



Consumers
Health Forum
of Australia

10 August 2011

Dr Ian Holland
Committee Secretary
Senate Standing Committees on Community Affairs
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Dr Holland

Review of the Professional Services Review (PSR) Scheme

The Consumers Health Forum of Australia (CHF) welcomes the opportunity to provide input into the Review of the Professional Services Review (PSR) Scheme, which was referred to the Senate Community Affairs Committees for inquiry and review on 6 July 2011.

CHF is the national peak body representing the interests of Australian healthcare consumers. CHF works to achieve safe, quality, timely healthcare for all Australians, supported by accessible health information and systems.

Consumers value the current Medicare Benefits Schedule (MBS) and Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) structures that allow them access to services provided by a range of health practitioners, including medical and dental practitioners, podiatrists, chiropractors, physiotherapists, optometrists, osteopaths, nurse practitioners and midwives. The MBS and PBS are considered by many as the cornerstones of the Australian health system. The PSR Scheme helps to ensure services within the MBS and PBS are being delivered appropriately.

CHF welcomes the review of the PSR Scheme. CHF members in previous consultations have acknowledged the importance of undertaking reviews of the MBS and PBS to ensure they are delivering what is expected of them. Putting mechanisms in place to effectively and comprehensively review the PSR Scheme will also help protect consumers from inappropriate MBS and PBS practices.

We support measures, such the PSR Scheme, that are put into place to ensure publicly funded health services are used appropriately, as inappropriate use of these services is detrimental to consumers, both as users of the health system and as taxpayers. CHF welcomes the opportunity to provide input into the Review of the PSR Scheme and we look forward to reviewing the Committee's report on this issue.

Yours sincerely

Carol Bennett
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER