

**Review of Pharmacy Remuneration and Regulation**  
**Submission #14; 22-Aug-2016; Peter Urban**

The profits that pharmacies make has reduced dramatically over the last few years making the profits of a clothing store, a seven eleven milk bar or a shoe shop substantially higher than a pharmacy.

Pharmacies have to employ qualified pharmacists, trained dispensary assistants and trained shop assistants. To give advice on medications and minor ailments takes time and expertise.

The owner needs to make a reasonable living after spending many years training for his profession and investing in stock, fixtures and fittings and the other set up costs of running a pharmacy.

To adequately support his family it is more worthwhile to spend time selling nappies, toilet paper and shampoos than spend that time in providing health solutions for his clients.

As a consequence clients will be forced to either visit a GP at greater cost to the Government, or serious health issues that a pharmacist may pick up goes unchecked and person ends up in hospital. Advice on proper use of medicines and interactions with other drugs or alternative medicines patient may be taking will go unchecked increasing risk of misadventure and added cost to health system.

Pharmacists are earning as little as \$25/hour which reflects the low profitability of retail pharmacy. Which profession gets only \$25/hour. The low pharmacy remuneration is a disgrace and must increase.

Peter Urban JP PhC MPS