

10 March 2025

The Hon Peter Dutton MP
Leader of the Opposition**By email:** [REDACTED]**Subject: Australian Government Medicare announcement**

Dear Mr Dutton

We thank you for announcing you will invest \$9 billion to match the Australian Government's Medicare plan ahead of the election. Our world-leading Medicare system has been neglected for a decade, and it is a relief to see the critical importance of general practice for our community's health recognised.

This is an historic investment, and we must make sure it delivers better access to general practice for all Australians. The only way we can guarantee that is by putting it straight into patients' pockets by way of increased MBS rebates. Our GP members have made clear that tying the money to bulk billing will have minimal benefit for patients because it simply isn't financially viable for practices.

The table below shows the estimated losses practices would incur if they bulk bill a standard consultation under the current plan in different locations.

Location	Loss if practice bulk bills 100% of patients 100% of the time	Loss if practice bulk bills <100% of the time
Metropolitan areas	35.59%	42.75%
Large rural towns	25.27%	33.57%
Small rural towns	23.42%	31.93%
Very remote	19.53%	28.47%

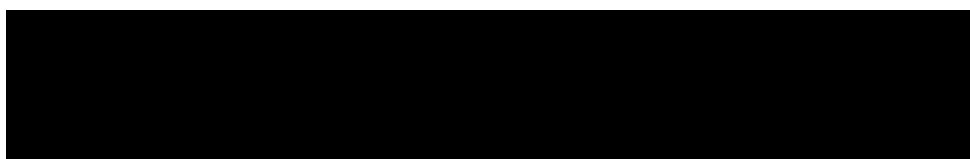
The following table shows the estimated gap fees for patients for a standard consultation (based on WorkCover Queensland's fee of \$108 for a Level B/Item 23 consultation) if the incentive payment was instead added to the MBS rebate. Given the current gap fee at the WorkCover rate is \$65.15, this table shows a significant savings to patients if funding is directed to rebates instead of incentive payments.

Location	Estimated patient gap fee
Metropolitan areas	\$38.44
Large rural towns	\$27.29
Small rural towns	\$25.29
Very remote	\$21.09

In addition to increasing rebates, we desperately need structural reform of the MBS to reflect the needs of patients today and stabilise it for the future. This includes making longer consultations for mental health and chronic conditions and multidisciplinary, longitudinal care more affordable. Patients must have sufficient time with their chosen and trusted GP to develop plans to stay healthier for longer. Giving our people that time will also reduce longer term costs to our hospitals and health system.

The AMA has a sensible strategy to modernise Medicare, and we would welcome an opportunity to meet with you to discuss it and our members' views on these issues further.

Yours sincerely



Dr Nick Yim
President
AMA Queensland

Dr Brett Dale
Chief Executive Officer
AMA Queensland