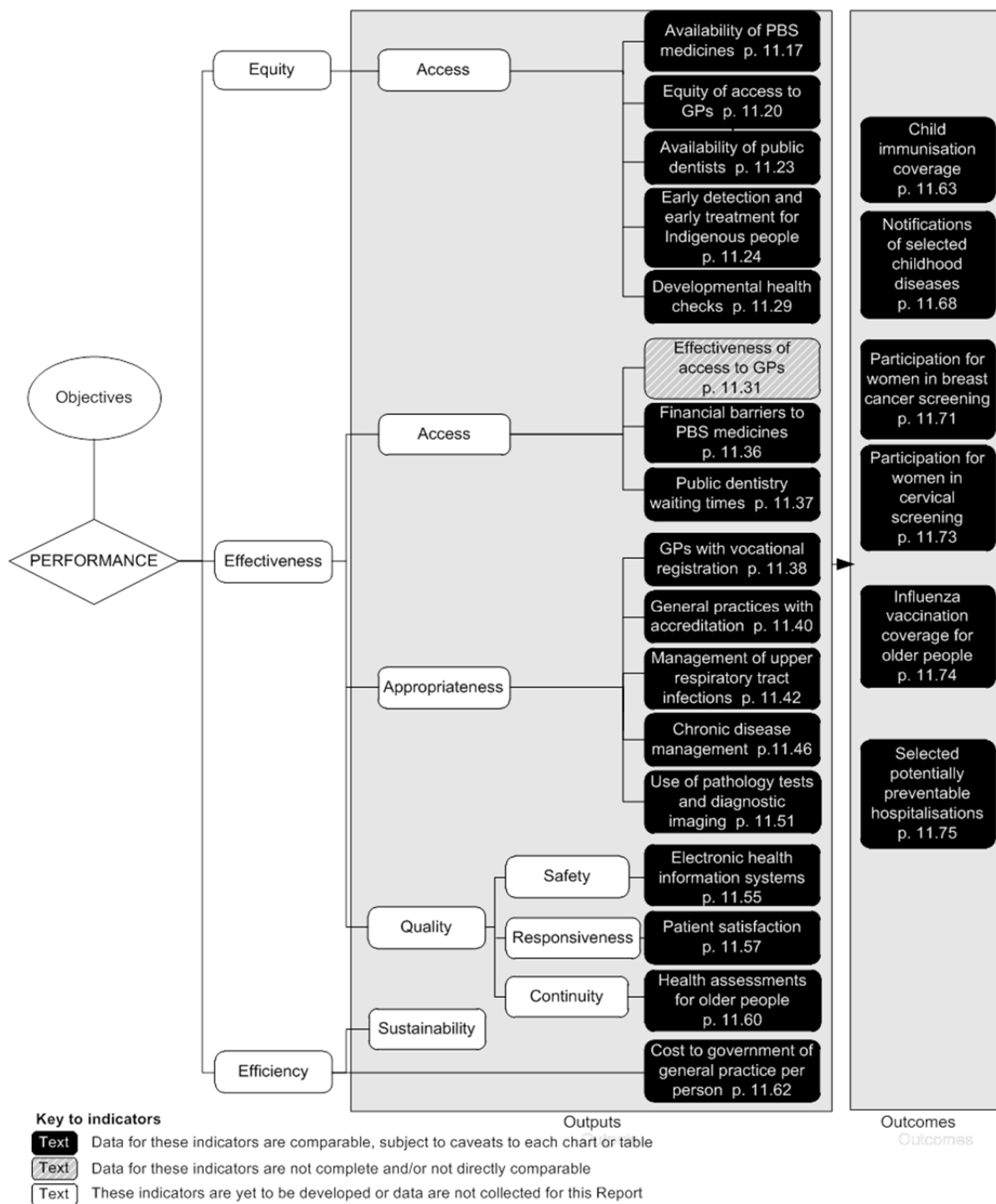
- Australian Government expenditure on general practitioners in Australia was \$6.7 billion, or \$299 per person, in 2011-12 (p. 11.6).
- Australian Government expenditure on the PBS was around \$7.5 billion, or \$335 per person, in 2011-12 (p. 11.7).
- Total expenditure by all governments on community and public health was around \$7.9 billion in 2010-11 (p. 11.8).

### Objectives of Primary and community health services

Primary and community health services aim to support and improve the health of Australians by:

- providing a universally accessible point of entry to the healthcare system
  - promoting health and preventing illness
  - providing timely and high quality healthcare that meets individual needs, throughout the lifespan – directly, and/or by facilitating access to the appropriate service(s)
  - coordinating service provision to ensure continuity of care where more than one service type, and/or ongoing service provision, is required to meet individuals' healthcare needs
  - ensuring that primary and community health service interventions are based on best practice evidence and delivered in an equitable and efficient manner (p. 11.15).
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Performance indicators for primary and community health services (figure 11.3, p. 11.16)



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Please do not approach other parties for comment before 31 January 2013.

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Tables with a '11A' prefix (eg table 11A.5) are in the attachments on the Review website.

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