

## Sophie Hibburd

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**From:** Donald Rose  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 4 September 2013 11:41 AM  
**To:** Sophie Hibburd  
**Subject:** Declaring payments to doctors

Dear Sirs

I have no concerns re payments to doctors who are employed by pharmaceutical companies being published. I might add I have no interest in what these payments are and for what purpose. When I attend a meeting sponsored by a pharmaceutical company I would expect the speaker to be paid for his or her time and his or her costs be covered. I absorb the information knowing full well the information is promoting a product and I analyse the information like I would any other product I might one day recommend.

What I don't agree with is the absolute pettiness that has now been reached where there is an argument over whether an amount of \$10 or \$25 should be declared. It is insulting and degrading to think amounts so small are considered by some to influence prescribing behaviour. In the real world doctors attend meetings run by aged care facilities, hospitals, NGOs, government bodies, charities and the new Medicare Locals and soup and sandwiches are usually provided so that the day is not too disrupted. I must admit at times you would be annoyed if these were not provided given the tight schedule you operate on. To think this in anyway influences our behaviour is ludicrous in the extreme.

If a pharmaceutical company wants some of your time between sessions and turned up without soup and sandwiches it would disrupt your day and would ultimately be halted. The need to document and declare these costs demean the whole process and insult all involved. If such ludicrous rules are introduced where does it stop. Do NGOs and charities also have to declare how much was spent on the soup and sandwiches?

It is time for everyone to grow up. We are all too busy for this type of micromanagement. If a doctor is paid to work for a company - declare it. If a doctor attends a launch of a new product but receives no financial gain - there is nothing to declare.

Yours sincerely

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