Brief submission

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am a NSW Staff Specialist working in a Hospital service and seeing patients in the community in the speciality of Palliative Medicine in Western Sydney and The Southern Highlands NSW.

I feel strongly that we should not consider privatising any aspect of our public health system.

I have worked in Western Sydney as a doctor for 10 years and see first hand the huge need of this community and the lack of ability of most people to afford the gap fees charged by most private specialists for basic services that are accessed by many who have private health insurance in this country or by patients who want to find a specialist who will deliver services in a timely way.

Introducing this divided system of private versus public health in Australia has negatively impacted on many patients as doctors see it as a way to make money and patients pay many out of pocket fees.

I feel that the UK system where I trained is a fairer system as all resources are concentrated towards the public system so all specialists work within it and the patients get the best care for free.

If you introduce more private providers into the health care system then there is a huge risk of increased costs to the consumer as these private providers will wish to make a profit.

Healthcare should be free to all and we should be encouraging all specialists to work within the public system so a divided rich versus poor system is not created.

Regards

Dr Jackie Jones