



MEDIA RELEASE

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NEW REPORT REVEALS HOSPITAL PIPELINE IS POORLY PLANNED AND THE PATIENT IS GETTING SICKER

Industry think tank Infrastructure Partnerships Australia has today released new research – ***A Healthy Pipeline: Delivering Australia’s Hospital Infrastructure***. The report sets out Australia’s health infrastructure pipeline, which has seen a recent rapid expansion but has not yet been met with commensurate growth in specialist skills, resources or labour.

“We have one of the best healthcare systems in the world, not only due to our high-quality infrastructure, but also our ability to attract top clinicians and allied services. However, continuing to deliver this level of excellence is a sizeable task. Even now in its relatively stable state, projects are facing scarcities across all delivery phases,” said Infrastructure Partnerships Australia Chief Executive, Adrian Dwyer.

“At its peak in late-2026, the projected volume of labour required to deliver the hospital pipeline will be two and a half times today’s level. To meet this peak, compound annual growth would need to increase eightfold from the growth achieved in the last decade.

“Capacity constraints will only worsen with a growing and increasingly complex pipeline, particularly one with such tight sequencing. The timelines will undoubtedly blow out, the question is whether that happens in a controlled way or a shambolic way.

“Labour mobility and the shortage of skilled workers only adds to the complexity. Hospitals are a different infrastructure beast. Some skills are transferable but the idea that this could be solved with unbridled enthusiasm is high farce. Worse still, there will be the flow on effects for building costs in all other sectors – particularly housing.

“The sobering picture of the current pipeline requires urgent action from Governments and delivery bodies to course correct to an achievable pipeline.”

While all jurisdictions will require additional resources to deliver their pipelines, each will face their own unique challenges. This will be especially pertinent in Queensland with the announcement of the Capacity Expansion Program, which aims to deliver 15 projects, including three new hospital megaprojects, by 2028.

Infrastructure Partnerships Australia is the nation’s industry think tank providing independent policy research focused on excellence in social and economic infrastructure.

The report is available at: <https://infrastructure.org.au/policy-research/major-reports/>

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