



Guaranteeing Medicare – improving quality and safety through stronger compliance

The Government will invest \$105.9 million over five years from 2018–19 to continue to improve Medicare compliance arrangements and debt recovery practices to ensure Medicare services are targeted at serving the health needs of Australian patients. This will include curbing inappropriate claiming by health providers, and discouraging overuse of Medicare through unnecessary requests for services, such as through excessive prescribing.

Why is this important?

This investment includes better targeting investigations into fraud, inappropriate practice and incorrect claiming, by working with relevant government agencies and using behavioural driven approaches to improve compliance. It will ensure patients are receiving the right health services and that health funding is being used to deliver the best outcomes.

Improved compliance and debt recovery arrangements were among the principles agreed with the Australian Medical Association and the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners in preparing the 2017–18 Budget. The Government will continue to consult professional bodies and stakeholder groups on improved compliance strategies.

Who will benefit?

Improved compliance and debt recovery benefits all Australians, including patients, taxpayers and health providers, through a clinically and cost-effective Medicare that is protected against fraud and inappropriate practices.

How much will this cost?

This will cost \$105.9 million from 2018–19 to 2022–23.