

Statement of Intent

Chair of Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee

December 2024 – May 2028

In May of 2024, I, Robyn Ward, received a Statement of Expectations from the Minister for Health and Aged Care, the Hon Mark Butler MP regarding the expectations for holders of the role of Chair of the Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee (PBAC).

This Statement of Intent is my formal commitment as the Chair of the PBAC to meet the expectations of the Hon Mark Butler MP.

Vision

I fully support the Government's vision that the PBAC continues to be a high performing committee providing sound advice to Government.

Role

As the PBAC Chair, acting within established processes and protocols, I will act to ensure integrity, transparency and accountability of the PBAC.

This will be achieved through:

- Working closely with the Hon Mark Butler MP and his Department to support the PBAC to fulfill all Government expectations and requirements.
- Working with the Department and Deputy PBAC Chair to actively identify and manage the consideration of conflicts of interest.
- Work with the Deputy PBAC Chair, to lead the PBAC in ways which foster a culture of integrity, accountability, and transparency, and ensure that the actions of the committee are aligned to its purpose.
- Together with the Deputy Chair, uphold committee governance and best practices by supporting members and maintaining consistent communication with the Department.

Governance

As the Chair PBAC, I will act to ensure the PBAC recognises and works in line with all statutory rules specified in the *National Health Act 1953* and the National Health (Pharmaceutical Benefits) Regulations 2017. I will work with independence and integrity and apply my leadership skills and clinical expertise to all aspects of my work as the PBAC Chair.

Priorities on behalf of PBAC

- To contribute to activities which ensure eligible Australians are provided with reliable, timely, and affordable access to high quality, cost effective, innovative

and clinically effective medicines by subsidising their cost through the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS). This goal is identified in the objective of Outcome 2.3 - Pharmaceutical Benefits Program in Health's Portfolio Budget Statements.

- To support the National Medicines Policy (NMP), its aims, principles and commitment to person-centred care. This includes encouraging dialogue and emphasising the importance of co-operation, collaboration and respect amongst all NMP partners.
- To foster collaboration with other advisory committees to ensure the Minister for Health and Aged Care has access to holistic advice.
- To work with the Health Technology Assessment Implementation Advisory Group, in partnership with the Department, health consumers, health professionals, industry and governments, to improve the HTA system and the access to medicines for all Australians.
- To build and maintain community understanding, confidence, and trust in the PBAC through effective communication to all stakeholders.
- To represent the PBAC in international health technology assessment forums and other national and international events, thereby ensuring the exchange of the knowledge regarding the global dimensions of medicines policy.