

Federal Health and Ageing Minister

I was appalled to hear of your Government's proposal to remove the Alzheimers drug Aricept (Donepezil) from the PBS.

My husband has been on Aricept since diagnosed with Alzheimers in 2010. This medication has slowed the progress of the condition, and for him to be denied this drug would be devastating.

We have very limited income and are on the Aged Pension. The financial impact resulting from our having to pay the full price of this very expensive medication would be considerable. We would have difficulty in meeting this cost.

There has been a great deal of publicity surrounding your Government's aim to keep the aged and Alzheimers sufferers in their own homes as long as possible. To remove this drug from people who are benefiting from it but are unable to pay the high cost, would simply accelerate the problem, resulting in dementia sufferers requiring care earlier.

I believe that the removal of this drug from the PBS is totally irresponsible and would be counterproductive in the care of this increasing health problem

I understand that I was required to include the "Cover Sheet" with this email. However, I am elderly, with limited technology expertise, (as most dementia carers would be) and found it very difficult to understand how to deal with this request.

Hopefully your Department will rethink this very disturbing proposal.