

I wish to lodge my objection to the Cost Recovery bill before a senate committee which will greatly increase the cost of submissions to the PBAC. It sounds innocuous but represents a Thatcherite type of User Pays philosophy which has two enormous drawbacks. The first is that it will further increase the pressure of the Pharmaceutical Industry on this very important public service. The second is that it will become even harder to get listing for low profit non-patentable items such as vitamin D and calcium which are essential for osteoporosis prevention but, although cheap are not cheap enough to be within reach of all the pensioners who need them. No company can afford to spend hundreds of thousands of dollars to get such simple but essential supplements listed. The companies will of course add the costs to their products so that in the end the taxpayer will pay them and the cost recovery will be illusory while greatly reducing the authority and independence of the Committee.

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