

Thank you for your reply,

I am happy for this email to be published on the pbs website.

My father has dementia and is receiving Aricept. It has been helpful, and appears to have slowed the progression of his condition. However, if this is removed from the PBS, my parents will be unable to afford to continue treatment. Surely in the current climate of an aging population, anything that allows the elderly to live independently in their own home, is a good thing.

The threat that this medication could be removed from the PBS is causing my parents and myself a great deal of stress. This is NOT something that my parents need at their age, and the stress is not good for either of their health. My parents have always tried to be financially independent. They have always worked and paid their taxes. To have this threat hanging over them when they are already struggling with challenging issues is just appalling.

The review and submission process is also unfair.

To read the information on your website, all submissions must refer to one or all of the Terms of Reference, and must be saved in both Word & PDF format,, with copies of evidence entitling them to give personal information.

I'm sorry, but how many 80 year olds in our community have

- the internet
 - the ability to complete an online form
 - the ability to save it in 2 different formats
 - a scanner to copy the authorisation
- etc etc

This is simply making the submission process inaccessible to the very people who need to be responding to this.

I'm sure that the submission process has been open for a while (which would have allowed people to send hard copies by snail mail), but my parents only found out about this review through their Alzheimers support group, with no idea when, how, or where to express their concerns. They contacted their local Federal member who advised them at *2pm this afternoon, that the deadline was 5.00 today!!*

Honestly, could this have been made any more difficult?

They spoke to their local GP, who was completely unaware of the review.

So, how is this review even reaching the people that it needs to if the patients/carers can't respond, and the medical profession are unaware.

Anyway,

Thank you