



Special Commission of Inquiry into Healthcare Funding

Submission Number: 156
Name: Trevor
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From:

To: [Submissions - Healthcare Funding Inquiry](#)
Subject: Health Funding Inquiry submission form
Date: Tuesday, 31 October 2023 9:53:15 PM

Name

Trevor [REDACTED]

Email

Message

Dear Premier of NSW

My name is Trevor [REDACTED] I am a registered nurse at Westmead Hospital, Neonatal Intensive Care Unit and would like a submission into NON-PAYMENT OF OVERSEAS PATIENTS in NSW Hospitals.

My Submission is simple:

1. Overseas patients (ie: generally, but not always- on a STUDENT VISA) need to pay UP-FRONT "before" entry and / or "before" being admitted into any NSW Hospital for ANY medical care (but in particular MATERNITY CARE). As NSW Hospitals and therefore NSW TAXPAYER ends up paying the non-paid outstanding bill by the overseas patient that simply disappear after leaving hospital.
2. All (student) visas MUST have compulsory HEALTH INSURANCE and MUST include mandatory MATERNITY coverage BEFORE the visa is issued by the Australian Embassy overseas (ie: health insurance needs to be paid for by an "overseas insurance company" – similar to a Travel Insurance Policy). This "health coverage" must be PAID BEFORE the visa is issued overseas and definitely BEFORE arrival into Australia. The overseas insurance company needs to be responsible for CLAIMS (and payment to NSW Health for services used and provided within a NSW Hospital), not an Australian based insurance company.
3. Private Health Insurance (in Australia) should NOT provide coverage for OVERSEAS PATIENTS (as the cost is ultimately paid by existing private health fund members who have been in the fund for years). In other words, the Private Health fund gets "dumped" with a massive bill and cannot recover the money paid in a claim as most overseas patients cancel their policy soon after discharge from hospital. Or simply just do NOT pay the hospital.
4. The NSW TAXPAYER and NSW Hospitals should NOT be responsible to pay for an overseas patient who is not entitled to medicare, not a permanent resident and/or citizen. NSW Health needs to be aware we are increasing living in a globalised international world with people moving all over the place who may not be entitled to be treated in NSW Hospitals for free as per the NSW Taxpayer (because as a tax payer we have paid for the service, the overseas patient has not paid a cent!). It is about implementing an appropriate procedure and NSW Health Policy and overseas patient having NO entitlement (for a free service).
5. The good nature of the "Australian way of life" and "easy access" to the NSW Health

care system and facilities has been increasingly abused by overseas patients who are NOT entitled to it. If an Australian was overseas they would be expected to pay if using an overseas hospital, so the same criteria needs to be applied in NSW Hospitals and it must be MANDATORY.

I hope this funding regarding the NON-PAYMENT OF OVERSEAS PATIENTS can be addressed by the Healthcare Funding Special Commission it is urgently required and long overdue. Because ultimately the individual NSW Hospital and NSW Taxpayer is unfortunately left with a MASSIVE MEDICAL BILL!!

Regards

Trevor [REDACTED]
Registered Nurse
WESTMEAD HOSPITAL

[REDACTED]

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