

The increase in expenditure claimed through Medicare Australia is due to a number of factors. There has been a steady increase in the number of private hospitals participating in the program, due to the higher number of Australians accessing services through private hospitals. The factors for the increased supply through this mechanism are the transfer from State/Territory administration to the Medicare Australia authority system, increased access to community pharmacies and changes in the way that some services are provided, particularly in oncology.

The Highly Specialised Drugs - Usage Expenditure chart outlines the program expenditure from 1991-1992 to 2005-2006 financial years.

