

From: John Scarlett [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 26, 2024 5:09 PM
To: medboardconsultation
Subject: Medical screening of doctors over 70 years old

I note with some concern but sadly no surprise your plan to medically and psychogeriatrically screen doctors who have passed 70 years of age.

I note also the predictable terminology with which the proposal is being introduced. You are doing this because of your benevolent wish to ensure that these poor old medical practitioners have their health needs addressed. It is hard to know whether hypocrisy or condescension is the dominant theme here; both ooze so thickly through the bureaucratic doublespeak.

At 69, I am retired from my private practice but I flatter myself that I still serve a function as a teaching associate professor and locum for a regional specialist practice that finds it very difficult to get locum cover.

I may well be approaching cognitive decline but I can take a hint and read the writing on the wall. That you want older doctors out of the profession is abundantly clear, and I will be jumping before I am driven out by increasing hurdles and humiliations. I regret that those colleagues for whom I act as locum will have to do without their conference and holiday leave, but I am confident that they will be encouraged by the thought that they are saving their patients from the attentions of a high risk practitioner.

I will leave the profession without regrets, having enjoyed my time in it, and while I can still ride my bike up a big hill and do a crossword puzzle. Your plan is the little push I need to bring the date forward to the immediate future. I am confident that you have an abundance of smart young doctors just waiting to fill all the rural and regional gaps like the one I will leave.

Au Revoir

A. Prof. John Scarlett OAM, MB, BS, MD, FRACP, FRCPA