



Medicare Eligibility for Missions Interlink Members

Under a Ministerial Order, a missionary will qualify for Medicare benefits, provided that the missionary is an Australian citizen, was last absent from Australia for no longer than 5 years, and has previously qualified for Medicare. (Otherwise, contact me before pursuing the matter with Medicare.)

Please always use the following simple procedure, for which our success rate is 100%.

Issue the attached pro forma letter on your letterhead to all your (eligible) missionaries when they are returning to Australia for furlough or emergency treatment, and BEFORE they have any dealings with Medicare. Ensure this happens, even if they have an apparently current card, as it could be confiscated or claims may be rejected when their record is matched with the Immigration computer file.

(Also make sure that they know they must ask to have their passport stamped by Immigration when entering or leaving Australia - that is needed for Centrelink, Taxation and other purposes, as well as Medicare.)

You may write the form letter as from your mission on their behalf, or leave its wording as is for them to complete and sign. An annotated copy is provided for guidance.

Please make sure a copy of the letter is kept, as it will be needed should any problem arise. This will also ensure that Missions Interlink can assist with the case if necessary as a standard service covered by your MI membership.

Advise missionaries to produce the completed letter if Medicare asks them to fill in forms such as Medicare enrolment application form, which will disclose their intention to return overseas - the letter will cover that circumstance which would otherwise render them ineligible.

We continue to enjoy the confidence of the Medicare Eligibility directorate, who have been particularly helpful in some complicated cases. In view of the time and effort they have put into solving the problem our missionaries have had, your adherence to this procedure is essential for maintaining MI's excellent relationship with the department.

Missions Interlink
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November 2013