

# Media release

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## Avant Mutual welcomes budget health commitments – and highlights further opportunity in private healthcare

**Canberra** – Avant Mutual, Australia’s largest doctor-owned organisation representing over 90,000 medical practitioners and students, today welcomed the Federal Budget’s commitments to bulk billing, PBS medicines price reductions, and digital health.

However, while Avant acknowledged significant progress in improving access to public healthcare, it also highlighted substantial opportunities to strengthen support for the private health sector.

The centrepiece of the 2025-26 Budget’s health measures is the Government’s \$8.5 billion investment in bulk billing, aimed at improving access to GP services. The importance of general practice is recognised with measures to increase support for the GP workforce.

Speaking from Canberra following the Budget announcement, Avant Chief Medical Officer Professor Steve Robson welcomed measures that improve access to bulk billing, reduce medicine costs, and strengthen initiatives in women’s health.

"Along with cost-of-living pressures, the Budget highlights that healthcare remains one of the most significant concerns for Australian voters," Professor Robson said.

"The Government’s strong commitment to improving bulk billing is commendable, as it will enhance both accessibility and affordability for Australians seeking GP care. This is an important step in strengthening our healthcare system.

"However, bulk billing is only one piece of the puzzle. To truly improve healthcare outcomes, we must take a broader, more holistic view of the system. A well-rounded approach is what will ultimately ensure Australians receive the highest standard of care.

"Australia needs a balanced, modern, and sustainable healthcare system—one in which doctors play a central role in developing long-term, cost-effective solutions for all patients.

"Looking ahead, the greatest opportunity for shaping future healthcare policy lies in strengthening private healthcare.

"Private healthcare is not just a segment of the system – it’s a fundamental part of the whole. Yet many private services, including maternity and mental health, are struggling, and this requires a coordinated response from both government and the private sector.

"As an organisation owned by over 90,000 doctors, Avant remains committed to working alongside government and industry stakeholders to strengthen the future of healthcare in Australia," Professor Robson concluded.

### About Avant

Avant Mutual is a member-owned doctors’ organisation and Australia’s largest medical indemnity insurer, committed to supporting a sustainable health system that provides quality care to the Australian community. Our 90,000 members (more than half of Australia’s doctors) are from all medical specialties and career stages and from every state and territory. Our products and services in the areas of insurance, lending, health and legal and practice management are all designed to support doctors in their professional and personal lives. For further information, please visit [www.avant.org.au](http://www.avant.org.au)

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