QoN 020-01
Have you or your organisation ever received direct or indirect support from the Pharmaceutical industry, including research grants, sponsorships, attendance at conferences or events, including from manufacturers of pharmacotherapies such as, but not limited to, Johnson & Johnson, Pfizer and GlaxoSmithKline?

Like all people employed now or in the past in the public sector, including academics and politicians, I confirm that I have indirectly received funds from the pharmaceutical industry. For over four decades I worked in teaching hospitals in Melbourne, London and Sydney. My generous remuneration came from governments who in turn received revenue from company, income, payroll tax & GST from companies including from the pharmaceutical industry. During my career, thanks to dysfunctional government policies, I never had any shortage of patients with severe, sometimes intractable alcohol or illicit drug problems. Perhaps it could be argued that I indirectly also benefited from these lucrative industries?

I have certainly received no direct funding from the pharmaceutical industry since I retired in 2012. I received a small grant, less than $10,000, in the 1990s from Glaxo to support a randomised controlled trial of methadone in prisons. This was the first such trial in the world and the resulting papers have been often cited. I received modest fees from Mundipharma, a local subsidiary of the notorious US pharmaceutical company Purdue, for speaking to general practitioners about chronic malignant pain. Though offered pharmaceutical industry slides, I always only used my own slides which the company never saw until the event.

I trust this information meets your needs. Please let me know if you need additional information.

Best wishes,

Alex

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