

## 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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Epidemiology is used to gather statistical information on the patterns of disease and illness within Australia. It shows the health status of Australians and allows health care facilities and services to judge areas of need and provision. Facilities can judge the level of admissions they can expect and accommodate for that, and services can do the same. With the shift in disease from infections to lifestyle there has become more services aimed at promotion to reduce poor habits leading to lifestyle diseases, eg. diet. The health status of Australia also represents an ageing population, hence the cost and need of health care facilities for the aged population will increase, this may mean more funding to health care and an increase in nursing homes and hostels. With the health status of Australians also revealing and increase in the

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Question 21 (continued)

Incidence of mental illness that  
to may be an area which receives  
more funding and preventative  
promotions such as awareness campaigns  
and counselling services.

The health status of Australians  
also reveals the inequity groups,  
such as Aboriginal and Torres Strait  
Islanders, people living in rural areas,  
socioeconomically disadvantaged people,  
people with disabilities, overseas born  
Australians, and gender and age concerns.  
There is no a greater focus on reducing  
these inequities by providing health  
care facilities which address their  
needs. Services are being instigated  
which aim to provide these groups  
with the same opportunities as  
others, such as greater access to  
services for rural communities.

With the health status of Australians there  
is a need for immediate care and  
retribution of inequities but also a  
shift towards the promotion of health  
and prevention. The health status indicates  
the success this can have, eg. road toll  
decreasing due to promotions such as 'Drink  
Drink the difference is 4'. Health status allows  
funding allocation and reveals the areas of need  
within Australia for the provision of facilities  
and services.

End of Question 21