

TO 2007 FEDERAL ELECTION CANDIDATE

Fax: _____

Re: Including Acupuncture under Medicare for Enhanced Primary Care

I am a patient of a qualified acupuncturist who is an accredited member of the Australian Acupuncture and Chinese Medicine Association Ltd (AACMA). I choose to seek acupuncture treatment from my AACMA-accredited acupuncturist rather than from another health provider who may or may not have done some training in acupuncture.

I understand that under the Commonwealth Enhanced Primary Care program, a Medicare rebate may be claimed by an eligible patient with a chronic condition and complex care needs for up to five treatments provided by an approved allied health provider. I also understand that acupuncturists are not presently included under the Enhanced Primary Care program for the treatment of chronically ill Australians.

I seek your pre-election commitment to support the inclusion of services provided by AACMA-accredited acupuncturists under the Medicare Enhanced Primary Care program. Inclusion of acupuncturists under the program would allow eligible Australians with a chronic condition and complex care needs to receive Medicare-funded rebates for up to five acupuncture treatments per year.

I note the following points in support of this submission:

- Australians are entitled to have access to the best available health care under Medicare. This includes access to acupuncture and related treatment provided by qualified acupuncturists under the Enhanced Primary Care (EPC) program;
- I understand that there is sufficient evidence and clinical justification to support the inclusion of acupuncture in the EPC program as a treatment option for patients with chronic illness and complex health conditions;
- AACMA has a credible mechanism in place to identify accredited acupuncturists who may be eligible for EPC provider recognition;
- It is expected that overall expenditure under the Enhanced Primary Care program would not increase as eligible patients would be limited to five Medicare-funded treatments per year – which is the current entitlement;
- I understand that savings to the health budget are achievable in the immediate and long-term through including acupuncturists in the EPC program.

A copy of the AACMA submission to the Health Minister may be downloaded from the AACMA website at www.acupuncture.org.au or forwarded by a request to AACMA at 1300 725 334 or aacma@acupuncture.org.au.

Yours faithfully

Signed _____ Date _____

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Email _____