



27 June 2016

Julie Heraghty
Chief Executive Officer
Macular Disease Foundation Australia

By email: mark@mdfoundation.com.au

Dear Julie,

Thank you for writing to Bill Shorten and the Labor team on behalf of Macular Disease Foundation Australia.

Age-related macular disease (AMD) is an incredibly debilitating condition and is the leading cause of blindness in Australia. Labor understands the importance of early detection and treatment.

Australians should be able to get the health care they need – not just the health care they can afford – and financial barriers should not be created around access to health care.

That's why a Shorten Labor Government will restore indexation of the Medicare Benefits Schedule from 1 January 2017.

This will apply to all services provided by GPs, allied health and other health practitioners and medical specialists – including ophthalmology and optometry services.

Labor supports the current arrangements around bulk-billing for optometry services, and will continue to work with the eye health sector to make sure that Australians continue to have access to optometry services under bulk-billing arrangements.

Labor looks forward to further engagement with Macular Disease Foundation Australia on the issues raised in your platform.

Regards

ALP Information Services Unit
Australian Labor Campaign Headquarters
www.alp.org.au

BILL SHORTEN AND LABOR. WE'LL PUT PEOPLE FIRST