

Sophie Hibburd

From: Hand, Peter
Sent: Monday, 9 September 2013 8:26 AM
To: Sophie Hibburd
Subject: FW: Payments to medical practitioners - Code of Conduct Review

Dear Medicines Australia

I write in strong support of your plans to have payments to doctors by pharmaceutical companies made public. I am in favour of either dollar amount.

My concern is that many doctors act as 'consultants' or are paid for being on an 'advisory board' or receive payments called 'honoraria' that are never declared by the doctor. Whilst the payment may be in return for legitimate work, and thus perfectly justifiable, the fact that the doctor is paid should be revealed. In my opinion, receiving such payments constitutes a conflict of interest, but even if I am wrong on this interpretation where is the harm in transparency? I fully support the plans.

Best wishes
Peter Hand

A/Prof Peter J Hand