

Dear members of the committee

I would like the following comments to be tabled as a submission to the recently convened committee to examine the provisions of the Health Legislation Amendment Bill 2005.

It is a great concern that this Bill is being put forward to amend our current Health Legislation with regards to Medicare funding for health services.

Any proposed restrictions or conditions applied to Medicare funding can in no way be beneficial to the quality of health care of Australians and their families.

The conditions under which these proposed restrictions would be applied are not clear and leave too much opportunity for individual discretion and internal department bureaucracy to interfere, which would ultimately undermining the Medicare system from within. The Medicare system must remain impartial to be beneficial for the entire community.

The Australian Government website states that Medicare is the countries most trusted and dependable Government agency. This will quickly be reversed if the Federal Government begins to deny Australians access to this vital financial health service.

In a year when the Federal Government has disclosed a record budget surplus, the idea of restricting financial health benefits to Australian's runs against the core of Australian Values.

I welcome this committee to examine the provisions of the Health Legislation Amendment Bill 2005. I hope that you will find that these proposed amendments to be detrimental to the health and wellbeing of Australians and their families. Please do not pass the Health Legislation Amendment Bill 2005.

Kind Regards,
Kim Aleksandrowicz