



BULK BILLING INCENTIVES – the facts



What is bulk billing?

Bulk billing occurs when your doctor’s fee is the same as what the government pays you via the Medicare rebate.

Medicare rebates were frozen by successive governments for nearly a decade even though health costs increased over this period.

This means rebates now do not cover the full costs of your health care.

What are bulk billing incentives?

Bulk billing incentives are an additional payment when doctors and practices bulk bill.

The amount differs depending on the practice’s location and not all services are eligible.

The government does not pay the incentives if your doctor or practice do not bulk bill.

Does this mean all my appointments will be bulk billed?

Unfortunately, the incentives still don’t cover the full costs of most patients’ health care.

The table below shows the losses remote doctors and practices will suffer if they bulk bill patients instead of charging a standard fee.

Most practices cannot afford to bulk bill and remain viable with losses of 14%-38% – could your workplace or business survive that drop in revenue?

Will I pay less out-of-pocket fees?

The government does not pay bulk billing incentives if the doctor or practice does not bulk bill.

That means your out-of-pocket fees will stay the same if your doctor and practice cannot afford to bulk bill.

How could the \$8.5 billion be better spent?

It would be better if that money was put straight into patients’ pockets to help them with the cost of their health care.

The best way to do that is to increase Medicare rebates, not bulk billing incentives.



Location	Loss if practice bulk bills 100% of patients 100% of the time (6-19 minute consultation)	Loss if practice bulk bills less than 100% of the time (6-19 minute consultation)	Loss if practice bulk bills 100% of patients 100% of the time (20-39 minute consultation)	Loss if practice bulk bills less than 100% of the time (20-39 minute consultation)
Very remote communities	14%	23%	30%	38%