

Joe Scuteri  
Director  
HealthConsult Pty Ltd  
[joe.scuteri@healthconsult.com.au](mailto:joe.scuteri@healthconsult.com.au)

**Biography of presenting author:** Joe Scuteri is a leading consultant to the Australian health industry. He has been instrumental in the development and roll-out of casemix tools and technologies in Australia since the mid 1980's. Recently, Joe has made a major contribution to developing plans for the implementation of ABF in each national workstream.

**Suggested session time:** Thursday 6 October

**Suggested paper type:** Oral presentation

**Title:** Planning the implementation of ABF as part of reforming the Australian healthcare system

**Abstract (200 words)**

A key part of Australia's health reforms is to implement activity based funding (ABF) for public hospitals from 1<sup>st</sup> July 2012. Five Advisory Working Groups (AWGs) aligned to the ABF workstreams subacute, emergency, non-admitted, and mental health care; as well as the National Hospital Cost Data Collection (NHCCDC), were formed with terms of reference that included "the development of a work plan for the implementation of ABF". The paper describes the development of the Work Plans, which focus on determining what is required to implement ABF using chosen proxy classifications. It outlines how each Plan defines the projects that must be done to attain an agreed minimum position in terms of ABF infrastructure under the headings of: scope and data set coverage; classification; counting rules and unit of count; costing; funding model; support infrastructure; data quality assurance; and governance. An assessment of the prospect of achieving a common starting point across states/territories for ABF by 1<sup>st</sup> July 2012 is made. And a series of implementation strategies that challenge states/territories to reach the minimum position, but retain sufficiently flexible to allow for ABF to start even where the required data are not available, are proposed.