



News Release

Australian Divisions of General Practice Ltd.

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GPs urge Senate to pass Medicare safety-net

The Australian Divisions of General Practice (ADGP) today urged the Senate to pass measures to give people facing high medical expenses a Medicare safety-net.

The provisions, to be dealt with by the Senate tomorrow, are a significant improvement on the earlier package, said Dr Rob Walters, Chair of ADGP.

“Changes to the safety net provisions were largely the result of consultation with GP groups. They are broadly supported by the medical profession,” Dr Walters said.

“People facing large medical expenses, especially those on limited incomes and people with ongoing medical conditions, must be offered help.

“While we will continue to raise the need for a general rebate increase and a restructure of the rebate system, we believe that current measures in the MedicarePlus package are a substantial improvement on the previous package.

“Therefore there is no point in delaying their implementation.

“There is nothing to stop any government making further refinement at a later date,” Dr Walters said.

ADGP is the peak body representing 120 Divisions of General Practice around Australia. Ninety five per cent of general practitioners are members of their local Division of General Practice.

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