

**Streamlined Pathways Sub-group  
August 2018 to May 2019  
Communique**

The Access to Medicines Working Group (AMWG) Streamlined Pathways Sub-group (SPS) continued to meet regularly throughout 2018 to focus on the work identified under Clause 10.3 of the Strategic Agreement between the Australian Government and Medicines Australia (2017). Regular attendees of the Sub-group included Industry representatives, Medicines Australia (MA) and the Department of Health (the Department).

In August 2018, the Minister for Health agreed to broad consultation on the revised pathways framework and a staged implementation approach. The SPS met twice in August 2018. Both meetings focused on the broader consultation approach in preparation for targeted information forums in Melbourne and Sydney in late-September 2018 hosted by the Department in collaboration with MA. These forums provided an overview of the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) process improvements and implementation approach.

The SPS met twice in September and once in October 2018. These meetings focused on the development of post-Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee (PBAC) positive recommendation pathways. During this time, the group also considered feedback from the September 2018 information sessions and commenced discussions on establishment of a consumer Medicine Status Website. The group also met (in a joint meeting with the PBS Transparency and Efficiencies Subgroup) to discuss associated cost recovery amendments.

The SPS met twice in November 2018. Both meetings focused on preparation of advice to the Minister on consultation outcomes and further development. The group also agreed that consultation with the Consumer Consultative Committee and other patient organisations more broadly was required to support the development of a Medicine Status Website.

The SPS met once in January and twice in February and March 2019. These meetings focused on development of revised Procedure Guidance and forms to support implementation of Stage 1 PBS process improvements and associated cost recovery arrangements from 1 July 2019. The group also further developed details around positive recommendation pathways and the Medicine Status Website in preparation for March 2019 consultation.

In March 2019, the AMWG informed the Minister that consultations occurred from September to November 2018 and further development work had occurred. A further update will be provided to the Minister in mid-2019. In March and April 2019, the Department hosted webinars on Intent to Apply, Pre-submission and Positive Recommendation Pathways followed by a two week consultation period to seek public feedback on draft Procedure Guidance and forms. All feedback received has been carefully considered.

Both the Department and Medicines Australia are committed to monitoring and measuring relevant metrics and outcomes over the next 12 months to ensure alignment with the Strategic Agreement commitments.

The SPS group did not meet in April 2019 during the 2019 election caretaker period. The SPS reconvened on 31 May 2019.