

**E&OE TRANSCRIPT  
TELEVISION INTERVIEW  
ABC THE DRUM  
WEDNESDAY, 22 APRIL 2015 – [LINK](#)**

*Ley Medicare Review*

**TIM WILSON INTRODUCED AS “HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSIONER”**

**HOST:** Joining me on the panel, Labor Party National President, Jenny McAllister, and Human Rights Commissioner, Tim Wilson and in Melbourne, the host of the ABC's Sunday Extra, Jonathan Green.

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**ELEANOR HALL:** Tim Wilson, do you take the Minister at her word that this is not about cost cutting?

**TIM WILSON:** Well I can't imagine that they would say that and not go about it that way, because then they'll have the political headache otherwise. But the actual review is an incredibly good idea because when it comes down to it, year-on-year, more and more obligations are being put on to Primary Health care providers and GPs for things like writing various different certificates or scripts, sometimes the bureaucratic process is very little to do with the healthcare system but because somebody wants somebody trusted in a position to make those decisions.

And so if there's a review and looks at some of these issues and someone takes them off GPs so they can focus on providing support and assistance for people at a local level that is of huge benefit to everybody. And similarly, with technology, there is opportunities for processes to be essentially automated or to remove the obstacles necessary, so if people for instance are on regular prescriptions for certain types of medication, and that is an ongoing basis, surely there must be a way that we can do it so that every time it happens, and people need a top-up script, they don't need to go and see the doctor, sit down, have a discussion with them if it's not necessary to make sure people get the sort of support and assistance they need.

**HALL:** What about Bill Shorten's point that if this is such a good idea, why has it taken so long for the Government to come to it?

**WILSON:** Well Governments have priorities and obviously they've made a judgment call, they've had a focus on Medicare earlier in their term, this is a shift in making sure they get the maximum bang for the taxpayers' buck. That's a fundamentally good thing and should hopefully make an enormous contribution if there are clear outcomes as a consequence of the review.

*Labor Superannuation Announcement*

**HALL:** Well, Tim Wilson, the Treasurer's still warning about the deficit. We've now got the Labor Party proposing \$14 billion worth of savings. It's also saying it will pass them through the Parliament. Should the Government adopt these?

WILSON: Well I think we need to be very clear about the language, these aren't \$14 billion worth of savings, it is \$14 billion taxes, and that's not about whether you support it or not, it's taxes, it's a tax at the end of the day.

HALL: It's still going to hit the bottom line of the budget though isn't?

WILSON: Absolutely, but in the end it's private wealth for the Government taxes and takes off people, it isn't automatically the Governments for which they gift to people, it's why it's not a saving, it's a tax. Regardless a reduction in tax is never - sorry, increase in tax is never a saving. But the key point is that every Government says that their budget is going to be measured and fair and responsible. Things like - words like fair are nice, but fair for whom? Is the Government going to make a decision about who it taxes and how it places the burden of tax and the consequences of debt and deficits over long periods of time on different generations, who aren't voting today or are they going to share the responsibility against those people who are incurring the debt for their welfare and for their benefit.

HALL: Sounds like -

WILSON: That is the key question that has not been answered and we'll find out in the budget.

HALL: I was going to say it sounds like you have some suspicions and concerns.

WILSON: Well, I have a number of suspicions because it's always the case that too often in recent years where Governments have simply said we are going to take on more debt and pass on responsibility and the costs to future generations, so while it gives them the political fairness amongst the people who are alive today, it takes away from future generations and binds their fate and is not fair in an intergenerational sense.

### *Climate Change Authority Report*

HALL: Tim Wilson, what's your view? Should the Government accept these recommendations?

WILSON: Fundamentally, no. We need to be practical about what the recommendation is. The Climate Change Authority has already been discussed widely, set up by the previous Government. The current Government has tried to abolish it. They've turned around a report and basically given a of a two fingers up at the Government. I don't think you're going to see any practical -

HALL: Is that how you see it?

WILSON: That's how I fundamentally see the report. Now whether you agree with it or not, that's how I see the politics of it and that's how it will be received. I think what we are going to see from the Abbott Government is in part a response based on how their Direct Action process works, and so they had their first round recently of permits to try and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Depending on its efficacy, I

think is going to heavily depend on how much they are prepared to commit into the future, but I also think we need to always note a certain amount of caution. I have been to international climate change negotiations for many years and observed many people making grand statements. In the end it comes down to what people are prepared to put on the table, because in the past countries like China, like the United States, depending on who is in power and depending on the global politics at the time make bold pronouncements before the events but don't match them at actual conferences and so it's all very much in the sea of international as well as domestic politics.