

Brief submission

I am a health consumer and consumer representative and am highly concerned at any attempts to privatise our current health system. I have worked for years in the private, private not-for-profit, and public health systems and believe that our system as it is, looking at comparisons over the world, still one of the best and any attempts to privatise its any further will result in disaster, disenfranchising many segments of the community as it is and resulting in very poor outcomes for the people of Australia but perhaps excellent financial outcomes for many corporations involved in delivery of health services and for many politicians who are supporting current moves to devalue the public system as it stands. I am sure the current Ministers and leaders of the committees involved will benefit substantially but it will be at the cost of the health of the people of Australia. It will result in some sectors of the community who are now in receipt of good health care as they can pay for it continuing to receive health care but at a higher cost(e.g.Result of Medicare Private sale is increased cost to the consumer) and many others losing health care altogether.

These proposed changes result in undermining the quality and accessibility of care right across the system. One should be very much aware that the private sector cannot achieve the clinical outcomes that the public sector achieves - despite many many attempts to achieve this I know from attempting to match a private system to the public it simply cannot be done so any attempt is flawed and more in the interest of the corporation funding it than the public looking for the care. Unfortunately politicians are funded by the corporations so one can only expect an outcome that improves the position of the politician and the corporation financially and in terms of both their future careers and profits.

Best regards

John Regan