

**PRESS RELEASE**  
**11 March 2014**

## **Save Medicare Campaign Begins: Consumers and Health organisations combine to challenge Co-payments and Privatisation**

“At a meeting of the **Victorian Medicare Action Group (VMAG)** - representing a wide range of health organisations, NGOs and consumers - it was resolved to carry out an extensive **Save Medicare Campaign** to ensure the ongoing preservation of a taxpayer funded universal primary healthcare system” said **group spokesperson Meredith Carter**.

The Prime Minister and Health Minister were invited to attend the recent VMAG meeting but were unavailable.

Ms Carter said the group will be seeking an urgent meeting with the PM to assist him in understanding that the threat of co-payments and further privatisation of GP and related services will severely disadvantage low income families **and ultimately cost the health system and the taxpayer more**.

The group will consider a marginal seat campaign and if co-payments and further privatisation occurs it will consider running **Save Medicare** candidates in marginal electorates and the senate at the next election.

Ms Carter said the group totally refutes the financial unsustainability campaign of the Prime Minister. It also noted that numerous polls had indicated taxpayers are willing to have higher taxes for better healthcare service.

GPs services are not free as is often said. They are paid for by all of us through our taxes.

VMAG is available for comment and welcomes enquiries from the media.

### **About the Victorian Medicare Action Group (VMAG)**

VMAG is an informal alliance of interested people and organisations. VMAG has a large membership including health practitioners, health organisations, community organisations, policy advocates, religious organisations, unions and consumers.

VMAG is apolitical and open for all consumers and organisations to join. The group has previously run successful save Medicare campaigns.

### **FOR MORE INFORMATION AND MEDIA ENQUIRIES CONTACT:**

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