

David A.S. Crofts

23 Brisbane Street  
BERWICK Victoria 3806

Tuesday, 7<sup>th</sup> June 2011

The Hon. Tanya Plibersek M.P.  
Minister for Human Services

Suite M1.24  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA A.C.T. 2600

Dear Madam,

Please consider including in the Medicare benefits schedule, service provided to Australians by overseas medical professionals.

I have recently returned from Canada where I paid Dr. Roman Gut of Montréal, \$40.00 to receive an injection of anti-psychotic medication under the instructions of my psychiatrist in Australia, Dr. Hillol Das. I have come to understand this medication as compulsory and required by both me and the medical profession.

The only possible reason to exclude these services is to satisfy some selfish idea of national integrity.

There can be no doubt the ideal Medicare system would include these services as it is clearly positive and would benefit many Australians. It may even foster closer professional ties between doctors of all countries. This could only be mutually beneficial.

Any compensation of my medical expenses is to be paid to me personally, not an overseas doctor, so you would not be exporting wealth.

Yours sincerely,

David Crofts.

P.S. I am currently on a Disability Support Pension so any additional support would be greatly appreciated.



**Australian Government**  
**Department of Health and Ageing**

Mr David Crofts  
23 Brisbane Street  
BERWICK VIC 3806

Dear Mr Crofts

Thank you for your correspondence of 11 August 2011 to the Minister for Health and Ageing, the Hon Nicola Roxon MP, regarding a Medicare claim for an overseas service. The Minister has asked me to reply on her behalf.

As you may be aware, the Australian Government is responsible for the provision of health care to Australian residents through Australia's national health insurance scheme, Medicare. The *Health Insurance Act 1973*, which governs Medicare, restricts benefits to medical treatment received within Australia. Medical services provided overseas fall outside Medicare and are therefore not eligible for Medicare benefits.

Travellers are responsible for the costs of their own health care while overseas unless they are in a country with which Australia has a Reciprocal Health Care Agreement. No such agreement exists with Canada.

While I appreciate the financial circumstances that you find yourself in, I am unable to offer any assistance with this matter.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Hastings'.

John Hastings  
A/g Director  
Medicare Eligibility Section  
Medicare Benefits Branch

8 September 2011

David A.S. Crofts

23 Brisbane Street  
BERWICK Victoria 3806

Sunday, 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2011

John Hastings

A/g Director  
Medicare Eligibility Section  
Medicare Benefits Branch

c/o The Hon. Nicola Roxon M.P.  
Minister for Health and Ageing

G.P.O. Box 9848  
CANBERRA A.C.T. 2601

Dear Sir,

I asked only for your consideration but the reply provided by you may in no way be considered a response to the provided arguments. Your letter dated 8<sup>th</sup> September 2011, although gratifying in as much as your desire to help me was made clear, should by the logic of all that I hold dear and true, been much different, as the injustice of the current system was made clear. Please amend "*The Health Insurance Act 1973*" so that practitioners of all countries are included.

There is no need for such a thing as "*Reciprocal Health Care Agreements*" and in fact the very existence of them implies the opinion the medical profession is held in, in both countries, is inflated and overrated. Any compensation for my medical complaints should be allowed to be spent in a way that best eases that complaint.

Yours sincerely,

David Crofts.

P.S. Perhaps, the expression of my opinions in greater detail will enable you to be of greater assistance in the consideration of this important matter.

David A.S. Crofts

23 Brisbane Street  
BERWICK Victoria 3806

Sunday, 13<sup>th</sup> November 2011

John Hastings

A/g Director  
Medicare Eligibility Section  
Medicare Benefits Branch

c/o The Hon. Nicola Roxon M.P.  
Minister for Health and Ageing

G.P.O. Box 9848  
CANBERRA A.C.T. 2601

## **Re: The sin of our correspondence**

Dear David,

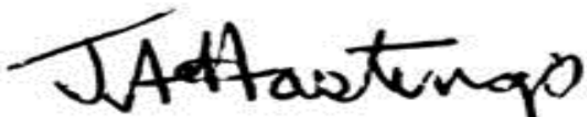
I probably should not thank you for actively involving me in your unfortunate financial circumstances on behalf of the Australian Government.

Please appreciate that I am only able to passively assist you in this matter, so you will have to solve this problem yourself. And even though I find myself experiencing significant empathy for your position, I “refuse” to consider assisting you by initiating the indicated legislative action in parliament, so clearly requested by you, regardless of your appeal and your logically correct argument and even the fact that it would serve the greater good of all Australians.

The Hon. Nicola Roxon M.P. is the target of your argument and even though she is able to provide this type of gratification she is not interested. Hence, I will attempt to confuse you as I do my best to ignore your argument.

My use of the word “therefore” is intended to make you feel stupid for even believing it could be otherwise. I will also refer to absurdities such as “Reciprocal Health Care Agreements” to bamboozle you.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Hastings', with a stylized, cursive script.

John Hastings.