

How to be heard by IHPA: tips on producing an effective submission to inform the pricing process

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The Independent Hospital Pricing Authority's (IHPA's) primary function is to calculate and deliver the National Efficient Price (NEP) and National Efficient Cost (NEC) Determinations annually. The NEP informs the level of Australian Government funding for public hospital services. This allows the use of Activity Based Funding (ABF), and provides a price signal for the delivery of public hospital services. The national ABF system seeks to improve the efficiency and transparency of funding contributions of the Commonwealth and state and territory governments for each Local Hospital Network (LHN) across Australia.

The *Pricing Framework for Australian Public Hospital Services* (the Pricing Framework) underpins the NEP and NEC for each financial year. The Pricing Framework is an opportunity for stakeholders in the health sector to provide input towards improving the sustainability and effectiveness of the Australian health system. It provides an additional layer of transparency and accountability by making available the key principles, scope and approach adopted by IHPA to inform the NEP and NEC Determinations. It covers a range of areas, including safety and quality, scope of public hospital services and the classifications used to describe their pricing mechanisms and data collection.

This presentation aims to provide the audience with some guidance on how to provide an effective submission to the Pricing Framework consultation process. This includes examples of submissions containing feedback that was implemented in past iterations of the Pricing Framework, and key evidence that can help in supporting a case for consideration by the Pricing Authority.