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the Crikey
health blog

Croakey contributors review the highs and the lows of this year's health news

[Melissa Sweet](#) | Dec 20, 2013 8:43AM | [EMAIL](#) | [PRINT](#)

When Croakey contributors were asked to identify the most significant health news this past year, many nominated the change of Federal Government.

The recently announced Federal funding cuts – outlined in the [Midyear Economic and Fiscal Outlook Statement](#) – suggest this will likely also be the dominant health story for 2014.

The Australian Healthcare and Hospitals Association (AHHA) [says](#) the cuts threaten critical infrastructure and clinical service improvement programs across Australia: “There are particular concerns for the people of western Sydney as funds destined for Westmead and Nepean Hospitals have been cut. Funding commitments for the Millennium Institute and Children’s Medical Research Institute, also in western Sydney are gone.”

This [statement](#) from NACCHO outlines the changes to programs affecting the health and wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

Of course, it is not only cuts to health services and programs that will affect our health. Dugald Murray, the Australian Conservation Foundation’s senior economist, has given [an overview](#) of environmental setbacks. Although he doesn’t specifically address the health implications, some of these are raised in the compilation post from Croakey contributors below.
