

To whom it may concern,

My name is Alex and I am writing this letter as a practicing pharmacist manager in order to give my insight into the current pharmacy remuneration and regulation. I believe that the current regulations do fulfill the goals national medicine's policy namely cost saving and ease of access.

My main concern is the increasing workload on pharmacists especially in "big box" pharmacies. Having spoken to colleagues, there seem to be a trend in reducing staff numbers especially pharmacists working. this leads to increased workload in script numbers which will affect the pharmacist's ability to perform their jobs effectively. I would like to see busier pharmacies with that fill 30 scripts or more an hour to have at least two pharmacists working.

Another of my concern is pharmacies may no longer be able to provide services that they have traditionally done for free due to cost pressures. Under the current system, there is no remuneration for the provision of counselling and currently pharmacies provide this counselling service in the hopes of building good will. With rising cost pressures, provision of counselling may decrease which will have flow on effects of increasing the burdens on other health professionals i.e. GP and Hospital services. I believe that pharmacists should be remunerated for providing counselling.