

## **Brief submission**

For over 50 years I have been involved in preventative & investigation of public health issues . Medicare ,as it was when it was brought in , overcame the problems faced by people without money accessing health care for a sick member of their family, as with taxation ,it was a fair system which was self supporting.

Quite a number of organisations have put pressure on successive Liberal governments to destroy Medicare for their own selfish reasons. The main question to be faced is should it be the right of private business to operate Medicare for their self interest of making a profit . A profit making organisation is not there for the benefit of their customers .

Many years ago medical practitioners used to provide their services free to needy people, I cannot envision that that will ever occur again. It has gone the way of house calls.

When one is living in a rural area it is difficult to access any form of medical service & if any change is to be recommended by the enquiry , the question has to be asked will this situation be improved? Medical services for the elderly in rural areas often involve travel over large distances & access to a specialist who may not be the appropriate person for the problem. So the result is quite unsatisfactory for all concerned.

Should the public service not be the appropriate body to administer , who or what are you going to rely on to implement the changes?

Do we ,as Australians ,want a US type system that results in the poor & needy not getting access to Medical services?

You have the responsibility to report fairly to government on this matter & to bear in mind the future of the poor in our community.

Mr Laurie Barry