



The Relevance of Indirect Benefits and Direct Costs for Setting Priorities in Health Care

Presented by

Dr John McKie

Date: Wednesday 27th August 2008
Time: 1:00-2:00pm
Venue: RB Scotton Room
2nd Floor, Building 75
Monash University, Clayton



Abstract

This seminar reports the results of a survey of the preferences of the Australian public for the inclusion of indirect benefits in the evaluation of services for Medicare. The study found evidence of public scepticism regarding the ability or willingness of government to use additional tax receipts for beneficial purposes, and/or a preference for giving priority to programs and services that focus on health rather than welfare more generally. Also reported are the outcomes of a series of discussion groups with members of the public on the issue of direct costs. When asked to choose a principle for setting priorities in health care, after deliberation and discussion a majority of participants rejected the most cost-effective option, citing reasons such as '*moral values*' and '*a personal belief that we shouldn't discriminate*'. When asked to allocate a hospital budget most chose to allocate some money to high cost (inefficient) patients on grounds of '*fairness*' and the desire to give all patients a '*chance*'.

Presenter

John McKie is a Research Fellow at the Centre for Health Economics. He has a PhD in philosophy, with a long-standing interest in ethical issues in health economics. His main research interests are in the measurement of social values, and equity issues in priority setting. Along with Jeff Richardson, Peter Singer and Helga Kuhse he is the author of *The Allocation of Health Care Resources*, published by Ashgate.

VISITORS ARE MOST WELCOME. The Seminar Series is free of charge. For confirmation of your attendance and further information please telephone 9905 0733 or email che@buseco.monash.edu.au