

To Senate enquiry into Health

20th August 2014 Dr Catherine Pye

I am a General Practitioner working in rural SA and Victoria now for 25 years.

I treat a large proportion of mentally ill, elderly, nursing home and cancer patients.

I oppose the Medicare copayment for all patients.

This will unfairly disadvantage those who are sick, the young and the old.

I don't think it is fair that I will take a \$5 pay cut for bulk billing a patient.

My opinion is that patients will not come to the doctor as they will not want to pay the extra amount.

This will reduce preventative health care, reduce our chance of early diagnosis and mean that in the long run health care will become more expensive.

A large part of what I do is prevention, any increase in costs to see a GP will reduce my ability to see patients early and provide preventative health care and chronic disease management.

Compliance is a huge problem with over 40% not taking medication and failing to continue with treatment, this will just get worse if this cost is added.

I support an increase in the Medicare levy as I see this as more equitable system.

I don't think that the Medicare copayment will contribute to the cost of Medicare.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Catherine Pye