

MEDIA RELEASE

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Private Healthcare Inquiry Panel wraps up its first week of public hearings

Yesterday, 18 February 2016, the Competition Commission's Private Healthcare Market Inquiry wrapped up the first week of public hearings. The hearings, which took place in Pretoria at the CSIR began on 16 February with an oral submission from a consumer, Ms. Angela Drescher, who highlighted her experiences with private healthcare funders (Medical Schemes) in relation to Prescribed Minimum Benefits (PMBs). The hearings concluded yesterday with a presentation from labour union COSATU, who lamented the high price of private healthcare.

High prices of hospital fees, a call for a regulation of prices in the private healthcare and a lack of information on medical schemes, were the main themes which were bemoaned by each member of the public and consumer groups that presented their case.

The second week of public hearings takes place at the Health Market Inquiry Pretoria offices from 23 to 25 February 2016. The Pharmaceutical Society of SA, the South African Medical Association, and the South African Medical Device Industry Association, are some of the stakeholders expected to make submissions.

The Inquiry calls on all members of the public to come and share their experience of the private healthcare sector.

All non-confidential submissions are now available on the website: <http://www.compcom.co.za/healthinquiry>

A broadcast of all days' hearings is available on the Commission's YouTube channel: <http://tinyurl.com/q2x5ca2>

Ends

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