



COMBINED PENSIONERS AND SUPERANNUANTS ASSOCIATION OF NEW SOUTH WALES INC.

Founded 1931.

Serving pensioners of all ages, superannuants and low-income retirees.

Consumer Protection Awards – 2002, 2003, 2004

MEDIA RELEASE

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Medicare Federal mismanagement – Intentional?

Combined Pensioners and Superannuants Association of NSW Inc. (CPSA) has strongly condemned the Federal government for its apparently ideologically impelled mismanagement of Medicare.

“CPSA has been propelled into this condemnation of the Federal government following news that the Medicare ‘Safety Net’ is badly overspent and is to be drastically altered to the disadvantage of those who need it most.” CPSA State President Morrie Mifsud said.

“It is becoming more and more apparent that the Federal government has set Medicare up to fail. What is more it was known well before the 2004 Federal election to many who followed the Medicare issue, that the ‘Safety Net’ was overspent.” Mr Mifsud said.

“From the very start the removal of the medical fee ‘cap’ and reimbursement of 80% of whatever medicos charge has been seen by CPSA, and is now well on the way to being proven to be inflationary and unsustainable.” He said.

“The only proper way forward on this issue is for the Federal government to give back to its citizens the Universal Medicare they have deprived them of. The fees cap should be reinstated and negotiation entered into with doctors for fair Bulk Billing remuneration at a level which would encourage Bulk Billing.” He said.

“Funds can be found for better Bulk Billing remuneration by the Federal government redirecting currently misspent funds including those spent on the misbegotten and failed ‘Safety Net’.” He said.

“The Federal government’s shifting of the threshold from \$300 to \$500 for families is a sledge hammer blow to struggling families whose ‘out of pocket’ medical expenses will soar as a result of the Federal government’s mismanagement of Medicare.” He said

“As to the increase in the threshold from \$700 to \$1000 for ‘others’, these ‘others’ may include single retirees unable to find bulk billing doctors and whose ‘out of pocket’ medical expenses will become a cruel burden creating more stress and illness.” Mr Mifsud said.

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