3 April 2022

Local MP/ Candidate

Postal Address

Suburb State Postcode

Dear <Insert local MP/Candidate Name>

I am a specialist General Practitioner (GP) who is also a Practice Principal providing care to patients in <Insert Electorate Name Here>. Practice Principals are GPs who work in Practices in which they are also owners.

General Practices provide the infrastructure which allows Australians to receive the world class Primary Healthcare they have come to expect. These Practices are largely privately owned and the vast majority are small to medium sized enterprises.

The great majority of General Practitioners in Australia work as contractors relying on the infrastructure provided by the Practices to allow them to practice.

Decline in the effectiveness of General Practice in providing primary healthcare will see a long-term rise in the cost of healthcare as untreated chronic disease increase and presentations at hospitals become the method for accessing healthcare for more Australians.

The Australian Primary Healthcare system relies on the viability of these small to medium enterprises as much as it relies upon there being adequate numbers of well qualified and dedicated General Practitioners, Nurses and other Allied Health Professionals and administrative and support staff. Similarly, the health outcomes of Australians are reliant on them having affordable and rapid access to quality health advice that they trust.

General Practices rely on the fees from treating patients to fund the provision of the infrastructure and salaried staff who support the provision of services by GPs.

Since 2010 the healthcare inflation in Australia has been about 5% per year. Funding for hospitals, pharmacy and private medical insurance have all risen approximately in line with inflation. Medical Benefits Scheme funding has increased by approximately 0.5% per year.

This systematic defunding of Medicare by successive Australian Governments is now threatening the viability of the primary healthcare system.

Medical graduates are choosing specialties other than General Practice due to declining incomes, and the viability of the Practices is threatened at a time when there is a need to keep investing in Practice infrastructure to maintain the currency of equipment and facilities.

A copy of the Australian GP Alliance Federal Election Statement explaining issues facing General Practices and some of the possible solutions the can be found at: [https://australiangpalliance.com.au/issues-and-polices/agpa-federal-election-statement-2022/](https://australiangpalliance.com.au/issues-and-polices/agpa-federal-election-statement-2022/%20)

I would welcome the opportunity for you to visit my Practice and/or meet with me to discuss the challenges we are facing in delivering high-quality care to patients in <Insert Electorate name here>.

I can be contacted at <insert contact details> to arrange a meeting.

Yours sincerely,

<Insert Name Here>

<Insert Practice Name Here>