

AUSTRALIAN SENATE

Select Committee on Medicare

Inquiry into

**The access to and affordability of general practice under
Medicare**

**Corrigendum to the Supplementary Submission of the
Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing**

January 2004



Australian Government

Department of Health and Ageing

Section 2.2 (p3) Affordable General Practice and Related Services

Delete “This is shown at Section 3.2, Table 2.” from the first paragraph.

Section 3.2 (p11) Additional \$5 payment for certain bulk billed services

Replace the following paragraph preceding Table 1:

“In 2002, more than 80 percent of all providers of GP services bulk billed some concessional patients. The distribution of bulk billing ranges across all GP providers is at Table 1.”

with

“In 2002, more than 95 percent of all providers of GP services bulk billed some concessional patients. The distribution of bulk billing ranges across all GP providers is at Table 1.”

Section 3.6 (p33) Impact of MedicarePlus on General Practice Income

Replace the following sentences:

“For a typical GP, this could mean additional income of between \$35,000 to \$47,000 each year depending on where they practice and the degree to which they subscribe to individual measures.

Table 5 lists the source of this expected additional income and the amount a typical GP could benefit if they take advantage of the various initiatives for which they would be eligible under **MedicarePlus.**”

with

“For a typical GP, this could mean additional income of between \$35,000 to \$43,000 each year depending on where they practice and the degree to which they subscribe to individual measures.

Table 5 lists the source of this expected additional income and the amount a typical GP could benefit if they take advantage of the various initiatives for which they would be eligible under **MedicarePlus.**”

and replace Table 5 with the following table.

Table 5: Additional Income under MedicarePlus per full time equivalent GP by Rural, Remote, Metropolitan Area classification¹

Measure	Per Full Time Equivalent GP in:		
	RRMA 1	RRMA 2	RRMAs 3-7
More affordable health services – for children and Commonwealth Concession Card holders	\$17,780	\$15,785	\$13,370
Patient convenience through new technologies	\$250	\$250	\$333
Support for practice nurses through a new Medicare item	\$3,570	\$3,570	\$3,570
Extension of grants for employment of practice nurses to urban areas of workforce shortage	\$8,000	\$8,000	Already available
Better access to medical care for residents of aged care homes	\$2,765	\$2,765	\$2,765
More GP training places, and support for practices and GP supervisors	\$2,667	\$2,667	\$2,667
Bringing more graduate doctors to outer metropolitan, regional, rural and remote areas.	\$0	\$10,000	\$10,000
Supporting rural and remote GPs, especially procedural GPs	\$0	\$0	\$6,800
TOTAL	\$35,051	\$43,056	\$39,525
Existing grants for employment of practice nurses in rural and remote areas			\$8,000
Total For Comparison	\$35,051	\$43,056	\$47,525

¹ Costs assume that the GP will subscribe to all measures for which they may be eligible under **MedicarePlus**.