

Pharmaceutical Services Federal Committee of Inquiry – Operations

What will the measure do?

The Government will establish the Pharmaceutical Services Federal Committee of Inquiry (the Committee) under the *National Health Act 1953* (the Act).

The role of the Committee is to inquire into, and report on, matters relating to the services or conduct of approved pharmacists' supply of pharmaceutical benefits. This includes inquiries into alleged instances of misconduct of approved pharmacists, including cases where approved pharmacists may be claiming supplies made from non-approved pharmacy premises.

The Act allows for the Committee to investigate suspected misconduct by pharmacists approved under Section 90 of the Act. Following an investigation, the Committee is required to provide a report to either the Minister or the Secretary on its findings. The Government is allocating the necessary resources to support the administration and operation of the Committee, given Pharmacy Location Rules will be continuing as part of the Sixth Community Pharmacy Agreement (6CPA).

What is the impact?

After considering a report from this Committee, the Minister may impose a number of compliance measures which can include reprimanding the approved pharmacist, or suspending or revoking their approval. This is in addition to any recovery of monies by the Department of Human Services of inappropriately claimed benefits.