

Brief submission

It is a fundamental tenet of Australian life that basic health care and education to the end of secondary schooling should be equally available to all persons. Private medicine is controlled by the demand for profit and promote inappropriate process; publicly-owned services can focus on care.

Care for dying patients had not been well-funded by private agencies; poor support is available for home care, and small private hospitals have closed because they do not produce adequate profit. We must defend the public provision of respite, symptom management and home care and keep them away from private agencies.. Bulk-billing without a gap is essential for the care of pensioners and the poor;; it has made Australia's health care system the envy of much of the world.

Emeritus Professor Ian Maddocks