



**Administrator**  
National Health  
Funding Pool

# Data Compliance Policy

## 2026-27

JUNE 2026

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# 1 Introduction

## 1.1 Data compliance policy background

This document comprises the Administrator's policy on jurisdictional compliance with data provision as required in the *Administrator's Three-Year Data Plan 2026-27 to 2028-29* (Data Plan). The objectives of the Data Compliance Policy 2026-27 are to:

- support the obligations and responsibilities of the Administrator as per the:
  - *National Health Reform Act 2011* (NHR Act)
  - *National Health Reform Agreement* (NHR Agreement)
- *Addendum to the National Health Reform Agreement 2020-21 to 2024-25* (the Addendum) supports the Data Plan by outlining the Administrator's reporting on jurisdictional data compliance ensure timely and accurate provision of data from the Commonwealth and the States and Territories.
- On 27 February 2026, all Australian Governments signed the Addendum to the National Health Reform Agreement, effective from 1 July 2026 to 30 June 2031. This addendum will support revised public hospital funding and health system reform arrangements for 2026-2031.

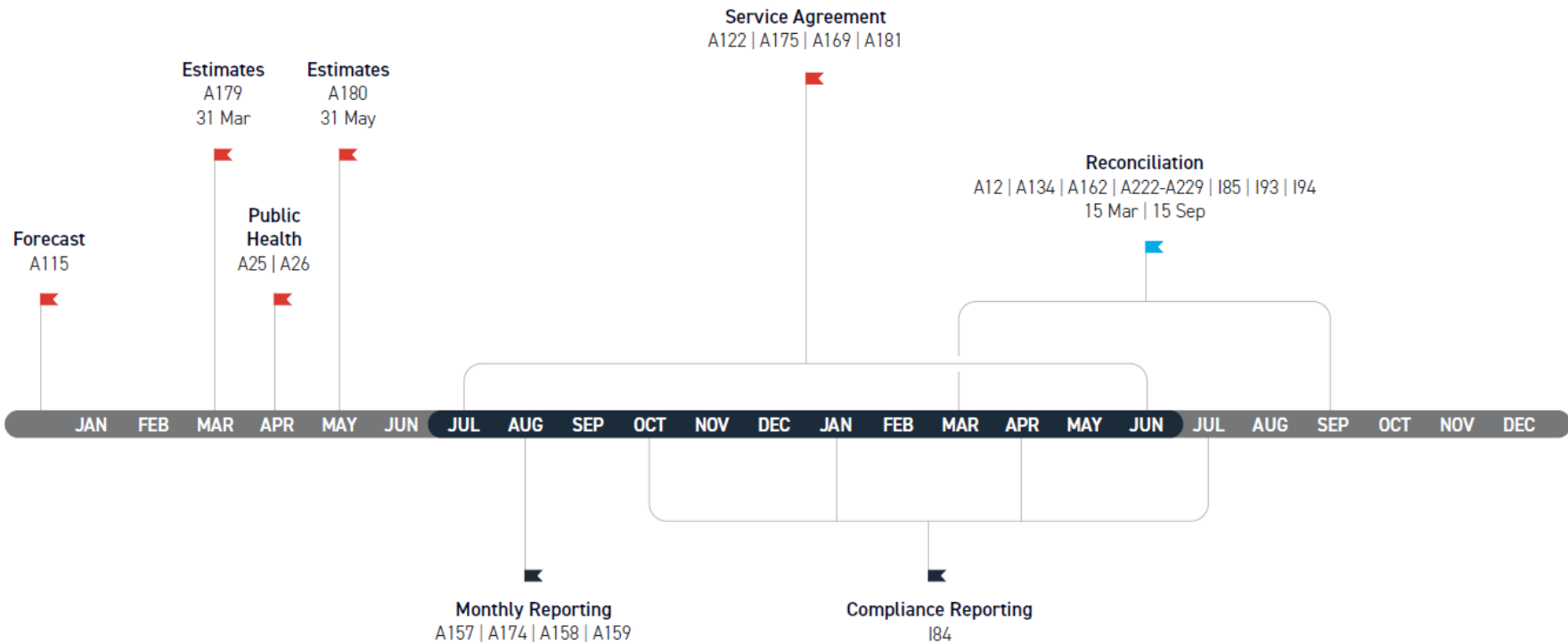
The Data Compliance Policy and associated Data Compliance Report are subject to change and may be updated and reissued by the Administrator at any point. All changes will be communicated with all stakeholders ahead of implementation.

The privacy, confidentiality and security of all data provided by jurisdictions continue to be of prime importance. All data requested are either not identified or are de-identified. As long as these data remain unidentified, they are not deemed to be 'personal information' within the meaning of the *Privacy Act 1988*. To cover the possibility that data may become identifiable, additional measures have been adopted by the National Health Funding Body (NHFB) to ensure that their collection and use are in accordance with the Australian Privacy Principles and with the secrecy and patient confidentiality provisions in other statutory protections. Systems and processes used for collection, storage and reporting have been designed to ensure security of information in line with the Commonwealth's Protective Security Policy Framework.

# Data Cycle

## DATA PLAN

RELEVANT ADDENDUM CLAUSES: I78 | I79 | I81 | I82 | I84-I85 | I92



**Note:** All clauses are from the *Addendum to the National Health Reform Agreement 2026-2031*.

## 2 Data requirements

The Administrator requires several types of information to perform the functions set out in the NHR Act, NHR Agreement, and the Addendum.

- ABF service category activity annual estimates and Block service category annual estimates (NHR in-scope activity) for each State and Territories (hereafter States) and at an LHN level in accordance with Service Agreements with LHNs. The data is required in order to calculate and provide a formal forecast of the Commonwealth funding contribution to the Commonwealth Treasurer, and as an input to monthly and annual reports.
- ABF service category activity annual estimates and Block service category annual estimates for out-of-scope activity funded by States through the Pool and/or State Managed Fund. This data is to be provided for each State and at an LHN level in accordance with Service Agreements with LHNs. This data is required as an input to monthly and annual reports, in accordance with the reporting obligations of the Administrator under the National Health Reform Act 2011 s240 (1)(f).
- Signed Service Agreements with LHNs, including for Block funded only LHNs, virtual, notional and contracted services, are required to be provided to the Administrator via email [nhfa.administrator@nhra.gov.au](mailto:nhfa.administrator@nhra.gov.au). Updated estimate submissions must be accompanied by updated signed Service Agreements for each LHN (including Block funded, virtual, notional and contracted services).
- Disaggregated unit level activity data from States. This data is required in order to perform reconciliation based on actual levels of activity and is required on a quarterly basis. A Statement of Assurance from a senior health department official on the completeness and accuracy of approved data submissions is required to be provided for Q2 and Q4 submissions.
- Private patient revenue data. The Addendum includes clauses which have the intent to neutralise revenue at the hospital level for public and private patients. IHACPA and the Administrator, in consultation with the Parties, will review the methodology for calculating funding adjustments for private patient neutrality. This review will be completed and presented to the Health Ministers Meeting by December 2027. Additional data on the actual State payments to each LHN for public and private patients will also be required. Until such time as the quality and timeliness of the HCP collection is improved, States will be required to submit private patient revenue actuals.
- Commonwealth data relating to MBS and PBS services accompanied by a Statement of Assurance biannually from the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing Chief Data Steward on the completeness and accuracy of the data.
- Funding, payments and service volumes. This data is required to enable monthly reporting of relevant NHR funding transactions. Further information on the purpose of data collection, data elements, submission and timing is outlined below.

**Table 1** Jurisdictional data provision and reporting requirements

Requirement	Clause^	Description
Estimated in-scope weighted service volumes by State and service category	A179	This is required in order to calculate and provide a formal forecast of the Commonwealth funding contribution to the Commonwealth Treasurer and is required by 31 March in the preceding financial year.
Estimated weighted in-scope service volumes by LHN and service category	A180	This is required in order to calculate and provide a formal forecast of the Commonwealth funding contribution to the Commonwealth Treasurer and is required by 31 May in the preceding financial year.
Public Health amounts	A25 A26	This is required to maintain the Commonwealth’s commitment to public health growing by the National Healthcare Special Purpose Payment (SPP) growth factor.
LHN Service Agreements	A169 E7	States will provide signed Service Agreements for each LHN to the Administrator once agreed and will include at a minimum: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ the number of in-scope services at the service category level to be provided by the LHN (E7a)</li> <li>▪ the mix of services at the service category level to be provided by the LHN (E7a)</li> <li>▪ the level of funding on in-scope services to be provided to the LHN through ABF, reported on the basis of the national efficient price (E7c)</li> <li>▪ the level of funding to be provided to the LHN through block funding (E7c).</li> </ul>
	A165	States will determine the amount they pay for public hospital services and functions and the mix of those services and functions, and will meet the balance of the cost of delivering public hospital services and functions over and above the Commonwealth contribution.
	A168	State funding paid on an activity basis to Local Hospital Networks will be based for each service category on: the price set by that State (which will be reported in Service Agreements) the volume of weighted services as set out in Service Agreements.
	A122	States and LHNs can amend Service Agreements in order to adjust service volumes or pricing during the year and will notify the Administrator within 14 calendar days of variations to Service Agreements.
	A175	States can cause Commonwealth payments to be modified by changing relevant Service Agreements and notifying the Administrator in accordance with clause A169 (within 14 days).
	A116	If States do not provide service agreements or service volume statements by the agreed timeframes set out in clause A169 (within 14 days of finalisation and no later than 15 December of the current financial year), or do not meet the requirements as set out in this Schedule and Schedule E, the Administrator may use the

Requirement	Clause^	Description
		<p>previous financial year’s Service Agreement to calculate the formal forecast, increased by the growth in the published National Efficient Price for the relevant year.</p> <p>To assist States in improving their performance in meeting the Service Agreement reporting requirements of the Addendum, a suggested template for inclusion in 2026-27 Service Agreements is provided at <i>Attachment A</i>.</p>
Estimated out-of-scope weighted service volumes funded through the Pool or State Managed Fund	A168 A177 A158	States are required to submit ABF service category activity annual estimates and Block service category annual estimates for out-of-scope activity funded through the Pool and/or State Managed Fund. The data is required as an input to monthly (and annual reports), in accordance with the reporting obligations of the Administrator under the National Health Reform Agreement (s241f).
Quarterly activity data submission	I84  I85	<p>Submission of activity data on a quarterly basis is required to assist with streamlining and completing the Annual Reconciliations in a timely manner.</p> <p>States must submit a list of hospitals including information about ABF funding status, <i>Health Insurance Act 1973</i> 19(2) exemption status, pharmaceutical reform agreement status, and Highly Specialised Therapies (HST) claiming status. This list is required annually with the Q1 submission.</p>
Submission A	A134	Gross volume and patient identified hospital activity data regarding actual services delivered, to be provided within at least 3 months of the end of each reconciliation period.
Publication of data submission and re-submission dates	A162 I84	The Administrator is required to provide a data compliance report detailing the dates on which jurisdictions provided data under A134, A179 and A180, dates on which resubmissions were made and dates on which reconciliation was completed.
Statement of Assurance	I93	<p>States will provide the IHACPA with a Statement of Assurance from a senior health department official on the completeness and accuracy of all approved data submissions and resubmissions. A Statement of Assurance is not required for the first quarter and third quarter period submission of activity data. The Statement of Assurance should include commentary on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ steps taken to promote completeness and accuracy of activity data (e.g. audit tools or programs, third-party reviews, stakeholder engagement strategies)</li> <li>▪ efforts applied to ensure the classification of activity was in accordance with the current year’s standards, data plans and determinations</li> <li>▪ variations in activity volumes and movements between ABF and Block funding</li> </ul>

Requirement	Clause^	Description
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>explanations on any significant changes in activity and NWAU from the prior financial year (as part of annual data submission).</li> </ul>
	194	The Commonwealth will provide the Administrator with a Statement of Assurance on the completeness and accuracy of data submissions relevant to the MBS and PBS (194).
Submission B	185	Patient's Medicare number for each service in Submission A (replaced with a Medicare PIN by Services Australia). This submission also includes a state record identifier to enable linking to Submission A.
Sentinel Events	A92	States will provide the IHACPA with a separate file with the details of any episode that includes a sentinel event. This submission also includes a state record identifier and establishment identifier to enable linking to Submission A.
Hospital Acquired Complication (HAC)	A87-A90, Appendix B	The Parties agree to retain existing pricing adjustments for Sentinel Events, Hospital Acquired Complications (HACs) and Avoidable Hospital Readmissions (AHRs) noting: a review will be completed by the ACSQHC by 30 June 2027 (described in clauses D51 to D55), and the adjustments will be retained for the full term of the Addendum if they are found to be fit-for-purpose and effective.
Avoidable Hospital Readmissions (AHRs)		The Parties agree that while the ACSQHC is undertaking the review of the pricing adjustments in clause A87(a), absolute pricing penalties for HACs and AHRs will not be applied to states as these will be shadow priced only during this time. As part of this process, IHACPA will investigate and determine a new methodology that gives effect to a pricing adjustment for HACs and AHRs and provide preliminary advice on this approach to the Health Chief Executives Forum (HCEF) within six months of the ACSQHC review.
Private Patient Revenue data	A30	The Addendum includes clauses which have the intent to create financial neutrality as between private and public patients in public hospitals. To implement these clauses the IHACPA is reviewing the methodology for calculating funding adjustments for private patient neutrality established by clause A44 of the 2020-2025 Addendum (to be completed by December 2027). Until this review is completed and actioned, the existing private patient neutrality funding adjustment methodology will apply, and States will be required to submit private patient revenue actuals.
Highly Specialised Therapies (HST) cost data	185, 183, A235	The Addendum includes clauses relating to funding for Highly Specialised Therapies. To enable the Administrator to undertake reconciliation of Commonwealth funding relating to HSTs, States are required to submit data on HST costs following the completion of the relevant financial year.

Requirement	Clause^	Description
MBS and PBS data	A17, I85, A218, A219	Patient de-identified data for Medicare Benefits Schedule (MBS) claims, Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) claims and any other Commonwealth program. This can be linked to hospital activity data provided by States using the Medicare PIN.
Hospital List	A134 I85	States will provide the IHACPA and the NHFB with a data file of establishment identifiers, hospital names, and associated information. Hospital lists will be required as part of the Q1 and Annual data submissions and can be optionally updated in the other quarterly data submissions.
Monthly report data	A158	The Administrator will publish a monthly report detailing at the LHN level the: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ basis for the amount of Commonwealth funding into the Pool accounts</li> <li>▪ basis for the amount of State and Territory funding into the Pool and the State Managed Fund (SMF)</li> <li>▪ number of public hospital services funded and provided as a running yearly total as per the national system of ABF.</li> </ul>
	A159	States will provide data to the Administrator on the provision of public hospital services by LHNs and ensure the flow of Commonwealth and State funds into and out of SMFs is accurately recorded in the Payments System.
Data Conditional Payment	A226-A228	The Administrator is responsible for applying the Data Conditional Payment, a temporary adjustment to Commonwealth NHR funding (deferral of funding) resulting from late submission of the required data for Annual Reconciliation (clauses A226-A228. If an amount is deferred, the Administrator will advise the affected jurisdiction.

^Note: *All clauses are from the Addendum to the National Health Reform Agreement 2026-2031*

### 3 Assessment of compliance

Jurisdictions are assessed as having complied with the Administrator’s data requirements if they have provided the data:

- as specified in the Data Plan and File Specification for Data Submission
- within the timeframes set out in the NHR Act, NHR Agreement, the Addendum and Data Plan.

**Table 2** Data compliance and measurement

Requirement	Measurement	Due Date	Sep Quarter	Dec Quarter	Mar Quarter	Jun Quarter
<b>Service Agreements and Data Provision</b>						
LHN Service Agreements provided to the Administrator	Number of agreements submitted	Once agreed	✓	✓	✓	✓
LHN Service Agreements provided to the Administrator within 14 days of finalisation	Number of agreements submitted	Not applicable	✓	✓	✓	✓
LHN Service Agreements include number of services at the service category level to be provided by the LHN	Meets minimum requirements Yes or No	Once agreed	✓	✓	✓	✓
LHN Service Agreements include mix of in-scope services at the service category level to be provided by the LHN	Meets minimum requirements Yes or No	Once agreed	✓	✓	✓	✓
LHN Service Agreements include mix of out-of-scope services at the service category level to be provided by the LHN	Meets minimum requirements Yes or No	Once agreed	✓	✓	✓	✓
LHN Service Agreements include the level of ABF to be provided to the LHN	Meets minimum requirements Yes or No	Once agreed	✓	✓	✓	✓
LHN Service Agreements include the price set by the State (i.e. State Price) for each service category	Meets minimum requirements Yes or No	Once agreed	✓	✓	✓	✓

Requirement	Measurement	Due Date	Sep Quarter	Dec Quarter	Mar Quarter	Jun Quarter
<b>Service Agreements and Data Provision</b>						
LHN Service Agreements include the level of Block Funding to be provided to the LHN	Meets minimum requirements Yes or No	Once agreed	✓	✓	✓	✓
LHN Service Agreements and estimated LHN NWAU align	Number of agreements aligned	Not applicable	✓	✓	✓	✓
LHN Service Agreement ABF (\$) aligns to the Commonwealth Payment Advice (in-year activity)	Number of agreements aligned	Not applicable	✓	✓	✓	✓
LHN Service Agreement Block Funding aligns to the National Efficient Cost (NEC)	Number of agreements aligned	Not applicable	✓	✓	✓	✓
Out-of-scope services funded through the Pool or State Managed Fund	Yes or No	Not applicable	✓	✓	✓	✓
Update to estimated LHN NWAU 2026-27	Date submitted or No Update	Not applicable	✓	✓	✓	✓
Updated Service LHN Service Agreements provided to the Administrator (ABF and Block LHNs)	Date submitted	Not applicable	✓	✓	✓	✓
Estimated (aggregate) State and Territory NWAU by service category 2027-28	Submitted (if so, when) or Not Submitted	31 Mar 27			✓	
Estimated LHN NWAU by service category 2027-28	Submitted (if so, when) or Not Submitted	31 May 27				✓
Public Health amounts	Submitted Not Submitted	Not applicable	✓	✓	✓	✓

**Table 3** Data compliance and measurement (continued)

Requirement	Measurement	Due Date	Sep Quarter	Dec Quarter	Mar Quarter	Jun Quarter	
<b>Reconciliation Requirements</b>							
Submission A	Submitted (if so, when) or <u>Not Submitted</u>	15 Dec 26 (First-quarter)		✓			
		15 Mar 27 (Six-month)			✓		
		15 Jun 27 (Third-quarter)					✓
		15 Sep 27 (Annual)	✓				
Submission B	Submitted (if so, when) or <u>Not Submitted</u>	15 Mar 27 (Six-month)			✓		
		15 Sep 27 (Annual)	✓				
Private Patient Revenue data	Submitted (if so, when) or <u>Not Submitted</u>	15 Sep 27 (Annual)	✓				
HST cost data	Submitted (if so, when) or <u>Not Submitted</u>	15 Sep 27 (Annual)	✓				
MBS and PBS data	Submitted (if so, when) or <u>Not Submitted</u>	15 Mar 27 (Six-month)			✓		
		15 Sep 27 (Annual)	✓				

Requirement	Measurement	Due Date	Sep Quarter	Dec Quarter	Mar Quarter	Jun Quarter
<b>Reconciliation Requirements</b>						
Statement of Assurance	Submitted (if so, when) or Not Submitted	15 Sep 27 (Annual)	✓			
Data Conditional Payment	Not applied or Applied (if so, when)	Date applied	✓	✓	✓	✓
Sentinel Events	Submitted (if so, when) or Not Submitted	15 Mar 27 (Six-month)			✓	
		15 Sep 27 (Annual)	✓			
Hospital List	Submitted (if so, when) or Not Submitted	15 Dec 26 (First-quarter)		✓		
		15 Sep 27 (Annual)	✓			

Requirement	Measurement	Due Date	Sep Quarter	Dec Quarter	Mar Quarter	Jun Quarter
<b>Reconciliation Requirements</b>						
Leave and Hospital in the Home NBEDS	Submitted (if so, when) or <u>Not Submitted</u>	15 Dec 26 (First-quarter)		✓		
		15 Mar 27 (Six-month)			✓	
		15 Jun 27 (Third-quarter)				✓
		15 Sep 27 (Annual)	✓			
<b>Monthly Reports</b>						
Monthly Report Data	Submitted (if so, when)	12th of the next month	✓	✓	✓	✓

## 4 Statement of Assurance

The Addendum requires States and Territories to provide a Statement of Assurance with their annual data submissions. Statements must be endorsed by a senior health department official and outline the completeness and accuracy of approved data submissions provided under clauses I92, I89 and I93 of the Addendum.

To assist States and Territories in meeting Statement of Assurance requirements and to help streamline the annual reconciliation process, a guidance document with suggested key content and structure is provided in the *Guidance for the drafting of Statements of Assurance* document.

## 5 Virtual, notional and contracted services Local Hospital Networks

### 5.1 Background

The Addendum permits States and Territories to enter into agreements or contracts with private or not-for-profit providers for the provision of public hospital services (clauses A187 to A192) and for these services to be eligible for a Commonwealth funding contribution.

### 5.2 Service Agreements

For any notional, virtual or contracted services, the State will provide information on forecast and actual contracted activity to the Administrator, and this will include the same type, level and specificity of data on the contracted activity as required of other LHNs under the Addendum (A190) but does not require any of the governance information that appears in the Service Agreement of other LHNs.

