



Media Release

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## **Parliament needs to take a defibrillator to healthcare reform**

The Medical Technology Association of Australia (MTAA) welcomes the re-election of the Turnbull Coalition Government having secured enough seats to form a majority Government.

But the big take out from the election is healthcare matters to the Australian people and Labor's 'Save Medicare' campaign accurate or not has fundamentally reshaped the debate in the short-term but is likely to make it difficult for consensus to prevail.

The 45<sup>th</sup> Parliament presents further challenges for the industry as a larger crossbench will make decision-making in the Senate increasingly difficult.

MTAA calls on all members of the 45<sup>th</sup> Parliament to recognise delay and inertia is only pushing the burden on future generations, and we simply cannot allow another three years of inaction.

### **Susi Tegen, Chief Executive of the Medical Technology Association of Australia:**

"This Federal Election was defined by healthcare as the number one priority for Australian voters.

"Whether accurate or not Labor's 'Save Medicare' campaign fundamentally altered the debate and is likely to make healthcare reform difficult to achieve in the short-term.

"Now more than ever stability in the Health portfolio is what MTAA would like to see.

"We believe Sussan Ley should remain in her role to provide the industry with that assurance and to continue the reform process that started under her leadership.

"Our health system is facing multiple challenges and delaying this process will only make the problem worse in the long-run.

"MTAA believes that at the heart of any reform, the patient must come first, but from what MTAA has seen to date, the private health funds want to put profits before patients.

"The Prostheses List provides an important mechanism for Government oversight for patient access, clinical effectiveness and device price.

"The private health insurance industry would have you believe that an arbitrary \$800 million cut to the Prostheses List will solve the problem. This is simplistic and fails to address why customers are increasingly unhappy with the costs and services provided by health funds.

“All we ask is that any reform change is done on the basis of full knowledge of the facts rather than erroneous claims made by some industry participants, facing their own consumer challenges without looking to blame others.

**ENDS**

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**About MTAA**

The Medical Technology Association of Australia (MTAA) is the national association representing companies in the medical technology industry. MTAA aims to ensure the benefits of modern, innovative and reliable medical technology are delivered effectively to provide better health outcomes to the Australian community.

MTAA represents manufacturers and suppliers of medical technology used in the diagnosis, prevention, treatment and management of disease and disability. The range of medical technology is diverse with products ranging from familiar items such as syringes and wound dressings, through to high-technology implanted devices such as pacemakers, defibrillators, hip and other orthopaedic implants. Products also include hospital and diagnostic imaging equipment such as ultrasounds and magnetic resonance imaging machines.

MTAA members distribute the majority of the non-pharmaceutical products used in the diagnosis and treatment of disease and disability in Australia. Our member companies also play a vital role in providing healthcare professionals with essential education and training to ensure safe and effective use of medical technology.