Day Month 2019

Name
Street Address
Suburb
State Postcode

Dear [candidate’s name]

Will you commit to genuine investment in the health of [electorate] patients?

I am a Specialist General Practitioner (GP) who provides care to patients in [electorate] and am a member of The Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP).

My colleagues, patients and I want to see the next Australian government prioritise patients by investing in general practice.

The general practice sector, Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services and Medicare have all experienced successive funding cuts which have had a devastating impact on health service delivery. The current model of community care is unsustainable and requires significant and immediate government investment.

Investing in general practice will reap great health and economic benefits – achieved by keeping all Australians healthier and actively participating in the community for longer.

Last year, my colleagues and I saw nearly 90% of the Australian population and provided over 150 million patient services, at significantly less cost than services provided in hospitals or other forms of specialist care.

Every day, I speak with my patients about the value of general practice care, and how it can support them to age well and live productive, healthier and happier lives. I let them know that ongoing care – particularly to manage complex health issues and poor mental health – requires an investment of patient and GP time, but that the current system is failing to support us.

You can prioritise the health of all Australians by committing to:

* modernising medicine through improved use of technology in healthcare delivery
* addressing increasing patient out-of-pocket costs by ensuring patient rebates reflect the true cost of providing care
* supporting mental healthcare delivered by general practitioners
* recognising and appropriately supporting the time and skill required to work through complex health issues.

Please find enclosed the RACGP’s federal election statement which provides more detail on these issues. I invite you to visit my practice to discuss the challenges my colleagues and I face in delivering high quality care to patients in [electorate]. Please contact me on [insert contact details] to arrange a meeting.

Yours sincerely

Name
Practice name