

Ms Amanda Cornwall
Victorian Medicare Action Group
vic.medicare.action@gmail.com

Dear Ms Cornwall,

Thank you for your letter regarding the Commonwealth Government's GP co-payment and devastating cuts to health funding. Victorian Labor understands this is an issue of great concern to the community.

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

No. Tony Abbot's cuts to Victorian hospital funding are going to have a devastating effect on Victoria's health system.

Despite promising not to cut funding to health before last year's federal election, the Federal Government is cutting \$1.4 billion from the Victorian health budget over the next four years.

These cuts will reduce bed numbers, reduce activity and blow out patient waiting times. Beyond the forward estimates, there will be a further \$12.5 billion cut from Victoria over the next decade.

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

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

No. Victorian Labor does not support a co-payment for patients in hospital emergency departments or for GP service.

Tony Abbott's GP co-payment will force struggling Victorians to go to already struggling hospital emergency departments, adding chaos to the crisis in our hospitals. This added congestion in emergency departments will flow to all parts of health care in Victoria – ambulance services, mental health care and elective surgery waiting times.

Gavin Jennings MLC

*Member for
South Eastern
Metropolitan Region*

517A Princes Highway
Noble Park VIC 3174
Tel 03 9548 5644
Fax 03 9548 5634

*Deputy Leader of
the Opposition
Legislative Council*

*Shadow Minister
for Health and
Mental Health*

Parliament House
Spring Street
East Melbourne VIC 3002

Email gavin.jennings@parliament.vic.gov.au

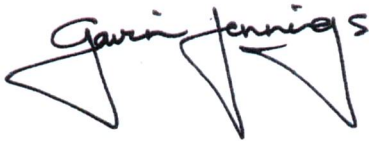
www.gavinjennings.org



Labor is committed to making sure that our hospitals and health services meet the needs of our community. An elected Andrews Labor Government will work with our hardworking doctors and nurses to rebuild our health system, and give Victorians the health care they deserve.

Thank you again for your letter.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gavin Jennings". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized 'G' and 'J'.

Gavin Jennings
Shadow Minister for Health
Shadow Minister for Mental Health
Shadow Minister for Ambulance Services