

Review of Pharmacy Remuneration and Regulation
Submission #38; 6-Sep-2016; Charles Pharmacy

to whom it may concern in government:

the problem is simple but it is the answer that is difficult
for you in power who have the money to swallow.

If the 4000 or so small to medium sized pharmacies around
the country do not receive more money for the services
that we provide, then a large number of us will close our
doors in the very near future and sell our NHS numbers
on the open market and the public won't know what hit them !!!

speaking solely for my own situation, my wife and I, both of
whom work in the pharmacy had LESS THAN \$20000 between us
at the end of the financial year after having paid for all of our
modest house hold expenses such as food and power.

our pharmacy is very busy for its size and location with the bare
minimum affordable staffing stretched to exhaustion.

after 35 years of servicing the public at this location I am fortunate
to not have any loans for the business....I simply would not be able
to meet the repayments.
I have also been fortunate to have had reasonably low annual rents
for the past 30 odd years which I was easily able to pay.
HOWEVER, my dwindling income now means that I must reach
into my savings to assist me in paying the rent.

the \$20000 I mentioned above is only going to get LOWER as every
year of price reductions goes by.

I do not feel sad for myself and my wife as we are both at the tail end
of our pharmacy careers and can walk away debt free.
what is sad however, is that the community will lose two very experienced
pharmacists who have artificially brought forward their exits.
I am hoping to not renew my registration beyond 2017 as I have had enough
of the nonsense that is eating away at me from every quarter.

the young pharmacists that purchased into a business in the last 5-10 years
have a bleak financial future ahead of them AND their staff.

the pill may be a bitter one for government to swallow but if we do not receive
a FAIR days pay for an exhausting days work it will certainly be curtains
for the traditional CARING COMPASSIONATE community pharmacy.

I know the government is struggling financially, but we either reduce the standards
of medical care that the public take for granted or pinch money from any
other wasteful public sector or traditional community pharmacy will wind down
services and the public will begin to suffer.

the smaller pharmacies CANNOT take on more government tasks.
we firstly need to be PAID ENOUGH for what we are doing at the moment and
THEN we can consider these additional tasks

I hope you don't mind my doom and gloom thoughts above but you must understand
the we believe we are being treated as poorly paid second class citizens and not
as educated and caring assets of the community

our best wishes for your important tasks ahead

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