

WHAT IS THE ISSUE?

Australians are facing issues with our health services as shortages of beds, staff, treatment and other facilities mean that treating patients is getting to breaking point.

SIGNIFICANCE OF ISSUE:

“Primary care is in the worst shape since Medicare began”



Since 2013 the government has cut a large amount of funding that goes towards Medicare health services, making it difficult for individuals to seek help as there is a costing barrier to seeing a General Practitioner.

In the past two years there has been an increase in the demand for hospitals and ambulances around Australia for minor assessments that should be consolidated by GP's. Research findings suggest multiple problems as there are limited resources found in hospitals from limited equipment, beds and staff shortages. Due to this there are significant wait times for emergency services to provide care to any patient no matter on the severity.



2-3 KEY USERS:

Mariam Piper, a general practitioner for refugee health services located in Melbourne.

Ms Harper, is a long-time pensioner that needs regular medical check ups for her treatments.

Joe Small, studying 2nd year Sports Science abroad from Ireland in Melbourne of the year.



2-3 POINT OF VIEW STATEMENTS:

Piper's elderly and vulnerable patients have become severely impacted by the decrease in support that bulk billing use to provide her patients.

Ms Harper stated that she is in a position where she "can't afford an increase in medical costs".

I have been in and out of the hospital as I have chronic stress from my homework deadlines. I usually bring my homework with me because I sit in the waiting room for hours before someone can see me.

KEY IMAGES:

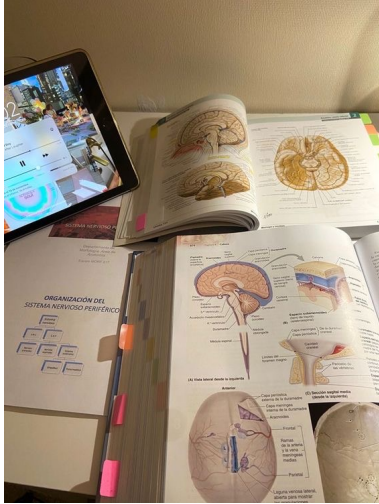


Figure 2: Studying to become a general practitioner



Figure 3: Medical teams need to work together



Figure 4: Waiting room in an overcrowded hospital

INDUSTRY SECTORS:

- Government support
- Reliable General Practitioners
- Education services
- Emergency services



Figure 5: Main issue relates behind bulk billing

SOURCES OF INFORMATION:

Woodburn, J. (2022, July 2). *Doctors' meagre 65 cent rise in Medicare consultation rebate 'insulting'*. Retrieved from abc news: <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2022-07-02/gp-medicare-rebate-extra-65-cents-every-consultation-/101194418>

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