









"It has taken us several years to get to the stage where there is a general acceptance of the need for further health care change. And it will take us a while to get sufficient agreement on things like how to guarantee universal access, use public funds in health, mix fee-for-service and other modes, broaden the scope of health professions, build healthcare teams, adopt interprofessional education, and so on," she said.

The next step should be a decision by the Council of Australian Government in June to seek public and professional views on the proposals made by Andrew Podger. The Alliance will be advocating whatever changes will help people in rural and remote communities to have equivalent health by 2020. "This seems a long time off but we need to start soon to improve financial structures, adopt new learning and practice cultures, and agree on appropriate models of service delivery for remote areas," Ms McAlpin said. "COAG in June will be the next step in a long journey."