

MEDIA RELEASE

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Queensland doctors demand progress from Health Ministers Meeting in Brisbane

AMA Queensland believes Friday's gathering of Health Ministers in Brisbane needs to deliver results on key issues of national funding, aged and NDIS care, and medicinal cannabis.

President Dr Nick Yim said the final Health Ministers Meeting of 2025 was an opportunity to set up positive changes for the health system in 2026.

"The latest Queensland Health data shows the number of Queenslanders taking up hospital beds due to insufficient aged care or NDIS options has risen 12 per cent to 1259," he said.

"This is the primary cause of 'bed block', which means increased waiting times for acute care patients.

"The federal government needs to step up to ensure Queenslanders are getting appropriate care, which for these patients is not in a hospital."

Dr Yim said the National Health Reform Agreement also needed more federal investment.

Queensland Health Minister Tim Nicholls told state parliament on Thursday that the most recent offer from Canberra was "underwhelming".

Dr Yim said AMA Queensland had backed the state government's call for 50:50 funding.

"Earlier this year the federal government re-committed to 50:50 funding for the Bruce Highway, which is appropriate given its role as a national highway in Queensland," he said.

"Our hospitals deserve the same treatment."

Dr Yim said AMA Queensland's own Workforce Action Plan called for the wholesale restructure of funding models to incentivise patient outcomes and efficiency.

"Queensland is a unique, decentralised state, and we need Canberra funding to work for Cairns, Cloncurry, and Caloundra.

"Equal funding and a restructuring of how that money is distributed is crucial to getting better outcomes for Queensland patients."

AMA Queensland has also advocated strongly for action on medicinal cannabis.

The Therapeutic Goods Administration is expected to update Health Ministers on its review into the safety and regulatory oversight of unapproved medicinal cannabis products.

"The TGA admitted it was highly likely there was considerable under-reporting of adverse outcomes due to stigma and concerns over losing access to these products," Dr Yim said.

"AMA Queensland has been raising these concerns for several years on behalf of concerned members.

"We need our Health Ministers to crackdown on unscrupulous medicinal cannabis business models, improve regulatory oversight and tighten standards on THC concentrations in these medications."