

# Chronic pain patients lose out in \$40 million government cut to Australian pain services

From 1 March 2022 major changes to Medicare rebates for many pain services, especially procedures, will come into effect.

The result of these changes will be reduced Medicare funding available for pain services.

Last year, pain doctors worked with the Medicare Benefits Schedule (MBS) Taskforce to reallocate Medicare funding from some less effective treatments in hospitals to more effective community based pain treatment programs.

This would have given patients access to a much wider range of pain care services.

The government has chosen to go ahead with the changes that save them around **\$40 million** without implementing the recommended changes which would have been better for patients.

We are now asking for your help in getting this decision reversed by phoning or emailing your local Federal member of parliament:

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Electorate:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

## Please ask them:

1. To fully implement all the recommended changes to the Medicare item numbers.
2. To commit to improving accessibility and affordability of pain management services overall.

If you or your politician needs more information, please scan this QR code:

