**ACCESS - example**

**Royal Flying Doctor Service**: a non-government organisation that provides healthcare to thousands of Australians living outside of major cities. The Royal Flying Doctor Service receives funding from the federal and state/territory governments to maintain its fleet of air and road vehicles and reach and treat those in need in rural areas of Australia.

![Royal Flying Doctor Service Logo](image)

**ACCESS - example**

**Rural Retention Program**: a federal government strategy that aims to provide financial incentives for doctors who work in rural and remote areas. It increases the access to healthcare for those living outside Australia’s major cities.

![Doctor Icon](image) ![Financial Incentive Icon](image)
SUSTAINABILITY

Disease Prevention and Early Intervention

A key intervention for reducing the strain on the health system is to reduce the number of people who need it. Maintaining a sustainable health system can be achieved through early disease prevention, early detections and health promotion. The Australian government is achieving this through public cancer screens for breast and bowl cancer, providing free vaccines for specific ages, and many health promotion programs such as LiverLighter and SunSmart.

SUSTAINABILITY

Research and Monitoring

Through the National Health and Medical Research Council, the government funds research into a range of health and medical related areas. They research into new ways to cure, treat and prevents illness and diseases, and also to improve the effectiveness of health services in Australia. Their funded research includes:

• New cancer treatments
• Suicide prevention among Indigenous youth
• Reducing the spread of sexually transmitted diseases
• Developing new and effective vaccinations

ACCESS

An accessible health system is one that can provide all people with timely access to quality health services based on their needs, not ability to pay, regardless of where they live in the country. This means that access must be available to people from all socioeconomic groups and those living within and outside of Australia’s major cities.
The sustainability of the Australian health system relates to its capacity to provide a workforce and infrastructure such as facilities and equipment, and to be innovative and responsive to emerging needs through interventions such as research and monitoring.

Funding and Regulation

Funding is crucial to the sustainability of the health system because it provides adequate funds that are needed to continuously cater for the needs of the increasing population.

Regulating the health system helps it remain sustainable by promoting the efficient use of funds and other resources. The federal and state/territory governments are responsible for most of the regulations applying to the health system. Examples of regulations the government are responsible for include:

- Determining which procedures and medicines will be funded by Medicare and the PBS
- Regulating the private health insurance industry (costs)
- Ensuring the safety of pharmaceuticals and therapeutic goods (ensuring they are tested thoroughly and meet standards)

An efficient health system and workforce

The healthcare workforce in Australia consists of a range of healthcare practitioners, and administrative and support staff. Ensuring the health workforce is adequately staffed with highly trained professionals is an important factor of maintaining a sustainable health system which is run by the state and territory governments. Examples of staff in the workforce include:

- Physiotherapists
- Nurses
- General practitioners
- Midwives
- Osteopaths