

To whom it may concern

In regard to your review I wish to provide some feedback as I work with a Dementia Behaviour Assessment and Management Service and deal with many people placed on these drugs. While I am aware that there are huge costs involved with this medication I believe it serves a very important role in the treatment of people with dementia and in many cases there are huge changes. Apart from the benefits of slowing the progression of the disease, such as giving people more time with their family members in a knowing way, it is also very beneficial at times in stemming difficult behaviours. These drugs can make a difference and if they are withdrawn from the PBS it will mean that there will be a greater use of anti psychotics which I have found to be used more and more by doctors who really don't know how to manage people with dementia. There have been instances where a client has been on a cholinesterase inhibitor and because they have run out or for some other reason they go off it and we notice a huge change in their abilities and behaviours and they become more difficult to manage. I would encourage you to keep subsidising it as it will mean that only those who are wealthy will be able to afford it. The long term effects for many will mean they will end up in residential care much sooner so any savings will be negated. I'd also like to see the drug available to people with Lewy Body Dementia as it can be helpful in these situations as well.

Thankyou for this opportunity