

Update from the Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee March 2026

The latest meeting of the Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee (PBAC) was held 11th – 13th March 2026. 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 March 2026 meeting agenda, of which 27 required external evaluation. The submissions requiring external evaluations included 19 cost effectiveness/cost utility analyses, and 7 cost minimisation submissions.

In relation to the submissions, the Committee received over 1,438 inputs across 39 Agenda items. This included inputs from 1,171 individuals, 148 submissions provided by health care professionals, input from 52 health sector organisations, and 67 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

Out of session commitments and activities

The Committee members noted the reports from the PBAC Chairs covering the extensive number of external engagements and stakeholder meetings that had been attended in the previous quarter. This included responding to requests for presentations and participation in public events, and PBAC initiated activities to prepare for upcoming PBAC non submission items and deliberations of the full Committee. The PBAC Chair also noted her attendance at the recent Minister's media announcement of the broad listing for a specific combination immunotherapy for cancer, and its significance as a world first access model to enable patients with rarer types of cancers to be able to be prescribed these medicines.

The PBAC also noted previous recommendations for listings and their progress to date. This included recommendations for several new medicines for Mysathenia Gravis, with one medicine just listed on 1st March 2026, and the recent announcement that a second medicine will be listing on 1st April 2026. The Committee members welcomed these outcomes and updates.

DUSC / ESC Joint meeting

The Committee discussed the review of the joint DUSC/ESC meeting held in February 2026 and noted the benefits of this integration of utilization and economics analyses for a number of Agenda items in preparation for the March PBAC meeting. While the two separate sub-committees are ongoing, the advice and format offered by a joint meeting of members from all expert areas will now be integrated into the PBAC cycle and scheduled as a permanent activity in the meeting calendars, on either side of the usual stand alone ESC and DUSC meetings.

PBS restrictions for listings for medicines for Gastrointestinal disease

The Committee noted the extensive work prepared out of session and with intensive stakeholder engagement over more than 12 months to consider the complex listing arrangements for multiple medicines used for inflammatory bowel diseases, including Crohns and Colitis, and Ulcerative Colitis.

The Committee recommended changes to a number of current listings to enable paediatric access to several biologic medicines and to better support optimal clinical practice for these patients. The Committee also noted the next tranche of work being finalised out of session for consideration at future PBAC meetings.

Next PBAC meeting

The next PBAC meeting is the 1 day PBAC Intracycle meeting, scheduled for **8th May 2026**.

Following that, the next 3 day PBAC meeting is scheduled for **8th-10th July 2026**. The public agenda and consumer portal will be available from the 25th March, 2026 for this meeting, providing opportunity for input to be received till 20th May 2026.

Robyn Ward
Chair, Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee

Jo Watson
Deputy Chair, Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee