

BRIEF SUBMISSION
Dr Peter Keddie

I will make a brief submission with regard to paperwork

In the most recent imposition, the health dept has proposed a range of payments to GP in return for completion of care plans. The Minister has stated that she will not raise the HIC rebate because these targeted payments are the route she prefers. I have to say that very few Docs I know are doing many care plans other than the Diabetes one because there is so much time involved in trying to fill out the proformas and in contacting the people as required by the regulation in order to qualify for the extra payment . So the time taken costs more than the benefit to the doctor for doing what he is usually doing anyway as part of his routine care of the patient , except that the rebate payments decrease each year as the rebate falls in relative value. This is particularly in poor areas that are very sensitive to imposition of a co- payment. We have lost half our patients since we started charging a co-payment in April 01.

A similar situation resides in the recent Mental health payments. A three consultation program with a payment on completion of the third visit is predicated on the patient returning for the third visit and if they don't the payment is again unavailable despite the lions share of the work having been done in getting the patient diagnosed and treatment initiated.. So all the outcome tools which have been filled out, are wasted; such tools are to become flavour of the month in such programs but have this fatal flaw in GP land.

A further point in the Mental Health program is the need for initial needs forms to be done and it is suggested that this be done in the waiting room; well where I work people often cant read, are poor in eyesight, are shy of doing this in public and many other such things prevent a basic entry into such an Item number protocol.

We wont mention the recurrent filling out of TDR forms ; nor the fact that Passport applications cannot be charged for even though the Government charges for a passport application, and expects the GP , often the only person who has known the applicant for the required period, to spend the time involved for nothing.

Had I more time no doubt I could come up with a few other areas of aggravation and imposition.

Yours Sincerely

Dr Peter Keddie