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(USA)

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Elton Humphery
Senate Inquiry into Medicare

19th August, 2003

Dear Mr Humphery,

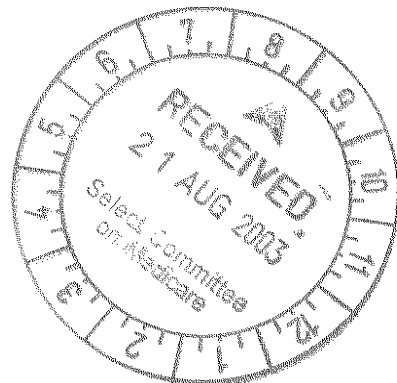
I was asked by the inquiry to provide more information on bulk billing statistics for VR and Non VR GP's. My apologies for the delay, and I hope this isn't too late, but it took a while to find the right person in the DoHA.

I have made 10 copies of the graph and the raw statistics.

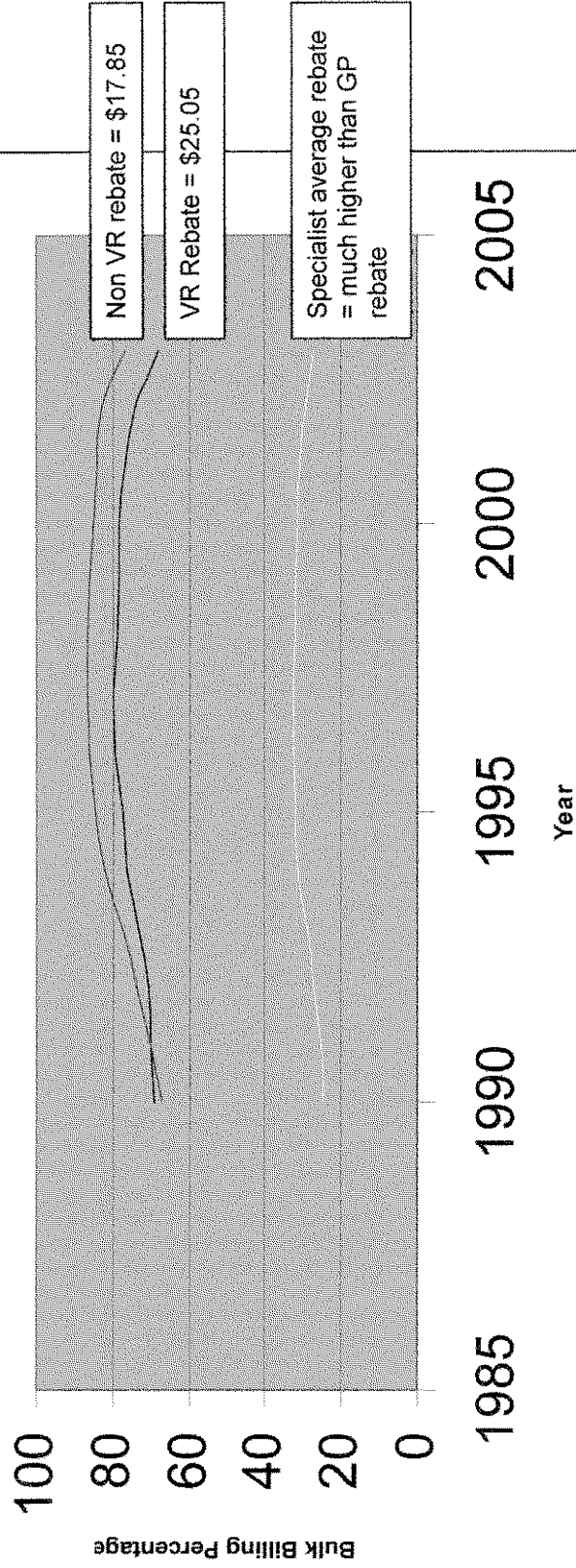
I hope the Inquiry finds this information useful.

Kind regards,


Dr James Moxham



Bulk Billing for VR GP's, Non VR GP's and Specialists



Top line is bulk billing rate for Non VR GP's, middle line is for VR GP's and bottom line is bulk billing rate for specialists. Specialist rebates as a general rule are two to five times GP rebates, and yet despite this, specialists bulk bill a lot less. Note how the Non VR bulk billing rate is higher than the VR rate, despite the lower rebate. Looking at this data, it would be hard to argue that raising rebates is going to increase bulk billing.

