

From: Bowles, Sarah (A. Wilkie, MP) <Sarah.Bowles@aph.gov.au>
Sent: Monday, 31 August 2026 9:12 AM
To: mlharper@bigpond.net.au
Subject: FW: Submission

Dear Murray

Thank you for sharing this with Andrew.

Andrew has asked me to respond to let you know he does not support reducing the private health insurance rebate for older Australians.

Andrew is concerned by reports suggesting the proposal may be inconsistent with independent advice previously provided to governments about the potential negative consequences of reducing the rebate. He is particularly concerned that reducing support for older Australians could lead some people to drop their private health insurance altogether, placing further pressure on an already overstretched public health system.

Andrew is also concerned by attempts to frame this issue as a choice between supporting younger and older Australians. While many older Australians may have accumulated assets over their lifetime, many are also living on fixed and modest incomes. For a significant number of pensioners, maintaining private health insurance already requires considerable financial sacrifice alongside rising healthcare and cost-of-living pressures.

Andrew believes older Australians should not be unfairly penalised for seeking to maintain access to private health care.

Please do not hesitate to call if you would like to discuss this further.

Kind regards

Sarah

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