

Victorian Medicare Action Group

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Medicare Money wasted on Safety Net Uncapped safety net puts medical fees up

Rod Wilson from the Victorian Medicare Action Group which is a coalition of over 300 members including Women's Health Victoria, Doctors Reform Society, Health Issues Centre, Victorian Council of Social Services, consumer groups, community health centres, local government, religious and welfare organisations throughout Victoria, said today;

"The Minister for health Tony Abbott announced that the Safety Net has blown out is both predictable and wasteful. What other business in Australia is allowed to have uncapped fees and be able to receive 80% of their costs back from the Federal Government. This policy is clearly unsustainable, inflationary and out of control.

When the next health insurance commission data is available it will show higher out of pocket expenses for visits to GPs and specialists. The Victorian Medicare Action Group believes that all visits to Medical Practitioners regardless of whether they are GPs or specialists should be adequately funded and regulated. It should not be left to the discretion of the Medical Practitioner what fee they charge and it certainly shouldn't be allowed that 80% of uncapped fees can be recouped from the Commonwealth Government.

Despite Mr. Abbott's protestations consumers are far from happy with wasteful government spending and uncapped fees

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