

A photograph of a diverse group of people, including children and adults, smiling and looking towards the camera. The image is partially obscured by the Labor logo and the title.

POSITIVE POLICY Protecting Medicare

All Australians should be able to access affordable, quality healthcare when and where they need it.

That is why Labor gave Australians Medicare and why we will always protect it.

We have fought the Government's relentless attacks on Medicare.

Mr Turnbull says he is committed to Medicare, but he has already cut billions from Medicare and wants to privatise Medicare payments. Labor is and will continue to fight these cuts.

Mr Turnbull's record on Medicare is clear:

- Mr Turnbull is cutting \$57 billion from our public hospitals
- Mr Turnbull supported the introduction of a GP Tax
- When Labor succeeded in shaming the Government into dropping their GP Tax, they introduced it by stealth, cutting \$2 billion from Medicare rebates through their freeze on indexation
- Mr Turnbull wants to increase the cost of prescriptions - by up to \$5 per script - hitting some of the sickest patients the hardest
- Mr Turnbull has cut \$650 million from pathology and diagnostic imaging, meaning that patients are likely to pay more for vital preventive and diagnostic tests such as pap smears, MRIs, X-Rays and CT Scans.

Now Mr Turnbull wants to privatise the Medicare payments system, putting patient records and 1,400 jobs at risk.

Nobody wants to head down the same path as America when it comes to our health system.

Only Labor believes access to healthcare should rely on your Medicare card not your credit card, and will ensure that our universal health care system remains strong.

This is just the beginning - the thin end of the wedge - the Liberals will not rest until they have savaged bulk billing and eliminated universal healthcare in this country.

Labor will always protect Medicare.

Under a Labor Government, Medicare will be in safe hands - and in public hands. We will not support the privatisation of the Medicare system.

We will legislate to protect Medicare.

There are a range of legislative arrangements which underpin the entire Medicare system.

We want to make sure that Medicare can't be privatised bit by bit.

We want to ensure that these arrangements make clear that this system will forever be maintained in public hands.



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**LABOR.
WE'LL PUT PEOPLE FIRST.**

These policies (including where relevant their costings from the independent Parliamentary Budget Office) were accurate at the time they were announced. Labor will publish the updated final cost of all policies and their combined impact on the Budget prior to election day.

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