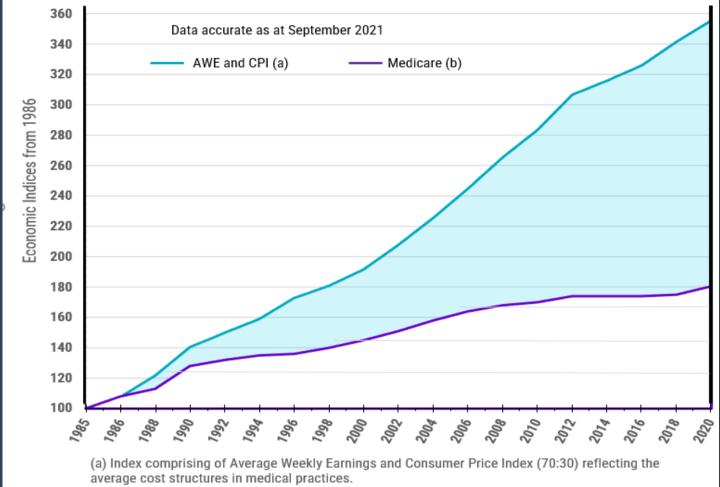
Why is there a gap



(b) Index of Medicare fees as determined by the Commonwealth Government.

Government's indexation of Medicare rebates has never kept pace with the rising cost of medical practice. On average AWE and CPI increased by 2.4% and 1.4%, respectively, per year. Practice costs rise by a similar amount.

Medicare rebates only increased between 1.2% to 2.5% from 1995 to 2012 – noting that all pathology and most diagnostic imaging services received no indexation during this period.

From 2012-2017 all MBS rebates were frozen with no indexation. Indexation only recommenced in 2017, when GP bulk-billing incentives were indexed at 1.4% and then in 2018 with GP and specialist consultations indexed at 1.5%. In 2019, specialist and allied health consultations, including therapeutic and procedural items resumed indexation at 1.6%. In 2020, indexation of 1.5% was applied to most of the general medical services items, all diagnostic imaging services (except nuclear medicine imaging and magnetic resonance imaging-MRI) and only two pathology items (74990 and 74991).

This is why your Medicare rebate is worth less every year.

Concerned? Talk to your local Federal MP.



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