Privatisation of teaching hospitals
Peter M. Brooks

Australia's major academic health centres not only provide excellent healthcare, but are also involved in one of the most important aspects of the healthcare system -- the training of our future health professionals. Most teaching hospitals are also involved in basic and clinical research, and many have major research institutes on their campuses. This symbiosis of healthcare, research and training has served us well, but is now under considerable threat from the fiscal constraints within the healthcare system (particularly in Victoria, where, despite the increase in throughput and reduction in waiting lists as a consequence of casemix funding, there has been a decline in funding to hospitals in real terms).

Recently, the Victorian State government has moved to amalgamate and privatise several public health institutions, including one of Australia's most prestigious teaching hospitals, the Austin and Repatriation Medical Centre. Whatever contractual arrangements are finally determined for these privatisations, they must preserve the high standards and broad range of teaching, research and healthcare that the institutions currently provide, or else the saving of public money will eventually be to the detriment of the health of the community.

This document is abstract only. The Australasian Medical Publishing Company does not permit reproduction of MJA articles on sites other than theirs. However, the full text of the article can be freely obtained from the eMJA site.