

11<sup>th</sup> December 2023

Hon Mark Butler MP  
Minister for Health and Aged Care  
minister.butler@health.gov.au

Dear Minister Butler

**RE: TRIPLE BULK BILLING INCENTIVE IMPLEMENTATION GAP**

I am writing to you regarding a gap in the implementation of the triple bulk billing incentive where vulnerable people will continue to be underserved.

From 1<sup>st</sup> November, GPs began to receive triple the incentive to bulk bill:

- all under 16s and concession card holders for phone consultations up to 20 minutes.
- MyMedicare registered patients for phone consultations over 20 minutes.

In metro areas, the incentive for a standard consultation rose from \$6.85 to \$20.65 and in very remote areas it rose from \$13.15 to \$39.65.

Our member organisations are now reporting that the triple incentive is not being paid for patients receiving sexual and reproductive health-related consultations via telehealth under [Group 39 - GP Sexual and Reproductive Health Consultation – Telehealth Service](#).

Subgroup 39 consultations are for patients who require access to services not provided by their usual GP including tele-abortion and STI and bloodborne virus services. These patients are not otherwise eligible for telehealth at all (due to the requirement for an existing relationship with the GP/practice) and are also not eligible for MyMedicare registration, which brings with it the triple incentive for longer phone consultations.

We expect this has been an unintended oversight however it is compromising the government's ability to fully implement its own objectives under a suite of national strategies including:

- National HIV Strategy
- National STI Strategy
- National Hepatitis B Strategy
- National Hepatitis C Strategy
- National Women's Health Strategy
- National Primary Health Care Plan.

It will also impact the government's response to the Senate inquiry report 'Ending the postcode lottery: Addressing barriers to sexual, maternity and reproductive healthcare in Australia.'

**We ask that the government please apply the triple bulk billing incentive to all Group 39 item numbers, backdated to 1<sup>st</sup> November 2023.**

Thank you for considering this request and we look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely



**Tracey Hutt**  
Chief Executive Officer

c.c.  
Assistant Minister Ged Kearney, MP  
Sen Louise Pratt, Co-Chair, Parliamentary friends for action on HIV/AIDS, BBV's and STIs