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Sent: Wednesday, 11 May 2005 6:43 PM
To: Committee, HAA (REPS)

KEEP MEDI CARE. QUALITY AND AFFORDABLE HEALTH CARE FOR OUR CITIZENS IS A RIGHT. DO NOT FOLLOW THE AMERICAN SYSTEM.

Stop specialists in some fields 'feathering their own nest' by controlling the numbers of doctors who may wish to practice in that specific area of expertise, eg., orthopedic surgeons. The waiting time for this type of treatment and surgery is far too long, especially for those who unfortunately do not have private cover or are not on a high income.

Control price hikes by private health care companies.

Doctors do not need to know whether a client has private health cover or not. This should not have any influence or bearing on the level of care. If the doctor wishes to bulk bill that is his/her business. If the doctor doesn't bulk bill, then it is just like any other business, a transaction made between the client and the doctor. Again there has to be price structures and regulations put in place.

After doctors have done their necessary training, they should be obliged to practice in a rural community for at least 12 months.

As witnessed recently in Queensland, there obviously needs to be uniform regulations put in place across the nation. so we can be confident that we have the best doctors practising in Australia.

Recognise and help all medical research and advancement.

Recognize complimentary medical practices can work side by side with the traditional practice.

Carers for a family member in the home need to be on a higher payment by the Government. They also need more support in the way of respite, appliances/utilities suitable for people with disabilities.

Nursing homes and aged care hostels need more funding. More caring staff are needed. In this area of work people need to be very caring and tolerant. If there are not enough staff, there is just too much stress placed on the existing staff. People should not be going into this field of work if they can not emphasize with the elderly and/or the disabled.

Regulations need to be in place to make sure organisations employ more trained people, and not just focus on profit, even those so-called non-profit organisations.