

## RACGP President Candidate 2024 Video Transcript

Alan Bradley



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Hi, my name's Alan Bradley. Your time is valuable, so I'll be brief.

I'm a GP working in Berwick Victoria, which is about an hour out of Melbourne. I also teach medical students at Melbourne Uni, and teach and supervise GP registrars in my role as a medical educator.

I've got another 30 years of GP ahead of me, but I'm worried what that's going to look like.

Right now, the federal government's sitting on a scope of practice review that doesn't have a single good thing to say about GPs. It talks about paramedics managing Type II diabetes out in the community, pharmacists diagnosing and managing COPD, and nurse practitioners seeing undifferentiated patients in primary care without supervision.

They think being a GP is so easy, they mention having GP registrars be supervised by non-doctors.

Meanwhile all-around Australia, pharmacists are selling antibiotics to any woman with a urinary tract. Right now, in Queensland, pharmacists are currently prescribing antihypertensives and statins.

Pharmacists got an extra \$3 billion in funding this year. Meanwhile, adjusted for inflation, over the past decade the rebate for item 23 has gone backwards by \$4.50.

We're undervalued and overlooked, and it's time we started standing up for ourselves with a bit more vigour.

We're well trained, we're the backbone of the whole healthcare system, and our patients love us.

We should be paid what we're worth, without having to ask a podiatrist to sign off on our management plans.

GP registrars should be paid the same as their hospital colleagues. Instead, many are forced to do locum shifts in the hospitals on the weekends, because the pay is such a drop. In Victoria, graduate nurses will soon earn as much as first year GP registrars do.

Last week I asked the medical students I teach how many were considering GP as a career. Out of 36, there were only 2. Is it any wonder?

Too many GPs see the college as an expensive waste of money, filled with soft-handed academic types. The college needs to be more like the nursing union, and take the fight to the government.

Advocating for:

- Full rebate restoration after a decade of cuts
- Ensuring no doctor takes a pay cut to train as a GP
- Adequate funding to teach registrars and medical students
- A full-throated rejection of non-doctors doing the job of GPs

I love being a GP. Right now, we're on the brink. The next two years will decide if General Practice in Australia thrives or falls. With 30 more years in me as a GP, I can't afford to see our profession decline.

Our patients respect us, see us regularly, and trust our care. Together, we have the power to change the direction we're headed in.

If you want a president that is going to bring some fight to the role, and stand up for our profession and our patients, send a message to the college and vote for me.

**Dr Alan Bradley**

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