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# EDITORIAL

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## Who needs care?

In this issue, both the articles by Volmink and Furman, address the problem of providing good care to people. Those lacking adequate care on the whole seem to be the poor, the rural, the peri-urban and the carers themselves.

In South Africa today we are witnessing a large amount of energy being spent by our profession on such issues as dispensing and the draft bill on medical aid schemes. All this is still in the area of concern for those patients who are actually insured, albeit inadequately at times. That is, when concern is being expressed for the welfare of the patient, which is not always clear from the debate.

The SA Academy of Family Practice/ Primary Care and SA Family Practice, its mouthpiece, is interested in the debates as far as they affect the standard of medicine delivered to patients. We are also interested in the debate about the best way to distribute care equitably. A concern about standards without attention to coverage, something that a lot of rhetoric from our medical schools comes very close to, is no longer morally justifiable.

Perhaps it is time we had a lobby in the country from among our own ranks who will take up the cause of those who are not getting adequate care. While the government tries to save money and we are trying to make a reasonable living, there are many out there who are just not getting a fair deal.

All those who wish to participate in such a programme are invited to write to us and we will put you in touch with one another. Please write to, "The Carrot and Stick Lobby", PO Box 40447, Arcadia, 0007.

See you there!

*Sam Feheren*