



Letter to the Editor

Pharmacists dispensing fees – PSSA Perspective July/Aug 2020

In reading the SA Pharm Journal dated Jul/Aug 2020 I have come across within the PSSA Perspective article a reference to the dispensing fee. The draft fee as indicated shows an increase of 1.9%. Wow!!! How despicable it is to note that professionals are supposed to eke out a living from increases of this “magnitude”!!!! And who are these “experts” who came up with this magical 1.9%. And... what qualification do they have to consider what pharmacists require. It is very doubtful that they have pharmaceutical (i.e. community) knowledge!!!!

Yet again pharmacists have been taken for a ride.

As one of the senior citizens in our profession I have seen it all time and again.

Authorities are quick to point out how valuable our services are and our position in the community (indispensable... some may

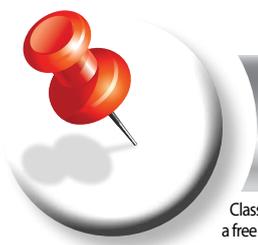
say!). Those same authorities are slow to recognise that there is a cost to professional service and honest advice.

As THE profession that was identified many years ago in a survey carried out by Readers Digest as having the highest integrity and honesty with doctors and lawyers way down that list, we are on top too of the list of suckers who have given service, free deliveries and free advice for ages. And this 1.9% is the “thanks”!

Now that COVID and its attendant restrictions has led to doctors not seeing the same volume of patients in their consulting rooms, they are charging for phone consultations!!! Why can't we do so too for all the time the consumers question us for assistance and recommendations??

What has happened very quietly is nothing short of a disgrace!!!

Albert Glass



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