Data Source: Mr Ross Saunders, DoHA. Phone 02 6289 7020
 Graph prepared by Dr James Moxham. Phone 08 8278 8900

TABLE B7 - MEDICARE: PERCENTAGE OF SERVICES BULK BILLED
BY QUARTER AND FINANCIAL YEAR OF PROCESSING
BY BROAD TYPE OF SERVICE

Year/Qt	ATTENDANCES											TOTAL
	GENERAL		TOTAL	SPECIAL- IST	OBSTET- ICS	ANAESTH- ETICS	PATHOL- OGY	DIAG- NOSTIC IMAGING	OPERAT- IONS	OPTOM- ETRY	OTHER	
	GP/GRP	OTHER										
1984/1985	N.A.	52.5	52.5	21.2	16.2	4.8	43.7	34.3	27.5	68.2	34.9	45.2
1985/1986	N.A.	55.8	55.8	22.9	19.2	5.6	48.4	39.1	31.3	74.0	38.2	48.5
1986/1987	N.A.	60.1	60.1	24.1	20.5	6.0	51.0	43.2	34.8	77.3	31.7	51.8
1987/1988	N.A.	62.0	62.0	22.5	22.9	5.9	53.5	34.9	31.3	76.8	32.0	53.1
1988/1989	N.A.	64.7	64.7	23.3	24.2	6.0	55.5	37.3	32.5	78.3	35.3	55.4
1989/1990	69.0	67.1	67.4	24.6	25.0	6.3	58.9	41.7	35.3	81.1	37.6	58.2
1990/1991	70.1	70.3	70.3	25.5	26.8	6.2	63.2	45.7	38.0	84.2	38.9	60.8
1991/1992	70.6	73.8	72.0	27.3	30.1	6.5	65.8	48.6	39.3	87.3	38.9	62.8
1992/1993	73.2	77.5	74.2	29.0	33.3	7.0	68.0	51.8	41.5	90.1	39.8	65.1
1993/1994	76.2	81.8	77.0	31.4	36.5	7.7	71.7	55.7	42.4	91.6	40.5	68.1
1994/1995	77.5	84.4	78.5	31.8	39.9	8.4	74.2	57.8	42.1	92.9	40.4	69.6
1995/1996	79.3	86.0	80.1	32.5	26.3	9.3	76.1	61.3	43.8	94.5	41.2	71.1
1996/1997	79.7	86.8	80.6	32.4	22.9	10.2	77.8	62.7	44.5	96.0	41.7	71.8
1997/1998	78.9	86.4	79.8	31.9	23.6	10.3	79.0	63.9	44.3	95.7	42.3	71.8
1998/1999	78.6	85.9	79.4	31.8	24.8	10.9	80.6	65.0	44.3	95.4	42.1	72.0
1999/2000	78.4	84.9	79.1	31.7	24.6	11.1	82.3	64.2	44.5	95.8	42.2	72.3
2000/2001	77.0	83.8	77.6	30.7	23.0	10.3	83.0	61.0	42.6	96.2	41.6	71.4
2001/2002	74.1	83.1	74.9	29.5	20.1	*9.1	83.9	60.4	41.3	96.4	42.0	70.4
2000												
MAR	78.2	84.6	78.9	31.2	24.5	11.5	83.6	64.2	46.2	95.8	41.9	72.8
JUN	78.6	84.2	79.2	31.9	24.2	11.2	82.4	62.0	44.3	96.0	42.7	72.4
SEP	77.8	83.1	78.3	31.2	23.7	10.9	81.3	61.0	41.8	96.1	42.0	71.2
DEC	77.0	82.7	77.6	31.0	23.3	10.6	82.9	61.3	42.9	96.2	41.8	71.3
2001												
MAR	76.8	84.8	77.5	30.2	23.1	10.1	84.0	61.1	43.8	96.2	40.9	71.9
JUN	76.3	85.0	77.0	30.3	21.9	9.4	83.6	60.8	41.9	96.2	41.5	71.3
SEP	75.3	84.3	76.1	30.2	20.5	8.8	84.0	60.4	40.2	96.4	41.9	70.8
DEC	74.4	83.0	75.2	30.1	20.0	8.7	83.7	60.4	41.6	96.3	42.0	70.2
2002												
MAR	73.7	82.7	74.5	29.2	20.4	9.8	84.1	60.4	43.1	96.6	41.7	70.5
JUN	73.1	82.2	73.9	28.6	19.7	9.1	83.8	60.5	40.5	96.4	42.3	69.9
SEP	70.4	79.8	71.2	28.6	19.6	9.1	83.6	60.1	39.3	96.4	42.5	68.4
DEC	68.8	78.7	69.6	28.2	18.9	9.3	83.8	59.6	40.2	96.5	41.8	67.6
2003												
MAR	67.6	77.0	68.5	27.3	19.4	9.7	84.6	59.2	41.4	96.6	40.7	67.9

* Series break on account of a restructuring of the anaesthetic section of the MDS