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MEDIA RELEASE

GP TAX WILL BREAK THE BANK FOR PATIENTS IN THE HUON VALLEY

Tony Abbott's GP Tax goes way beyond the doctor's surgery, with experts revealing patients in the Huon Valley will now be forced to fork out thousands of dollars upfront to pay for MRI, X-Rays, CAT scans and mammograms.

A hidden trap in the Abbott Government's GP Tax package will force many patients in the Huon Valley to pay extraordinary costs upfront, even those on healthcare and pensioner concession cards.

The Federal Member for Franklin, Julie Collins, said the trap exposes Tony Abbott's GP Tax as not just a tax on visits to the doctor; it's also a Pathology Tax, a Diagnostic Imaging Tax and an MRI Tax.

"According to the [Australian Diagnostic Imaging Association](#) (ADIA), patients will be forced to pay \$90 upfront for every X-Ray, \$380 for every CAT scan, up to \$160 for every mammogram and \$190 for every ultrasound," Ms Collins said.

"Even after receiving their Medicare rebate, patients could be left with out of pocket cost of up to \$160 for every scan."

"The \$7 GP Tax was always the thin edge of the wedge under this government," said Ms Collins.

"For many patients in the Huon Valley, the cost will be simply unaffordable. They'll either have to skip crucial treatments or take out a loan to pay for essential life-saving treatment.

"Those who do miss important scans are likely to get sicker, require even more extensive treatment, and end up costing the health system much, much more.

"This is a disgrace that just confirms the GP Tax is a disaster for health in the Huon Valley."

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