

**PRIME MINISTER****STATEMENT BY THE PRIME MINISTER THE HON P J KEATING MP
HEALTH UNDER HEWSON - BYE BYE BULK BILLING**

Under Dr Hewson's health policy its bye, bye bulk billing.

Thirteen million Australians who now have access to bulk billing will lose it under Dr Hewson.

That is, their right to visit a doctor and pay nothing goes out the window.

Under Dr Hewson it will be cash up-front at the AMA rate. That's \$32 per visit.

Dr Hewson will hand control of our medical system over to the doctors. Doctors will set their own prices and make health care a privilege instead of a right.

Dr Hewson's health policy was written by the doctors, for the doctors.

The greedy doctors in this country have scored a trifecta - Dr Hewson, Dr Woods, Dr Shepherd.

The AMA would be the faceless men of a Hewson Government.

Dr Hewson says he won't work with any union in Australia - except the doctor's union.

The doctors' union has written Coalition health policy and in the process awarded themselves a massive pay increase.

Bruce Shepherd is Australia's most threatening union boss - under Dr Hewson he will have won for his members a billion dollar bonanza.

It's hard to believe - an extra billion dollars for doctors alone.

This is fairness Hewson-style - doctors driving BMWs can set their own fees, charge what they like, while wage earners are forced onto lower wages through individual work contracts. \$3 an hour for Australia's youth - \$3 a minute for doctors.

Doctors are told they can charge what they can get away with while workers are told to sign on the dotted line, or get the sack.

By their own admission Dr Hewson's health policy is "music to the ears" of doctors. (Leading AMA spokesman following Dr Hewson's address to the AMA conference.)

Think about this - if you're a young person on Dr Hewson's \$3 an hour wage you'd only earn \$114 a week. If you get crook and visit the doctor it'd cost you \$32, almost a third of a week's pay. Even after collecting a rebate the gap would be \$14, more than 10 per cent of your week's pay. On top of that you'd be paying 15 per cent on your transport, 15 per cent on your clothes, 15 per cent on your takeaway food, and 15 per cent on just about everything else you use or buy.

If you're a shift worker it's the same story. You'll have to sign an individual work contract, your penalty rates are taken away, your wage will be cut dramatically. You pay the 15 per cent GST on everything and you'll still have to pay the \$32 up front.

If Dr Hewson doesn't get you on the swing, he'll get you on the roundabout. Everywhere you turn, you'll be paying more.

Every time you put your hand in your pocket, Dr Hewson's hand will be there too.

BRISBANE
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