



## TO OUR VALUED PATIENTS

**As from the 1st June 2022 The Entrance Medical Centre will NO longer continue bulk billing of patients** with the exception of children under the age of 16 years and DVA .

**Why can't we bulkbill anymore ?**

Medicare is Australia's public health insurance system and funds a range of services such as GP visits, blood tests, X-rays and consultations with other medical specialists. But **not every healthcare service a patient needs is included in Medicare**. Medicare rebates do not cover the full cost of medical services and are typically paid on the patient's behalf to the practice as a percentage of the Medicare Schedule fee.

When the doctors bulk-bill, patients often believe the doctor will receive the same amount of money for the service, just from a different source. This unfortunately, is not the case. **When a patient is bulk-billed, the doctor ONLY receives the current Medicare rebate.**

As we all know, life cost increases year after year. The cost of running your household goes up: food, petrol, electricity , housing, consumables all go up in cost. **Likewise, the price of running a GP practice inevitably goes up in cost, which means, your healthcare cost also increases.**

However, **the government has frozen the contribution to your personal Medicare health fund since 2013**. That means that the amount of money that Medicare allocates for your healthcare **is the same (or less in some cases) than what they used to pay 8 years ago.**

To continue to be viable, and to offer a high standard of medical care to the community, (which is what we believe all Australians deserve), the Medicare freeze has forced quality medical centres to introduce a fee to cover the gap on the costs. That is the out of pocket cost to the patient.

At **The Entrance Medical Centre** we always strive for continuous improvement to make sure we offer our patients the highest standard of quality care. We take this opportunity to thank you for your continuous support.