From: David & Judy Balcombe ██████████████████
Sent: Monday, August 19, 2024 12:42 PM
To: newsletters
Subject: Comments on older doctors' health assessments, for Dr Tonkin

Dear Dr Tonkin,
I am writing in response to AHPRA's proposal for doctors to have health checks over the age of 70.

I have viewed APHRA's breakdown of the groups of complaints made against doctors. Is it possible that we can please see specific examples of these complaints ? For example, are there complaints in relation to communication from older doctors, particularly GPs, increasing their fees after years of Medicare rebate freeze? Or older doctors with a better understanding of the consequences of infectious diseases having the courage to decline writing Covid exemption certificates ? Or a consequence of the older medical profession becoming burnt out after supporting the community through 4 years of the Covid pandemic ?

If the exact nature of the complaints are identified, could education modules to address these particular issues not then become part of our CPD requirements?

Whereas in principal it may be of benefit for doctors to have blood pressure checked and to be screened for diabetes and raised cholesterol, it would be more sensible for this to commence at an earlier age of the goal is to detect health problems which may lead to cognitive decline.
Medicare allows for a Health Check at 45, which would be a better age for a doctor's initial preventative health assessment.

It has been pointed out that doctors may have been too busy working to always attend to their own health in a timely manner.

I would like to suggest that if Health Assessments for doctors are implemented, that the doctor could be compensated for this by awarding CPD professional development points for time taken for the assessment process and any required follow up.

Then the process may be seen as more acceptable to the doctor in addition to assisting and maintaining their health and work.
Thank you,
Sincerely,
Dr Judith Campbell ,

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