

Update from the Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee

July 2025

The latest meeting of the Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee (PBAC) was held 9th – 11th July 2025. This update aims to enhance the Committee's communication to all stakeholders separate to the formal minutes of the meeting which will be published as usual.

Consumer and clinician input and involvement

A final total of 44 submissions were on the July 2025 meeting agenda, of which 32 required external evaluation. The submissions requiring external evaluations included 24 cost effectiveness/cost utility analyses, and 8 cost minimisation submissions.

In relation to the submissions, the Committee received over 660 inputs, including inputs from 229 individual patients, 112 comments provided by health care professionals, input from 229 parents and family / friends, and 68 submissions from patient organisations. The Committee acknowledged the importance of these contributions and thanks them all for their engagement and commitment to work with the PBAC to better support positive outcomes for patients.

PBAC considerations

Life Saving Drugs Program (LSDP) referrals

The LSDP Expert Panel referred 2 items to the PBAC for consideration, relating to medicines currently listed on the LSDP but which may now be eligible for reconsideration for PBS listing. While the PBAC has previously considered these medicines, the referral was made because with the passing of time, aspects of the patient population, the price of the medicines, and/or other clinical management arrangements may have changed. At this meeting the specific referrals from the LSDP Expert Panel related to medicines for the treatment of Gaucher Disease and medicines for the treatment of Hereditary Tyrosinaemia Type 1. The PBAC noted the referral items, and requested that meetings with the relevant patient groups and clinicians be organized for consultation on various matters. The PBAC also noted that relevant sponsors for these medicines had provided preliminary comments to PBAC for consideration, and the Committee requested additional information regarding current dispensing and access arrangements for patients. These items will be considered again at a future PBAC meeting, once further information has been prepared, and consultations are completed.

Obesity

The Committee noted an update from the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing on work to date for the consideration of matters related to the equitable access to medicines for the treatment of obesity in Australia. The project work being managed through various areas of the Department is ongoing and will inform the PBAC review and advice to the Australian Government as requested earlier this year. The Committee again noted the importance of consultations with relevant stakeholders over the course of these considerations. The PBAC has also endorsed a small group of Committee members to work with the Departmental teams out of session to progress work and prepare for further discussions at the PBAC meeting in November 2025.

PDL-1 Tumour Agnostic listing proposals

The Committee considered the latest separate proposals from 2 sponsors for broadening the indications for unresectable advanced and metastatic cancers. The Committee noted that there has been strong clinician and patient support for these types of proposals to facilitate access to treatments for patients with less common cancers, and/or to reduce the number of future submissions for multiple indications and listing changes over extended periods of time. The Committee acknowledged the complexity of these types of proposals and the significant work of the sponsors and the

Department teams in preparing these proposals to this stage. Outcomes of the PBAC deliberations for the July meeting will be available on the PBS website on 22nd August 2025.

Next PBAC meeting

The next PBAC meeting is the 1 day PBAC Intracycle meeting, scheduled for **5th September 2025**.

Following that, the next 3 day PBAC meeting is scheduled for **5th – 7th November 2025**. The public agenda and consumer portal were made available on 30th July 2025 for this meeting, providing opportunity for input to be received till 24th September 2025.

Robyn Ward
Chair, Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee

Jo Watson
Deputy Chair, Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee