

## Question 21 (continued)

- (c) Assess the impact that the health status of Australians has on the provision of health care facilities and services. 10

There are a range of health care facilities in Australia including

- Institutional - public hospitals → operated and run by the Commonwealth & state government

- private hospitals → operated and run by locals and community groups

- Nursing homes - private charitable, private for profit or locally run

- psychiatric hospital - is decreasing as we try to ~~de~~ deinstitutionalize people

As Australia currently has an ageing population the number of nursing homes in Australia will need to increase, indicating that we are living longer with better health. They will need long term care and treatment measures which may place extra burden on individuals.

Due to the increase in morbidity in most diseases due to ~~more~~ better technology and diagnostic tests, there will be extra burden placed on public hospitals, extending waiting lists and increasing the cost of health care. To try and alleviate this, Medicare offers ~~part~~ health cover in private hospitals with the use of a Medicare taxation levy. The introduction of the Medicare safety net ensures that those

Question 21 continues on page 12

\* socio economic status to access ancillary services. Private health insurance is only available to those people who can pay the costs and so effort needs to be made to increase the equity and access to people of priority population groups.

Question 21 (continued)

people who have high health care costs, ~~achieve~~ achieve cheaper payments. The safety net covers costs over a set period. As the health status of Australians becomes more concerned with morbidity than mortality, the Pharmaceutical Benefits scheme also ensures that prescriptions are available to those people at ~~a~~ a subsidised rate. The Medicare is based on equity, simplicity and universality. With increasing rates of cancer, ~~and~~ and other diseases, the facilities put in place need to foster and cater for these <sup>new</sup> needs. Due to the increasing health care costs as Australians ~~become~~ utilise more institutional & non institutional ~~facilities~~ facilities, the introduction of private health insurance will be ~~the~~ targeted as a important means of reducing ~~the~~ waiting lists and allowing people more <sup>peace</sup> ~~piece~~ of mind. However access to ancillary and extras ~~can~~ cover through Medicare is not covered as so gap payments and these extras payments ~~will~~ will also increase health care costs.

As Australians look to more preventative measures, the utilisation of medical services, prescriptions, ~~in~~ institutional services and preventative medicines will increase. These will need to develop better diagnosis techniques and access to these facilities. Such institutional facilities include dentistry, radiology, urologists, dermatologists, obstetrics and general practitioners, ~~and~~ As diseases become more complex many of these specialist services will ~~need~~ need to be made more accessible and available. This can be done by increasing the level of cover offered by Medicare and reducing the gap 12 - payments. ~~Due~~ Due to low SES of some groups in Australia, access to health services for some groups in Australia is inefficient. Medicare fails to allow those people from low \*