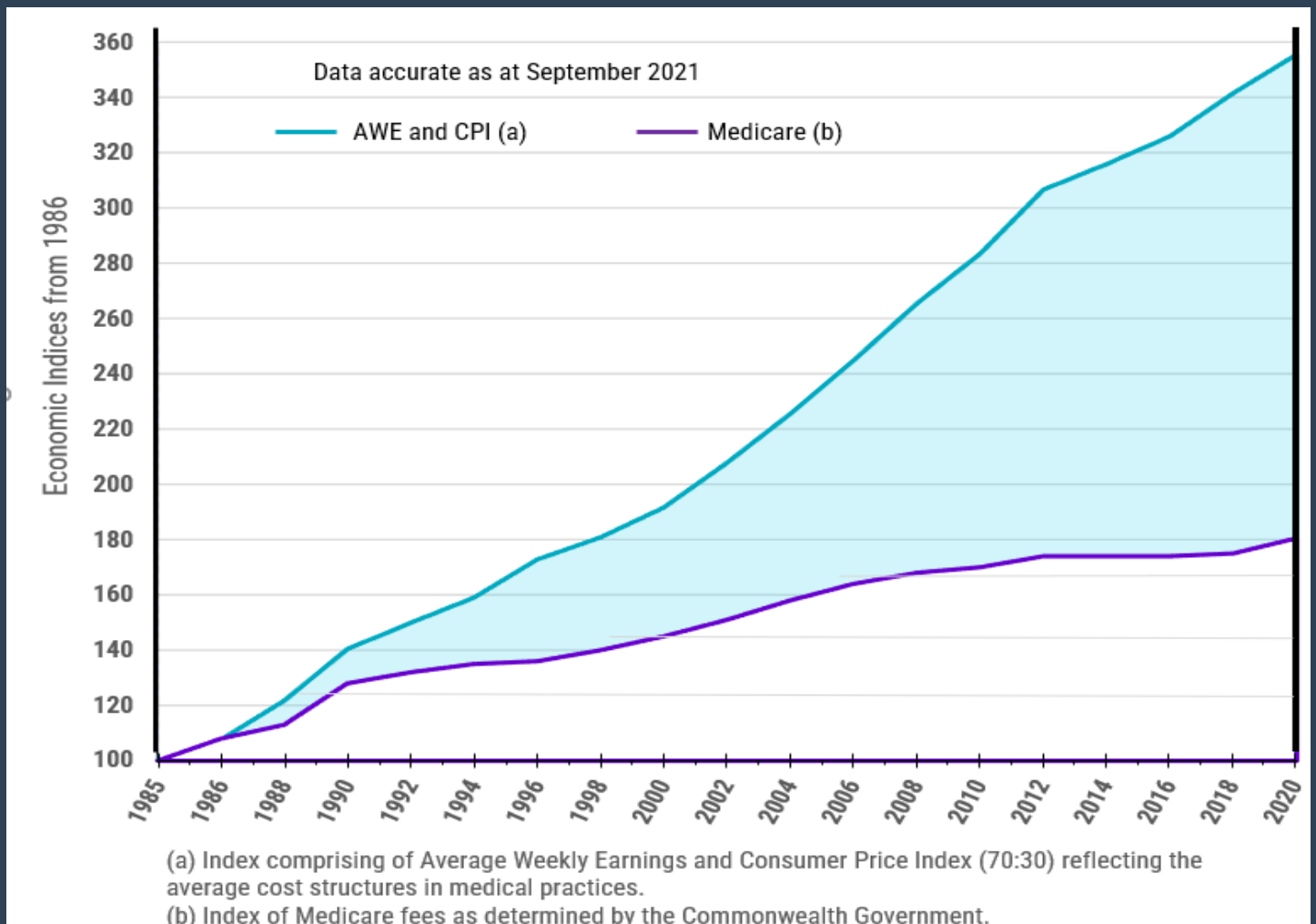


Why is there a gap?



Government's indexation of Medicare rebates has never kept pace with the rising cost of medical practice. On average AWE and CPI increased by 2.4% and 1.4%, respectively, per year. Practice costs rise by a similar amount.

Medicare rebates only increased between 1.2% to 2.5% from 1995 to 2012 – noting that all pathology and most diagnostic imaging services received no indexation during this period.

From 2012-2017 all MBS rebates were frozen with no indexation. Indexation only recommenced in 2017, when GP bulk-billing incentives were indexed at 1.4% and then in 2018 with GP and specialist consultations indexed at 1.5%. In 2019, specialist and allied health consultations, including therapeutic and procedural items resumed indexation at 1.6%. In 2020, indexation of 1.5% was applied to most of the general medical services items, all diagnostic imaging services (except nuclear medicine imaging and magnetic resonance imaging-MRI) and only two pathology items (74990 and 74991).

This is why your Medicare rebate is worth less every year.

Concerned? Talk to your local Federal MP.



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