



the peak body and leading voice
for sonographers

Media release

Thursday 27 November 2014

Drop the Medicare co-pay policy

The Australasian Sonographers Association (ASA) welcomes the Prime Ministers' announcement that his government is abandoning the Medicare co-payment. However, we are disappointed the government is continuing to commit to the intent of this policy, ignoring the advice and opinion of the public and healthcare professionals alike. The ASA calls on the government to drop these policies all together.

These policies were developed without public or health professional consultation and would have wide-ranging damaging consequences if implemented, especially on our sickest and poor. ASA CEO, Dr Stephen Duns, finds this particularly concerning as the government is asking these Australians to foot the bill "not only to visit your GP, but on essential diagnostic services, such as blood tests, X-rays and ultrasound scans. It's not just a GP co-payment and creating new barriers to essential medical services, such as ultrasound for pregnant mothers and diagnostic imaging for cancer patients, is not the way to go."

We acknowledge the Australian Government is facing some budget challenges. The ASA is keen to work with the Government in developing strategies to make Medicare sustainable.

The ASA is committed to ensuring all Australians have access to quality ultrasound services. We ask in the future the Government consults with us and other healthcare professional bodies, such as the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Radiologists and the Australian Diagnostic Imaging Association, to discuss more egalitarian, innovative and proactive ways to save money within the health budget.

For more information, or to arrange an interview with Dr Stephen Duns, CEO, please contact Stuart Giles, Head of Marketing & Business Development, on 03 9552 0011.

About the ASA

The ASA is the peak body and leading voice for sonographers with over 3,800 members. The ASA guides the advancement of our profession to ensure the community has access to quality sonographic services.