

Senators

Since the Medicare Safety Net already discriminates against same-sex couples by not recognising them as families, any increase in the safety net threshold will unequally increase the burden on same-sex couples.

My medical expenses for 2005 have exceeded the threshold. If my de facto partner were a woman, any medical expenses she incurred would attract higher reimbursements. Because my partner of eighteen years' standing, is a man, this higher rate of reimbursements does not apply.

This places a burden on us higher than that imposed on comparable opposite-sex de facto couples. Any raising of the threshold will increase this discriminatory burden.

I urge you to recommend that our relationship be recognised for Medicare assessment purposes, so that this unequal and discriminatory situation can be ended.

Sincerely,

Jim Woulfe