

General Motions - Session 1

25 April Friday

3.45pm

Health Inequalities

1. The IMO call on the Taoiseach to establish a cross departmental group to address health inequality in Ireland. Such a group should be tasked with addressing all the social, environmental and commercial determinants of health inequality and develop a fully funded plan to reduce the levels of inequality.

Proposer: IMO Council

Social Media

2. In light of the growing evidence of the harm caused to minors by social media the IMO calls on Government to act by introducing legislation to ban social media for under 16 year olds. The Australian government has passed similar legislation, and we, as a group of doctors, feel it is imperative that our Government follow suit.

Proposer: Dr Aileen Brides

Seconder : Prof Matthew Sadlier

Pornography

3. The IMO calls on the Government to immediately introduce a ban on all pornography which depicts sexual violence, misogyny and degrading sexual practices as well as content implying or promoting underage sexual activity. The penalties should be comparable to those used for distribution and access of child pornography.

Proposer: Prof Matthew Sadlier

Seconder: Dr Madeleine Ni Dhalaigh

4. The IMO calls upon the Government to immediately legislate to ensure all websites/ on-line businesses distributing pornographic material (either as a primary or secondary business) have strict age verification systems which include some off-line element (ie passport, driving license).

Proposer: Prof Matthew Sadlier

Seconder: Dr Madeleine Ni Dhalaigh

Screen Time

5. Given the increase in communication difficulties presenting in early school age children the IMO commends the HSE's screen use guidance included in the "My Child" series but calls on the Government to support this with a well funded media campaign to highlight the dangers of screen use in early years.

Proposer: Prof Matthew Sadlier

Seconder: Dr Aileen Brides

IT Systems

6. This meeting calls on the HSE to review the amount of risk created and time lost by the lack of availability of up-to-date and accurate clinical information during consultations with patients. The non-integration of systems is leading to key clinical information not being available in a timely manner, which presents unacceptable risks for patients and staff.

Proposer: NCHD Committee

Coroners Service

7. In relation to the forthcoming reform of the coroners service The Irish Medical Organisation is concerned that the Department of Justice is tending towards the view that the primary qualification required for all future coroners will be of a legal degree as opposed to a medical degree. This is at variance to the present practice where coroners can be either a medically or legally trained professional. The Irish Medical Organisation would feel that this would lead to an immediate and long lasting reduction in the quality and effectiveness of the coronial process generally but particularly in relation to deciding when a post mortem is necessary, interaction with family members and the conducting of medical inquests.

Proposer: Dr Denis McCauley

Seconder: Dr Ray Walley

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Community Ophthalmic Services

8. The IMO calls on the Department of Health and the HSE to resource the nationwide extension of the Community Ophthalmic Services Medical Treatment Scheme (COSMTS) in keeping with the Sláintecare Principles and in accordance with the 2025 Programme for Government

Proposer: Dr Maxwell Treacy

Seconder: Dr Margaret Pierse

Sláintecare

9. The IMO calls on the Government to confirm its plans for the continued development and roll-out of Sláintecare.

Proposer: NCHD Committee

Trade Union Membership

10. The IMO calls on the Minister for Finance to reinstate the previous arrangements which allowed for union members to claim tax relief on trade union fees. Given the key role that unions play in protecting workers, advocating for improvements in working conditions and reaching agreements which allow for reforms and development in the workplace, both public and private, the State should encourage and support union membership by reinstating the previous relief.

Proposer: NCHD Committee

General Motions - Session 2

26 April Saturday

11.45am

Mental Health Act

11. The IMO urgently calls on the Government to ensure that the recommendations of the previous Joint Oireachtas Committee on Mental Health are not adopted in regards to the revised Mental Health Act as they pose significant risks to future patients and will have an overall negative effect on the most vulnerable in our society.

Proposer: Prof Matthew Sadlier
Seconder: Dr Tadhg Crowley

Cannabis

12. On foot of the most recent studies published in JAMA showing a 300% increase in Schizophrenia attributed to the liberalisation / legalisation of cannabis in Canada and more studies indicating increases in Lung Cancer / Mental Health and death we ask as a matter of urgency the Dept of Health initiate an education programme for parents and our youth on the dangers of Cannabis.

Proposer: Professor Bobby Smyth
Seconder: Professor Ray Walley

Alcohol

13. The IMO calls for the loophole of 'alibi marketing' of alcohol to be closed by the government.

Proposer: Dr Mary O'Mahony
Seconder: Dr Ina Kelly

No to War on Healthcare

14. The IMO condemns the targeting of healthcare professionals and healthcare facilities in all conflict zones.

Proposer: IMO Council

15. The IMO calls on the Dept of Health and the Dept of Children Equality Disability Integration and Youth to make public the results of any due diligence review of their procurement policies in response to the International Court of Justice

order of Jan 26th 2024 (South Africa v Israel) and to make public any changes that have been made to the depts procurement policies to ensure they are in accordance with international law.

Proposer: Dr Angela Skuce
Seconder: Dr Kieran Harkin

16. The IMO calls for the immediate restoration of International Committee of the Red Cross, and its partner organisations, to Palestinian prisoners in Israel.

Proposer: Dr Kieran Harkin
Seconder: Dr Angela Skuce

17. The IMO will continue to advocate for the safe and adequate provision and protection of healthcare workers in occupied Palestine, in accordance with international law.

Proposer: Dr Angela Skuce
Seconder: Dr Kieran Harkin