

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

1 July 2016

## **Bulk billing incentive for diagnostic imaging unchanged today**

MELBOURNE: Contrary to media statements by Labor leader Bill Shorten yesterday, the bulk billing incentive for diagnostic imaging remains unchanged as of 1 July 2016. Patients should continue to present for the x-rays and scans their doctor has referred them for.

Bill Shorten's comments in two interviews yesterday are incorrect:

*"As of 1 July, tomorrow, they're cutting the bulk billing incentives for blood tests and x-rays."*  
ABC AM, 30 June 2016  
[http://www.billshorten.com.au/radio\\_interview\\_abc\\_am\\_thursday\\_30\\_june\\_2016](http://www.billshorten.com.au/radio_interview_abc_am_thursday_30_june_2016)

*"They're increasing the price of medicine and they're also, as of tomorrow, getting rid of bulk billing in centres for blood tests and X-rays."*  
ABC 7.30, 30 June 2016  
<http://www.abc.net.au/7.30/content/2016/s4492416.htm>

Whilst 1 July 2016 was the original start date for the removal of the bulk billing incentive for general patients, this has since been postponed. The Coalition announced on 5 June 2016 that if re-elected, the changes to bulk billing incentives for diagnostic imaging would not commence until 1 January 2017, to allow for an independent evaluation of the commercial pressures facing diagnostic imaging providers to be completed and the outcome implemented. This arrangement is in the public domain.

The Australian Diagnostic Imaging Association seeks to reassure the 9 million patients who access diagnostic imaging every year that rebate arrangements are unchanged today, and patients should attend diagnostic imaging clinics for x-rays and scans as normal.

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Full details of the arrangement are available at:

**<https://www.liberal.org.au/latest-news/2016/06/05/coalition-plan-access-affordable-diagnostic-imaging-all-australians>**