

Balancing community expectation with evidence based practice



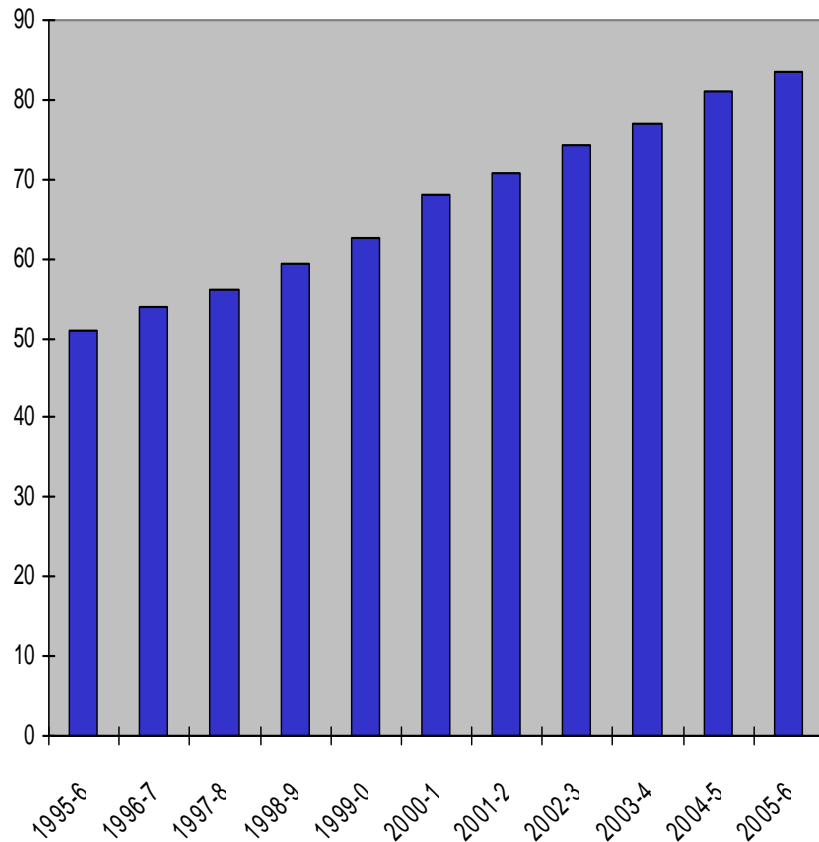
Dr Chris Brook

Executive Director

*Rural and Regional Health and Aged Care Services Division
Department of Human Services*

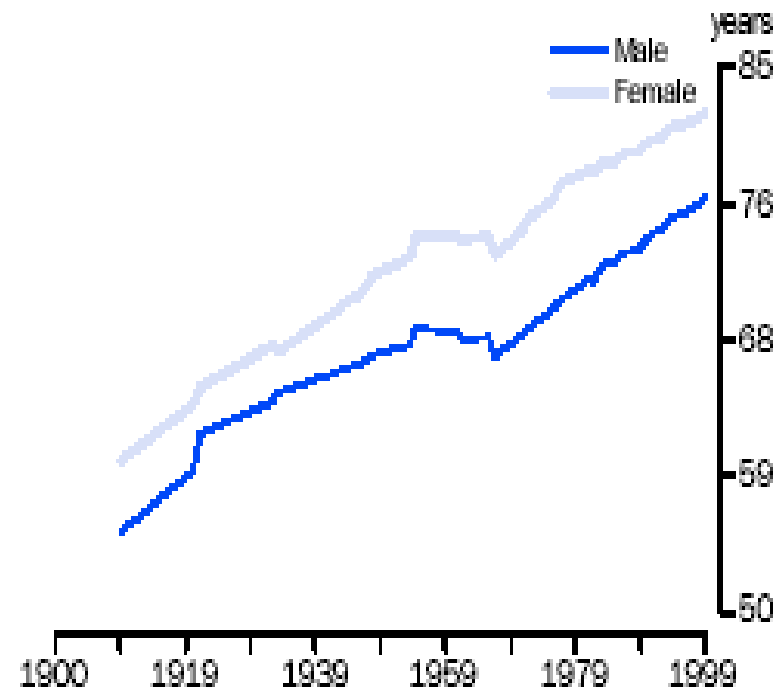
12 November 2007

More expenditure, better health, more expectations



Health expenditure in Australia, 1995-6 to 2005-2006 (constant prices)

Source: AIHW, 2006



Life Expectancy at birth 1900 - 1999

Source: ABS, Measuring Australia's Progress, 2002

Policies and structures for Community input

- Government policy supports community participation in decision making:
 - *A Fairer Victoria*
 - *Doing it with us not for us*
 - *Care in your community*
 - Boards of management

Evidence Based Practice

- Government policy supports evidence based practice:
 - duty of care
 - clinical governance
 - prevention, early intervention

Putting it together

- Sometimes community views = evidence based practice ...
- Sometimes not

Information is the key

- With information, people make sensible decisions
- Understanding opportunity cost
- W.A. study

Gavin H Mooney & Scott H Blackwell, MJA, Vol 180, Jan. 2004

So what are we doing?

- Provide structures that enable local flexibility
- Ensure that communities have the information

Could we do more?

