

CONFERENCE OF LEADERS OF RELIGIOUS INSTITUTES IN NEW SOUTH WALES

CLRI (NSW)

ABN 52 476 362 010
Member of Catholic Church Religious Group

Mr Francis Sullivan,
Catholic Health Australia
PO box 57
Red Hill ACT 2603

Thursday 24 June, 2004

Dear Francis,

Re: New Charges for Prescription Medicines

I write on behalf of the CLRI Justice committee, a group representing the Conference of Leaders of Religious Institutes in NSW. CLRI includes approximately 4,000 Catholic Religious and their associates.

We were delighted to see your response to the announcement to the New Charges for Prescription Medicines. We too were deeply disappointed by the Federal Labor Party's decision to agree to the new bill imposing new charges for prescription medicines. Given the Party's underlying philosophy, its stated concern for those who have been disadvantaged in our society, particularly during the past three terms of Coalition leadership, and its previously strongly held view that the poor and sick would need to be protected from the proposed new charges, such an about-face appears incomprehensible, although as you point out, a clear case of political expediency .

Many thanks, Francis, for your ongoing work and your continuing calls for greater justice and equity for all Australians in this critical area of health. We are indeed fortunate in your intellectual rigour, your concern for those at risk, and your advocacy skills.

Keep up the good work, and know that you have many supporters in your efforts.

Yours sincerely,

Jan Barnett rsj
(for CLRI NSW)

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