

I am a registered nurse currently working in the private sector. I have worked as a registered nurse in the areas of general nursing, aged care, acute mental health, psychiatric disability and addictions for over thirty years. I have worked in the public and private sectors. I have also worked as a claims assessor and sales representative for a large health fund. I write to encourage you to keep private providers out of Medicare. As a consumer and health professional I have witnessed many changes to our health system over the years. In all honesty I can say, I have not seen one program or area of health that has gone from public hands into private hands that has ended up working better than it did in public hands. In fact the opposite is the case. Time and time again I have seen that service delivery in public hands is far better than when in private hands. It makes sense that it won't work. The public industry wants to deliver a good, cost effective system that meets the needs of the public. The private system wants to make 'large profits'. With these fundamental differences, how on earth can the private system do as well or even better than, a public system? The private system is greedy. It wants to make bigger profits each year and this will come at the expense of the public/consumer. Because of this reality, I have witnessed well functioning systems in public hands turned into chaos when placed in private hands. What is wrong with the system we have now? Please don't allow our health system to mirror that of the U.S.A. Please respect that all Australian's have the right to a good universal health system. Please keep our Medicare system in public hands.

Ms Marguerite McCall