

Melton Drive
Montrose 7010
Tasmania
22/11/11.

Mr Stuart Wright
Committee Secretary
Legislative Council
Parliament House
Hobart
Tasmania 7000

Dear Sir.

Prior to leaving Queensland to live in Tasmania. Queensland and New South Wales has a system that a person with private health insurance or no health insurance could go to a private hospital to be seen by a doctor. People who required admission and had no health insurance would be sent to a public hospital with a doctors letter for referral for admission. Hospitals which I have used in Queensland Mater Private in Rockhampton + Brisbane Ayr Public Hospital in Ayr Queensland. In Ayr the only hospital was a public one. But if you where admitted by a private GP. You where treated as a private patient in a public hospital which my health fund would pay for. Private hospitals you were treated by an on call GP and charged his fees. No payment to private hospital for a hospital fee like in this state. The fee charged by the GP could be claimed through Medicare. Say he charged

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\$130.00 fee, you most likely get back
pay \$90.00. for example. Not out
of pocket pay \$180.00 fee charged
by private hospital's in this state.
If you paid the hospital if you
required an injection or plaster.

If private hospitals in this state
abolished this fee. I feel it would
free up the public health system in
this state for people with private health
insurance. I know of people in
this state of Tasmania who have
private health insurance and use the
public health system due to the fee
which is not claimable by the private
sector. Even if you are sent to
a private hospital in this state for
admission, you are still required
to pay fees. While I was living
in Queensland a private doctor
would send me to a private hospital
for admission. I would be treated
by that private GP or a specialist
in that private hospital. Your
private GP or specialist was the
admission medical officer. Not
being sent to a private hospital and
going through the scenario again
at the private hospital and paying
fees again.

I am on a pension with private
health insurance. I dread when
I have to go to private hospital
emergency department in this state.
Result could be that people
could go to a private hospital
and not wait hours for a consult

or services at a public hospital.

This would cut down on costs & servicing to the public health system in this state.

People with private health insurance for admission, create more business for them also.

Previous employer was Queensland Health Department, for whom I worked for thirty years.

Can you imagine the pressure off the public health services in Tasmania if a certain fee was to be abolished. If other states have done it, why cannot Tasmania do it also.

Also may take pressure of waiting lists if certain doctors or specialists were to bulk bill their services if the person had private health insurance for hospital stay, instead of utilizing public system.

Willing to discuss this further with anybody who is interested.

Regards,
Lawrence Waterson.