

Melbourne woman sentenced to a good behaviour bond after making false Medicare claims

A 43-year-old woman was sentenced to a three-year good behaviour bond this morning at the Victorian County Court, after making a series of false Medicare claims worth more than \$144,00 between 2016 and 2018.

Jenny Yu used the EFTPOS terminal at the Burwood Medical Centre where she worked as a receptionist to make false Medicare EasyClaims over the two-year period, according to Judge Richard Maidment.

Judge Maidment said, "This was an ongoing, sustained, systematic defrauding of the commonwealth."

"Offending of this nature puts unnecessary strain on the public purse."

Judge Maidment said the Medicare EasyClaims were deposited into four separate bank accounts managed by Ms Yu.

Ms Yu made a "full and frank" confession in 2018 and pleaded guilty to all charges of dishonestly gaining and attempting to gain financial advantage by deception, according to Judge Maidment.

The court heard Ms Yu gave a cheque to Senior Department of Health investigators to repay her debt to the Commonwealth in 2018.

Judge Maidment said it has been suggested that Ms Yu sold two investment properties to pay the debt, but there is no evidence to support this claim.

Judge Maidment said Ms Yu received substantial credit for her cooperation, confession and full repatriation.

Ms Yu waited over two years to attend the sentence hearing, due to delays caused by COVID-19 restrictions, according to Judge Maidment.

“There was an inordinate delay laying charges against you...This was of no fault of your own,” Judge Maidment said.

Judge Maidment said the “silver lining” of the delay was that Ms Yu was able to prove her character by completing psychiatric treatment and volunteer work.

“I think it is unlikely you will reoffend again,” said Judge Maidment.

The court heard Ms Yu will face a possible three- year imprisonment if she breaches the behaviour bond.