

Government Advertisement: 'Strengthening Medicare' Campaign

Television Advertisement, 2004

Q: So I hear changes are happening to Medicare?

A: There is no doubt that Medicare is a vitally important part of Australia's health care system, which is why we're introducing measures to strengthen it.

Q: But are you taking anything away?

A: No. Anything that is currently provided by Medicare will stay.

Q: Like what?

A: Well, free treatment as a public patient in a public hospital. And the 85% Medicare rebate. And affordable medicines from the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme.

Q: That's good. So what has changed?

A: To start with, we've introduced a new safety net to protect all Australians from high out of hospital medical costs. We're paying doctors more to encourage them to bulk bill. We're increasing the numbers of doctors and nurses in General Practice. And more.

Q: Sounds good, but I'd like to know the details.

A: Over the next few weeks we'll explain how these and other measures are strengthening Medicare and what they mean for you. Look out for this booklet, we'll be sending it shortly.

Source: Transcribed from television advertisement.