

Statement of Expectations

5 May 2024 – 4 May 2028

Vision

The Government's vision is for the Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee (PBAC) to continue to be a high performing committee that provides sound advice to Government.

Role

As the Chair, it is expected that you will act to ensure transparency and accountability of the PBAC and this is to be maintained at all times. This includes active identification and management of the consideration of conflicts of interest, and maintaining the governance and best practice principles under which the committee operates ensuring they are upheld with the utmost integrity. My department is committed to supporting the PBAC to fulfill these expectations.

Organisational governance

The PBAC is a government appointed independent, expert body that contributes to the realisation of Pillar 1 of the National Medicine Policy (NMP) – equitable, timely, safe and reliable access to medicines at a cost the individual and community can afford. The functions of the PBAC are outlined in the *National Health Act 1953*. It is imperative that you exercise these functions with independence and integrity and apply your leadership skills and clinical expertise to build confidence and trust in the PBAC. Within this legal framework the PBAC will work with stakeholders with a solutions focus to achieve positive outcomes for patients.

Priorities

The PBAC contributes to Outcome 2.3 Pharmaceutical Benefits of the Health Portfolio Budget Statements. The program objective of Outcome 2.3 is to provide all eligible Australians with reliable, timely, and affordable access to high quality, cost effective, innovative, clinically effective medicines by subsidising the cost of medicines through the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS).

As an independent expert advisory body, it is important that the PBAC is aware of the NMP and guided by its aims, principles and commitment to person-centred care. The NMP encourages greater dialogue and emphasises the importance of co-operation, collaboration and demonstrating respect for and recognising the expertise and contribution of all NMP partners. This includes engaging with other advisory committees so that government decision-making benefits from holistic advice.

As community expectations rise, the PBAC will increasingly need to clearly communicate the evidence base and rationale behind its advice to me. It is therefore critical that the health technology assessment processes and their outcomes are effectively communicated to all stakeholders, including to the public, to build and maintain community understanding, confidence and trust. Recognising the global dimensions of medicines policy, the role also requires the Chair to represent PBAC in international health technology assessment forums.