

07 February 2022

The Hon Josh Frydenberg MP
Treasurer
PO Box 6022
House of Representatives
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Treasurer,

We are writing to request a meeting to discuss priorities in General Practice. The Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) has submitted a Pre-Budget submission in advance of the 2022 Federal Budget Submission. You would have received a copy of this in December 2021, and a copy of our aligned Federal Election Campaign asks in January 2022.

The long-term sustainability of general practice health care services are under serious threat. We need your help to continue to provide these essential services to patients into the future, including urgent investment into comprehensive and coordinated care. Our Pre-Budget Submission for the 2022 Federal Election calls for:

- Support for regular, continuous and preventive care for people over the age of 65, people with mental health conditions and people with disability
- Investment in longer general practice consultations to support complex care
- Ensure digitally excluded patients can access long telephone consultations as part of the permanent telehealth model
- Ensure patients can access a GP follow-up consultation within seven days of an unplanned hospital admission, to reduce unplanned hospital readmissions
- Strengthen access to rural healthcare services by:
 - Increasing Workforce Incentive Programs with additional payments for those doctors who use additional advanced skills in the rural areas scaled to rurality
 - Providing access to the relevant speciality MBS items when a GP holds advanced skills in Internal Medicine, Mental Health, Paediatrics, Palliative Care, and/or Emergency, in a rural area.

We would be available to meet with you to discuss these issues in Canberra or in your electorate office. If you are traveling, we are also able to arrange a teleconference. Please contact me personally on 0418 573 042 or at Christine.Nixon@racgp.org.au.

Yours sincerely,



Christine Nixon
RACGP Chair

Encl. RACGP Prebudget Submission, RACGP Election Statement