

From: Clifford Noel Weder
To: Committee, Health (SEN)
Subject: Senate Inquiry ~ Health Budget

For the inquiry

I am a not-wealthy self funded retiree (of 20 yrs+) - no pension card, no health card; & on principle, plan to stay that way.

I attend a specialist at regular intervals to monitor an ailment. The specialist is well aware of all my history, but once a year I have to go back to the GP (who has no practical input into my condition) at a gross cost of \$60 (\$23 cost to the public sys) to get a new referral. The specialist then charges me \$236 for a new first time consultation, of which the public system contribution is \$36.

Also, for my driver's licence I need to get an optical test from time to time. Again I pay \$60 (\$23 cost to Mcare) to the GP to get a referral. If I agree to have a full eye examination I can get it free of charge but of course a charge does go into the public system. Then I go back to the GP to sign off on my form for the licencing mob, again at \$60, & another \$23 against the public system.

I am annoyed about my expense in all this unnecessary stuff - but as a concerned citizen I am also annoyed that these cosy doctor systems are bleeding the health budget to death.....& to hear some of the health professionals trying to sound as if they passionate about health care economicsto me is just so hypocritical.

Cliff Weder