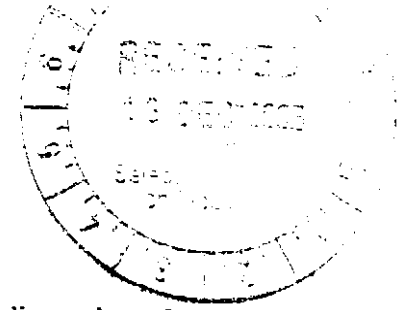


The Senate Committee,  
Investigation into Medicare Plus,  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA A.C.T



Dear Chairperson

I believe that the following facts are pertinent to the discussion of this important piece of legislation.

1. It is my strong recollection that the original Medibank as designed by Deeble and Scotton was specifically to provide Australia with a universal health scheme available to all citizens on a non means tested basis. The Medibank levy at that time and at a later date was aimed at all levels of income the larger the income the larger the levy. To assert as the Prime Minister has done that the original scheme was not designed as a universal proposal is an outrageous misrepresentation of the truth.

2. The proposal that welfare card holders and those patients under 16 years will attract an extra five dollars in rebate for the doctor if these particular patients are bulk-billed is ill considered. This idea will introduce discrimination between honest hard working people who not only pay their taxes but also their Medicare levy and those who for many reasons pay no taxes at all nor do they pay the Medicare levy. In large bulk-billing practices it is quite likely that these honest workers will be given second rate service or will be over serviced in order that this five dollars difference can be made up. Those that dispute this fact have obviously not seen these practices in action. How this discriminatory scheme will be administered is mind boggling, KISS would be far more equitable. Make the five dollar rise across the board for every patient that is bulk-billed or reduce that amount but make it equal for all patients. In my practice I bulk-bill all patients as I consider it an insult to charge those not on welfare as they are already being slugged by taxes and the levy.

I look forward with interest to your comments on these observations.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "John Lambie".

John Lambie M.B. B.S. F.R.C.S.E.

Queensland  
16<sup>th</sup> December 2003.

cc Ian Macfarlane  
Tony Abbott  
John Howard.