

# COLLEEN HARTLAND WESTERN METROPOLITAN REGION®



## Victorian Greens on Medicare

### 1. Do you support the federal government reducing public hospital funding by \$1.8b?

Absolutely not. The Greens believe we need to increase funding to hospitals and healthcare. We have a rapidly growing and aging population, and rising levels of many preventable chronic diseases. We must increase investment to meet the need and we condemn the Abbott Government for these brutal cuts.

### 2. Do you support a co-payment for patients presenting in hospital emergency departments?

Absolutely not. This would be a deeply concerning idea and the Greens will fight a hospital co-payment tooth and nail. We cannot afford to take even one small step down the path of a two tier health system, where there are those who can afford health care, and those who cannot. Universal healthcare is the bedrock of Australia's fair society and the Greens will keep fighting against all health co-payments and for free healthcare.

### 3. Do you support the \$7 Medicare co-payment for GP services proposed in the federal Budget?

Absolutely not. The Greens are deeply concerned that the GP co-payment will lead to the most vulnerable in our community not getting the health care they need, when they need it.

This will cause greater hardship and could ultimately cause greater costs on the health system from people ending up in expensive hospital care, as they have not got the early intervention care they need.

### 4. If you support a GP co-payment how do you propose to manage the increased load on emergency departments and community health services in your electorate as a result of patients deferring seeing a doctor early, before they become acutely ill?

The Greens will never support a GP co-payment.

Yours sincerely,

Colleen Hartland

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Victorian Greens spokesperson on health

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STANDING UP FOR THE WEST®**