Brief submission

My professional experience has included working in the private, government and non-profit sectors, and I have seen how the health system affects people's capacity to be healthy across different socio-economic groups. People who are socially or financially disadvantaged already have the potential to be disengaged from the health system. This is the group who most desperately need access to medical care, and even apparently small increases in cost can raise huge barriers to accessibility.

Millions of dollars are spent every year on public health campaigns to reduce the burden of avoidable illnesses, and data clearly shows that these illnesses are far more prevalent among those experiencing social/financial disadvantage. Investment in public health is wasted if those who most need those campaigns are unable to pursue medical recommendations because of financial constraints.

The economic savings from increasing in the public health system are widely demonstrated, to avoid the far greater costs of the financial and social burden of chronic ill health.

The bottom line? It's cheaper to keep people healthy!

Janine Donaldson