The service estimates will be used to calculate the Commonwealth contribution to ABF for the virtual, notional or contacted services LHN in the same manner as other LHNs.

This information may take the form of a copy of the contract between the State or Territory and the service provider forming the virtual, notional or contracted services LHN, or appropriate extracts thereof. The contract should include required service levels and other relevant information for service providers. If these contracts are varied or amended during the course of the year (clauses A122, A169 and A175), a copy of the amended contract (or relevant extracts thereof) must be provided to the Administrator for payment purposes.

## 6 Data compliance report timing

If a jurisdiction has not submitted the required data (*Table 2: Data compliance and measurement*), the Administrator, through the NHFB, will engage with the jurisdiction to support compliance with the Data Plan and Data Compliance Policy.

If a jurisdiction has not submitted the required data and the matter has not been resolved through bilateral discussions, the Administrator will issue a compliance warning to the relevant jurisdiction. The compliance warning will advise that if the required data is not received, the jurisdiction will be recorded as non-compliant in the Data Compliance Report.

Jurisdictions will be provided with an embargoed Data Compliance Report for review prior to the report being published on [www.publichospitalfunding.gov.au](http://www.publichospitalfunding.gov.au). Jurisdictions will have four business days to review and provide comment prior to publication. Any changes requested by jurisdictions are subject to further consideration by the Administrator and may not be incorporated into the published report.

**Table 4** Data Compliance reporting timeline

Timeline	Sep Quarter	Dec Quarter	Mar Quarter	Jun Quarter
NHFB reviews data submissions	20 - 30 Sep	20 - 30 Dec	20 - 30 Mar	20 - 30 Jun
NHFB engages with jurisdictions				
Embargoed Report sent to jurisdictions~	23 Oct	23 Jan	23 Apr	23 Jul
Report Published – five business days following Embargoed Report	28 Oct	28 Jan	28 Apr	28 Jul

~Note: Next business day if this date falls on a weekend or public holiday.

# Attachment A: National Health Reform Funding and Activity template

To assist States and Territories in improving their performance in meeting the Service Agreement reporting requirements of the Addendum, a suggested NHR funding and activity table template for inclusion to all 2026-27 Service Agreements (including Block virtual, notional and contracted services LHNs) is provided below.

Funding Type	In-scope services (NWAU)	Out-of-scope services (WAU)	Total services (WAU)	State Price (\$)	Total Funding (\$)	Total Funding for in-scope services (\$)	Commonwealth Funding for in-scope services (\$)	State / Territory Funding for in-scope services (\$)	Funding for out-of-scope services (\$)
<b>ABF Allocation</b>									
Emergency Department	xxx	xxx	xxx		xxx	xxx	xxx	xxx	xxx
Acute Admitted	xxx	xxx	xxx		xxx	xxx	xxx	xxx	xxx
Admitted Mental Health	xxx	xxx	xxx		xxx	xxx	xxx	xxx	xxx
Sub-Acute	xxx	xxx	xxx		xxx	xxx	xxx	xxx	xxx
Non-Admitted	xxx	xxx	xxx		xxx	xxx	xxx	xxx	xxx
Community Mental Health	xxx	xxx	xxx		xxx	xxx	xxx	xxx	xxx
<b>Total ABF Allocation</b>	<b>xxx</b>	<b>xxx</b>	<b>xxx</b>	<b>xxx</b>	<b>xxx</b>	<b>xxx</b>	<b>xxx</b>	<b>xxx</b>	<b>xxx</b>
<b>Block Allocation</b>									
Teaching, Training and Research					xxx	xxx	xxx	xxx	xxx
Small Rural Hospitals					xxx	xxx	xxx	xxx	xxx
Other Mental Health					xxx	xxx	xxx	xxx	xxx
Non-Admitted Home Ventilation					xxx	xxx	xxx	xxx	xxx
Other Non-Admitted Services					xxx	xxx	xxx	xxx	xxx
Other Public Hospital Programs					xxx	xxx	xxx	xxx	xxx
Highly Specialised Therapies					xxx	xxx	xxx	xxx	xxx
<b>Total Block Allocation</b>					<b>xxx</b>	<b>xxx</b>	<b>xxx</b>	<b>xxx</b>	<b>xxx</b>
<b>Grant Total Funding Allocation</b>					<b>xxx</b>	<b>xxx</b>	<b>xxx</b>	<b>xxx</b>	<b>xxx</b>