**Attention patients aged 50 and over: more Medicare cuts are coming**

In the recent Federal Budget, the Government announced more cuts to Medicare for radiology services. We need your help to put pressure on the Health Minister Greg Hunt to reverse his decision.

**From 1 November this year, your GP will no longer be able to refer you for an MRI when you injure your knee – because you’re over 50**

You will have to go to a specialist to get an MRI referral. This will cost you more money, and you’ll have to wait for an appointment – so your diagnosis will be delayed.

If you don’t want to wait, you can pay for it privately without a Medicare rebate – which will cost hundreds of dollars.

**Medicare is supposed to be about timely and affordable access to health care**

The Government says it is “guaranteeing Medicare”, but instead it is making it harder for you to get the health care you need. Rebates for radiology have been frozen for 20 years, so you’re paying more and more, and the Government is paying less and less – while making cuts to your health care with no evidence.

**The cut is not supported by scientific evidence – or the experts**

This cut is discriminatory, and it has no scientific evidence to back it up. The chair of the MBS Review, which recommended the cut, is on record as conceding that “the recommendation was based on expert and not scientific opinion” (*Medical revolt over MRI restrictions for over-50s*, Sydney Morning Herald, 19 May 2018).

However, expert groups like the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Radiologists and the Australasian Musculoskeletal Imaging Group have already strongly opposed the cut, because it will make it harder and more expensive for older Australians to get diagnosed.

**What can you do to stop the cut?**

This practice is part of a campaign led by the Australian Diagnostic Imaging Association calling on the Health Minister Greg Hunt to reverse this unjust and discriminatory cut to Medicare.

If you are having a knee MRI, we will give you a flyer which explains the Medicare cut. Please fill in your details and hand it to our staff, who will make sure it reaches the Health Minister.