

## Promoting Innovative Pharmacy through Trialling New Pharmacy Programmes and Services

### What will the measure do?

The measure will support investment of up to \$50 million for a Pharmacy Trial Programme (PTP), which will explore services and programmes which seek to expand the role of pharmacists as part of the primary healthcare team in the delivery of a range of services that improve outcomes for consumers. This may include services that support screening and early intervention, improved medication adherence and compliance, as well as a range of services that support health checks and minor ailments management through pharmacy.

In determining priorities for the PTP and the trials to be undertaken, there will be extensive consultation with the Pharmacy Guild and a range of stakeholders and bodies as required.

A particular focus of the PTP will be on programmes and services that support consumers in rural and remote areas of Australia, as well as particular population groups such as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. It is expected that trials will seek to integrate (not duplicate) other areas of investment in the health sector, including eHealth and Primary Healthcare Networks.

Trials will be determined following wide consultation with stakeholders across pharmacy, consumers and other health professional groups, and will be assessed by an independent health technology group, such as the Medical Services Advisory Committee (MSAC), to be determined by the Minister to inform decisions around future investment (refer to the fact sheet *Cost-Effectiveness Assessment of Pharmacy Programmes and Services*). As part of the Sixth Community Pharmacy Agreement (6CPA), funding of up to \$600 million has been set aside to invest in new programmes or services which are recommended following this assessment, and deliver clinical and cost-effective outcomes to the community.

### What is the impact?

This measure will fund a number of trials that seek to expand programmes and services delivered by pharmacy, as an accessible healthcare point. This will include a range of programmes which support quality use of medicines for all consumers, as well as services which seek to integrate pharmacy as part of the primary healthcare team.

In supporting any future investment, the measure will also ensure all programmes and services going forward are clinically and cost effective to the benefit of patients. Specifically the proposal creates a mechanism for the trial of new programmes and services, which will be tested and evaluated for cost-effectiveness in the first two to three years of the 6CPA.