

# YOURCARE

3 November 2022

Anthony Albanese  
Prime Minister  
Parliament House  
Canberra, ACT, 6100

Dear Prime Minister,

I am writing on behalf of YourCare's 3173 members, who are concerned about the cost of care in Australia.

Australians pay some of the highest out-of-pocket expenses in the world.<sup>1 2</sup> Almost 5 million people have ongoing needs.<sup>3</sup> Young people are often affected by cost because of insufficient savings,<sup>4</sup> while women carry a higher proportion of costs compared to men and are more likely to skip care because of cost.<sup>5</sup>

For government, the care economy will consume an ever greater share of our national budgets.<sup>6 7</sup> As the 2021 Intergenerational Report points out, spending on healthcare will comprise the single largest component of government spending in 2060, with real per person healthcare costs doubling over the period.<sup>8</sup>

Prime Minister, I would like to understand your plans to help Australians with the cost of care. I look forward to your reply.

Yours Sincerely

**Simon Schwab**

Founder | **YourCare**

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<sup>1</sup> Australia's Out of Pocket Healthcare Problem, PriceWaterhouseCoopers, 2017.

<sup>2</sup> Mirror, Mirror, 2021 Reflecting Poorly, The Commonwealth Fund. Australia Ranks 3rd last on measures of affordability, including out-of-pocket expenses, August 2021.

<sup>3</sup> 1 in 5 Austrians had a chronic condition in 2017/18. Australian Institute of Health & Welfare.

<sup>4</sup> Not so Universal. How to reduce out of pocket health care payments, Grattan Institute, March 2022, Stephen Duckett, Anika Stobart, & Linda Lin, page 16.

<sup>5</sup> Ibid page 15.

<sup>6</sup> Australian Financial Review, Treasury boss urges tax, spending crackdown, June 8 2022. Regarding spending on NDIS and Aged Care Package.

<sup>7</sup> Intergenerational Report 2021, Commonwealth Treasury, 2021 p xii.

<sup>8</sup> Ibid p xii.

