

Media release

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Avant welcomes changes to Medical Costs Finder Bill

Avant, Australia's largest medical defence organisation, has welcomed the news that the Medical Costs Finder legislation will provide doctors a clear and timely process to correct, update or remove inaccurate information published on the Medical Costs Finder website.

Amendments to the Health Legislation (Improving Choice and Transparency for Private Health Consumers) Bill 2026, commonly referred to the Medical Costs Finder Bill, were approved by Parliament overnight.

"Transparency, when done well, strengthens trust and patient care. We thank the Government and Opposition for listening to our feedback and making changes that have patients and doctors front of mind," Avant Chief Medical Officer, Professor Steve Robson said.

In addition to voicing concerns in a [submission](#), Avant appeared before a Senate Committee to share our perspectives on the bill and to highlight where it needed to improve for doctors, patients and the health system.

Avant was successful in calling for a dedicated and timely review process to be included in the legislation. Amendments passed overnight will provide doctors with a pathway to ensure published information on the Medical Costs Finder website is accurate.

In the bill's original form, Avant raised concerns around the limited detail on corrections processes and safeguards, and the potential misleading consequences any omissions could have on patient care.

"We believe strongly that transparency which is misleading is worse than no transparency at all even if unintended," Professor Robson said.

"If patients are relying on government-published fee information that doesn't match what a doctor actually charges, it risks eroding trust before the consultation has even started," Professor Robson said.

"We are pleased the Government and Opposition took our concerns on board. Clear informed financial consent is an important part of the doctor-patient relationship."

Avant is actively working with the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing to help inform the design and implementation of the Medical Costs Finder website.

"As a member organisation, representing more than 100,000 doctors across all specialities, we deeply understand the complexities around [informed financial consent](#). We will draw on this expertise to inform the final design.

"Our priority is these changes are easy to navigate, and fair for patients and the doctors who care for them," Professor Robson said.

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About Avant

As Australia's largest medical defence organisation and a member owned mutual, Avant represents more than 100,000 members—over half the nation's medical workforce—across general practice

and every other specialty. Alongside medical indemnity, we provide services such as private health insurance and practice management support, giving us unique insight into the healthcare system in which doctors work.

For further information, please visit www.avant.org.au

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