

Question 21 (continued)

- (c) Assess the impact that the health status of Australians has on the provision of health care facilities and services.

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Australia has an extremely healthy population and an ageing one. In the coming years, we will experience an increasing pressure of the burden of our health services as a result of a more infirmed population and the ~~rise~~ of medicare.

Australia's health services are divided into institutional (hospitals, hostels and nursing homes) and non institutional (physiotherapists, optometry, dentists). Australia currently

spends 8% GDP on health services which is roughly \$2500 per person per year. 50% is spent on non-institutional services and 27% on ~~non~~ institutional. Medicare is available to all

Australia citizens and its slogan is 'universality, equity and simplicity'. Medicare covers all fees for public patients in public hospitals and 85% of all ~~the~~ optometry appointments. It is funded by taxation revenue and through the medicare levy which is a 27% tax on ~~the~~ individuals earning over \$50000 p.a and on couples earning over \$100000 p.a.

Australians have increased the use of which health services are being used. Occupancy rates for hospitals are high and there are ~~a~~ incredibly long waiting lines for surgery.

Some people have decided to shift from

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pharmaceuticals to a more natural approach, alternative health care. This is becoming increasingly popular as it is easier to access and is more body and mind based rather than medicine. Types of alternative health care include Aromatherapy, acupuncture, chiropractors, Yoga, meditating and homeopathy.

Australians are aware of health and have taken advantage of the number of services provide. However like the government should focus on, individuals should be more concerned with preventative methods rather than curative. However 90% of all funds are spent on curative.

Australians rely on these facilities to have good health and this is why Australia's health system has such a heavy burden to cope with. Emphasis has been on to join private health care to ease the burden of medicine.

Government has even offered incentives such as 30% rebate. Private health insurance is expensive but without it, costs of health can be even more expensive as Medicare doesn't cover (ambulance, contact lenses, glasses, chiropractors)

End of Question 21