

FAQ: About the New Government Program

Why aren't you joining the new bulk billing program?

The government's new incentives, while welcome, still don't cover the actual cost of providing quality medical care. We cannot maintain the quality of care you expect, and run a sustainable Practice.

But the government says 90% of practices will bulk bill - why not you?

The government's prediction of 90% participation is unrealistic and not based on the financial realities facing general practices. Many practices that attempt to join the program will likely find it unsustainable and either have to compromise on care quality or withdraw from the program later.

Doesn't the new program give you more money than before?

Yes, it does provide additional funding, but it still falls short of current private fees. The program requires practices to bulk bill 100% of patients for 100% of services - an "all or nothing" approach that doesn't account for the varying complexity and time requirements of different medical consultations.

Are you just being greedy?

Absolutely not. This is about sustainability, not profit. We want to ensure we can continue providing you with excellent care for years to come. If we operated at a loss, we would eventually have to close, leaving you without a local GP.

What if other practices in the area join the program?

We respect other practices' decisions about their business models. We believe that maintaining our current approach ensures we can provide consistent, high-quality care without the financial pressures that might force us to rush appointments or reduce staff or services.

Will you reconsider if the government increases the incentives?

We regularly review our billing policies. If the government increases Medicare rebates to a level that genuinely reflects the cost of providing care, we would certainly consider changing our approach. However, any changes would need to ensure we can maintain our current standards of care.