

To whom it may concern,

In regards to the Human Services Amendment Bill 2019 to make photo ID mandatory for Medicare cards, I truly believe this is a necessary change that must be made as soon as possible.

I have worked in the health care industry for many years, specifically eye health and I have seen firsthand many individuals trying to take advantage of the system by committing fraud. They don't only try this with using other people's Medicare cards but private health insurance cards as well (but that's another matter). It causes extra work and stress for the health care employees as they know that these individuals are trying to commit fraud, but have to almost fight to get them to understand that it will not be accepted and that they need to pay for health services until they get their own card.

As well as booking eye tests and other medical tests, the Medicare card is used as a primary form of ID for many different things and it doesn't really make sense not to have a photo on the card like on your driver's license.

It might be challenging when there are multiple family members on the one card, but if each parent can have their own card with their own photo and then the children's names simply listed, this will be a good start to minimize the possibility of fraud.

The Australian health system is one of the best in the world and we are all so lucky to live in a country that provides outstanding health services, it's just really sad to see people still trying to take advantage. That's why, unfortunately, measures like these are necessary to make sure our Medicare bill doesn't get out of control.

Thank you,