

16 April 2025

Ms Elizabeth de Somer
CEO
Medicines Australia

Dear Ms de Somer,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide the Coalition's views on the important issues facing your members. A response to your questions is attached.

Under Labor, Australia's economy is weak, inflation and interest rates have stayed too high for too long, housing is unaffordable, and our country is less safe.

Under Labor, Australians are paying on average 13% more for food, 18% more for rent, and over 30% more for power and gas and young Australians have seen their dream of home ownership slip away.

The Coalition will get Australia back on track by delivering:

1. **Strong economy with low inflation.** We will rein in wasteful spending and reduce tax, red-tape and union control over small businesses.
2. **Cheaper energy.** We will ensure a balanced mix, including more renewables, more gas, and (in seven locations) replace retired coal plants with zero-emissions nuclear energy.
3. **Affordable homes.** We will fund critical infrastructure required for housing, assist first home buyers, restrict foreign investors, and rebalance Labor's record migration intake.
4. **Safer communities.** We will get tough on violent crime by non-citizens, boost our defence and border security, and improve online safety for children.
5. **Quality healthcare.** We will fund more GPs to address current shortages and increase bulk billing and the number of Medicare-subsidised mental health sessions.

Thank you for communicating our response to your members. Further information about the Coalition's election policies can be found at www.liberal.org.au/our-plan.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'A. Hirst'.

Andrew Hirst
Federal Director

The Coalition's Response to Medicines Australia

2025 Federal Election Questionnaire

A Dutton Coalition Government will work with Medicines Australia on delivering the Strategic Agreement that was signed with the previous Coalition Government in 2022.

The Coalition does not support tariffs on pharmaceuticals and will not agree to changes to the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) that push up costs for consumers and the Australian taxpayer as a whole.

The Coalition supports the Health Technology Assessment (HTA) Review and the continuation of the HTA Implementation Advisory Group.

The Coalition's priorities for HTA Reform are:

- Streamlining and harmonisation of related processes related to a PBAC application (e.g. TGA approval, ATAGI advice for vaccines etc);
- Removing 'wrong' doors and having a united HTA pathway and committee approach, as per Recommendation 4 of the HTA Review;
- Foster earlier engagement between PBAC and sponsors;
- Reduce the churn of repeat applications to PBAC, particularly for medicines that have already been assessed as cost effective; and
- Ensuring the system delivers better equity outcomes.

The Coalition has committed to lowering the PBS general co-payment to \$25 from 1 January 2026. An elected Coalition Government will work with industry on the implementation of this co-payment reduction.

The Coalition commits to consulting with Medicines Australia and its members around any changes to the Strategic Agreement and related programs.