

## **Brief submission**

Good morning/ afternoon I am Anne O'Sullivan, a Registered Nurse of 30 years standing, the last 16 in General Practice & Specialist Health Care. I feel strongly that Medicare is a vital instrument in the provision of health care for all Australians. I have seen scores of patients who have not attended medical appointments because of cost. They were, without fail, embarrassed by this. Many of those patients ended up, eventually, in hospital. When I worked in Western Sydney a number of our patients had to pay quite large fees to access Specialist care, some even had to travel to Concord because services were not available. Patients with chronic illness need to be assessed and monitored regularly by GPs & Specialists, otherwise there is a big bill for the taxpayer at the end. And these people become unproductive. It needs to be understood that even the average income earners do not have discretionary funds. They struggle to buy nutritious food for their families. If we want to save money in health care, I believe we need to look at the expense of heroic & inhumane 'care' delivered to old & terminally ill patients. Pain management, comfort & support for loved ones is worth looking at. Likewise - Euthanasia. Thanks for listening to my submission. Anne

Anne O'Sullivan