

VMAG is a coalition of individuals, health care providers and community organisations, who are concerned about the changes to **Australia's health care system** and particularly the decline of bulk billing.

The Victorian Medicare Action Group

We would like to open up a debate about the **direction** of Australia's health services. Each one of us has a say in how our country is run, and we need to be aware of our choices, so we make **informed decisions** based on what's best for everyone.

How to get involved:

- Become a **member** of VMAG
- Send your **story** in to VMAG
- Make a **donation**
- Write a **letter** or **visit** you local parliamentarian
- Start a **petition**
- Create your own **local** Medicare Action Group
- Hold a public **meeting**
- **Raise this issue** with your GP, church, local council, community health centre, sporting club, etc.

For further information:

Victorian Medicare Action Group
283 Church St
Richmond 3121
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Email: mmurray@iechs.org.au

DO YOU CARE



ABOUT

MEDICARE?

Victorian Medicare Action Group
www.vmag.org.au

Medicare Means Health For All

Australians pay for and benefit from one of the most cost effective public health systems in the world. Our Medicare cards enable us to access quality health care **when we need it**.

The principle behind this system is **universal** health care. This means that whether or not people can afford to pay for medical services, care can still be obtained. Healthcare should be available for everybody, regardless of where they live or their income level.

This 'right' is now under threat.

All Australians should be concerned about the future of our universal health system. The strength of Medicare is that it is for **everyone**.

Medicare: Insurance For Everyone

The new commonwealth government's Medicare package is a two-tiered user pays system, which allows doctors to charge a **co-payment** (an up front fee). Bulk billing will be targeted to concession card-holders. With the decline in bulk billing GPs over the last 12 months, we have already seen a 3 million drop in GP attendances.

With health care more difficult to afford, our overall **health will suffer**.

We need to care more about health for all Australians!

To **increase the value** placed on each other's health and wellbeing is to look after each other and ourselves.

We as a community need to **express** our views about what kind of health system we **want**.

Do You Care About Medicare?

*"It is my aspiration that health will finally be seen not as a blessing to be wished for; but as a **human right** to be fought for."* - United Nations Secretary General, Kofi Annan