

Rural doctors hit out at co-payment proposal

Centre. "Yet again, the junior Coalition partner has shown just how ineffective they are in standing up to the Liberals," Ms Pilkington said.

Continued funding for the centre is a top priority for the Victorian Farmers Federation.

President Peter Touché said the project was a highly successful initiative used by communities across Australia. It wants \$500,000 from the Abbott and Napthine government.

"It's a fairly critical issue, for farmers here, especially when times are tough," Mr Touché said.

"Yet here we have a recommendation to impose a minimum \$15 gap that will lead to fewer problems seeing their GP, more presentations to emergency departments and doctor visits than hospital admissions and treatments that require a higher cost."

Dr Hall said the blanket price as it was naturally targeted general practice as it was not proposed to be levied on specialists.

“We also know that it costs more to treat someone in an emergency department than general practice setting,” Dr Hall said.

“Evidence shows that improved health outcomes is closely related to access to general practice care,” he said.

In rural areas had difficulty accessing health care services. He said there were also often economic disadvantages.

"In the long-term, be could also be deadly for many rural Australians," he proposed co-partners would have a significant impact in rural communities and would result in an entire segment of rural patients being less likely to seek timely medical care," Dr Hall said.

People in rural areas often have a greater burden of chronic diseases and can already expect poorer health outcomes than their city counterparts.

RURAL doctors say health sector recommendations from the Commonwealth of Australia are aimed at improving the health of the economy, not the health of the Australian population, and would have a disproportionate impact on the health of rural and remote areas.



Health body faces axe

Fight for state and federal government funding