



Australian Government  
Department of Health  
and Aged Care

**medicare**



# What is Medicare?



**Easy Read version**



## How to use this fact sheet



We are the Australian Government  
Department of Health and Aged Care.

We wrote this fact sheet.

**Bold**  
Not bold

We explain the words in **bold**.

There is also a list of these words on page **14**.



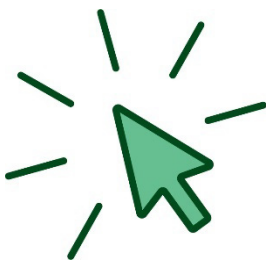
You can ask someone you trust for support to:

- read this fact sheet
- find more information.



This is an Easy Read summary of another  
fact sheet.

It only includes the most important ideas.



You can find the other fact sheet on our website.

[www.health.gov.au/stronger-medicare/  
resources](http://www.health.gov.au/stronger-medicare/resources)

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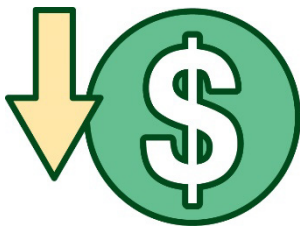
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# About Medicare



Medicare makes sure all Australians can use health care.

Medicare can help people:

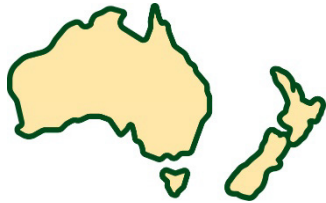


- pay less money for health care



- get health care for free.

## Who can use Medicare?

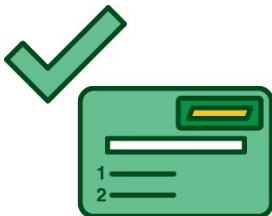


You can use Medicare if you are an Australian or New Zealand **citizen**.



A citizen is someone who belongs to a country under the law.

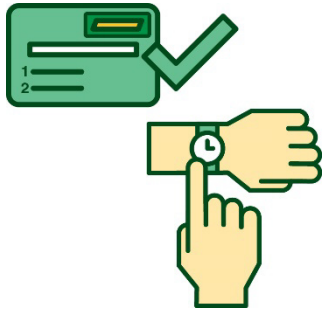
They have the freedoms and protection of that country.



You can use Medicare if you are an Australian **permanent resident**.



If you are a permanent resident of a country, you are allowed to live there but you are not a citizen.



If you have applied to be a permanent resident, you can use Medicare while you wait for the Australian Government's decision.

But there are rules about who can do this.



Sometimes you can use Medicare if you are a **temporary resident**.

But there are rules about who can do this.

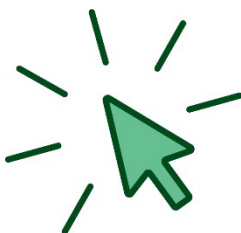


A temporary resident is someone who is allowed to stay in Australia for a short time.



Most people can use Medicare if you are from a country that has a health care agreement with Australia.

But there are rules about who can do this.



You can visit the Services Australia website for rules about who can use Medicare.

[www.servicesaustralia.gov.au/medicare](http://www.servicesaustralia.gov.au/medicare)

# Supports you can get through Medicare



Medicare can help you pay for support from health professionals. For example, doctors.



This includes when you get health care:

- in person
- on the phone
- in a video call.

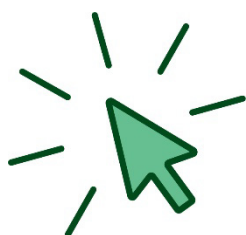


Medicare pays for health care you get at a Medicare Urgent Care Clinic.



You can visit a Medicare Urgent Care Clinic if you:

- need treatment quickly
- are not at risk of losing your life.



You can learn about these clinics on our website.

[www.health.gov.au/MedicareUCC](http://www.health.gov.au/MedicareUCC)

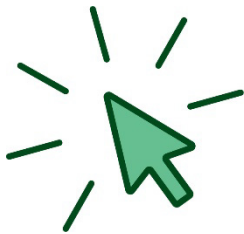


Medicare Mental Health Centres give you free mental health support.



You can visit a Medicare Mental Health Centre if you need help with your:

- mental health
- wellbeing.



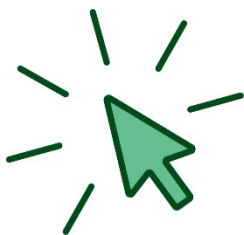
You can learn about these centres on our website.

[www.health.gov.au/medicare-mental-health](http://www.health.gov.au/medicare-mental-health)



Medicare can help pay for your child's dentist.

This is part of a program called the Child Dental Benefits Schedule.



You can learn about it on our website.

[www.medicare.gov.au/stronger](http://www.medicare.gov.au/stronger)



# How to use Medicare to help pay for your health care



There are **2** ways to use Medicare to help pay for your health care.



You can visit a doctor that offers **bulk billing**.

This means Medicare can pay the doctor for your health care straight after your appointment.



The doctor will ask you first if you agree to bulk billing.



If you agree to bulk billing, you don't have to pay the doctor for your health care.



But not all doctors offer bulk billing.



Check if a doctor offers bulk billing before you make an appointment with them.



You can learn more about bulk billing on our website.

[www.medicare.gov.au/stronger](http://www.medicare.gov.au/stronger)



If your doctor doesn't offer bulk billing, you need to pay the doctor for your health care.



Then you can make a claim to Medicare for the cost of your health care.



You need to ask your doctor how much money Medicare will give you back when you make a claim.

But you might not get all of your money back.

# How to enrol in Medicare

## Online



You can **enrol** in Medicare online through myGov.

[www.my.gov.au](http://www.my.gov.au)



When you enrol, you sign up to take part.

## Send a form

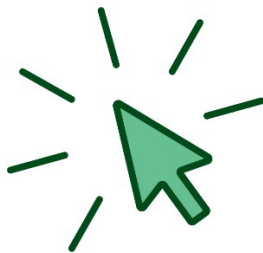


You can also enrol in Medicare by filling out a form and sending it to Services Australia.



You can download the form from the Services Australia website.

[www.servicesaustralia.gov.au](http://www.servicesaustralia.gov.au)



You can get more information on our website.

[www.medicare.gov.au/stronger](http://www.medicare.gov.au/stronger)



## Word list

This list explains what the **bold** words in this document mean.



### **Bulk billing**

Bulk billing is when Medicare can pay the doctor for your health care straight after your appointment.

The doctor will ask you first if you agree to bulk billing.



### **Citizen**

A citizen is someone who belongs to a country under the law.

They have the freedoms and protection of that country.



### **Enrol**

When you enrol, you sign up to take part.



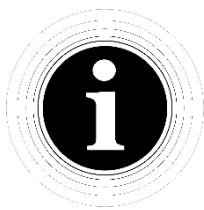
### **Permanent resident**

If you are a permanent resident of a country, you are allowed to live there but you are not a citizen.



### **Temporary resident**

A temporary resident is someone who is allowed to stay in Australia for a short time.



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