


SUBMISSION NO. 56

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Dear Alex Somlyay MP

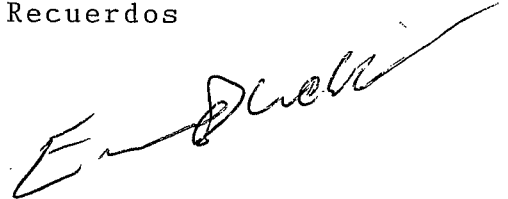
While rambling About The House, the magazine, and speaking as one of the few members of the patient class published by a national health journal, the now deceased Healthcover, I noticed that your health funding inquiry is to include "accountability to the Australian community" as well as "access to private health insurance".

What the Government's tax rebate for those who buy private health insurance does, besides rob Peter Public to pay Paul Private, is also reduce the ~~the~~ Medicare Levy in terms of dollars and cents, sense being another matter albeit nicely wrapped up in the currently magic socio-econo-political mantra of 'Private-Good, Public-Bad.

Speaking now as an American-Australian, many American expats may get homesick but only the rich even think about getting sick home.

The media, being a corporate voice of David Hume's few controlling the many through opinion does not help matters. Its latest figures, for instance ("Health Funds Set For Loyalty Overhaul", The Australian, 15 June) "show 42.9 per cent of Australians are insured" whereas the real figure is that 100 per cent are covered by Medicare, albeit underfundedly so Medicare is not a 'safety net', in other words. More to the point is that the words are not just mine but Director of the Australian Health Policy Institute Stephen Leeder's as well.

Recuerdos



E D Webber