

## Special Commission of Inquiry into Healthcare Funding

Submission Number: 193

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**Date Received:** 18/12/2023

From:

Healthcare Funding Inquiry

Subject: late submission: Special Commission of Inquiry into Healthcare Funding

Date: Monday, 18 December 2023 5:25:48 AM



To the inquiry,

I appreciate the consideration of this late submission.

Healthy competition will ensure dramatic improvements in productivity. A drastic increase in university and professional placements is required in order to deliver the surplus workforce required to ensure competition in the industry. A medical graduate is guaranteed secure lifetime employment regardless of their productivity simply due to scarcity of the authority required to access the most basic health items. This is a most unfortunate outcome for persons other than medical doctors.

Identifying opportunities to remove the requirement for an authority to grant access to common health items would also save significant sums. Establishing a review mechanism for future items falling into expensive complex multipractitioner models to determine a genuine need for an authority to gatekeep access. A review of General Practice skillsets to determine why so many doctors are unable to define the term, "contraindication," or identify an appropriate radiological investigation for a given presentation. Consideration of elevating General Practice to the level of skill of veterinarians by equipping them with some basic skills in relation to the use of ultrasound imaging within general practice. This would save significant sums relating to multiple presentations for simple tasks such as identifying fractures or distinguishing soft tissue lesions from normal bone, synovial nodes, lipomas and similar lumps common to General Practice with radiology and extensive investigations reserved for cases beyond the most basic of imaging tasks.

Robert Heron

