

Inquiry into approval processes for new drugs and novel medical technologies

House of Representatives standing committee
on health, aged care and sport

Patients wait too long

Medicines Australia's recommendations for the role of the consumer in medicines access.

Medicines Australia leads the research-based medicines industry of Australia. Our members discover, develop and manufacture prescription medicines, biotherapeutic products and vaccines that bring health, social and economic benefits to Australia.

Our existing Health Technology Assessment system lacks adequate mechanisms to recognise value and include in the decision making the unique information patients have about a condition and its impacts.

There is significant scope for continued improvement in the contribution and participation of consumers and patients in HTA. This is highlighted in a number of submissions to the inquiry.

This input should extend both from a single treatment or medicine and to the health system more broadly.

The system should enable consumers and patients to contribute to the decisions for access to medicines and therapies available Australian health systems, including input to the decision makers and the reimbursement of individual medicines. Such input might assist in improving valuation of patient and community benefit.

Medicines Australia notes that patient participation in HTA has been legislated in Germany, Italy and Taiwan over the last two decades.

There are 33 medicines currently NOT on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme that have been reimbursed in at least one other comparable OECD country.¹

Recommendations:

Expanded stakeholder involvement in decision making before, during and after HTA consideration, including improvements to opportunities for public consultation and stakeholder research.

Strengthen consumers' voice in the healthcare system to contribute to the decisions for access to medicines and therapies, including input to the decision makers about reimbursement of individual medicines.

Such input might assist improved valuation of patient and community benefit:

- > build capacity to improve understandable feedback for consumers and ensure there is equal and consistent opportunity for all consumers to contribute to the HTA process
- > improve patient input processes to ensure the Australian healthcare system sets the needs, values and expectations of those who most depend on it
- > enable consistent inclusion of questionnaires measuring patients' views of their health status (Patient Reported Outcome Measures - PROMS).



MA's members contribute approximately **\$9 billion to the Australian economy**, directly and indirectly supporting the employment of **23,000 Australians**.



Domestic manufacturing of pharmaceutical products generate **\$1.6b in exports**.



Our members initiate **1,000 clinical trials** annually helping **33,000 Australians** get early access to emerging therapies.

1. Medicines Matter Report