

[Insert Date]

[Title of MP or PM Tony Abbot]

[Address]

Dear Prime Minister,

### **Reverse your attack on general practice**

As an Australian general practitioner (GP) and a member of the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP), I write to express my dismay in regards to your Government's deliberate targeting of general practice in the revised co-payment model.

The changes in relation to the protection of the most vulnerable communities are welcome and reflect the sign of a mature compassionate society.

General practice is the foundation of the Australian health system and the first point of contact for patients seeking healthcare. The \$5 cut to patient rebates will mean that GPs must make the ethical decision to either absorb the reduction or charge patients the difference.

The \$25 reduction in patient rebates for consultations lasting between 6 and 9 minutes devalues the crucial skilled work of GPs. The failure to properly index patient rebates for many years remains a significant issue facing our health system.

These changes will have significant implications on the financial viability of all general practices including mine. Further, young doctors will view general practice as an unattractive vocation.

In summary, your revised model threatens the viability and sustainability of quality general practice, thus impacting delivery of efficient provision of healthcare in Australia.

There was a pre-election promise of no funding cuts to health. The RACGP requests a moratorium be implemented on this present proposed government initiative. We desperately need a sustainable equitable funding model for General Practice to maintain our world leading health outcomes

Sincerely,

[Insert name]

[Insert address]