

Access to Medicines Working Group – Streamlined Pathways Subgroup
July 2020 – December 2020
Communique

The Streamlined Pathway Subgroup met twice during the second half of 2020. Attendees include representatives from Medicines Australia (MA), industry and the Department of Health (the department). AMWG-SPS members continue to work collaboratively to implement the commitments under clause 10.3 of the Strategic Agreement.

Members discussed ongoing evaluation of Stage 1 PBS process improvements, reducing the time from PBAC recommendation to listing by an average of 2 months, and published the first set of Stage 1 metrics in August 2020.

Members focused on working towards an implementation of Stage 2 PBS process improvements from 1 January 2021 pending Government approval. This included the development of Stage 2 metrics to monitor Stage 2 improvements post implementation, targeting a 50% reduction in the number of resubmissions to the PBAC.

In September 2020, a public consultation webinar on proposed Stage 2 PBS process improvements and cost recovery arrangements was held. In December 2020, an information forum was held to provide additional information for the transition to Stage 2 process improvements implementation from 1 January 2020.

Government approval for implementation of Stage 2 PBS process improvements from 1 January 2021 was provided through the 2020-21 Budget Measure in October 2020.

The AMWG-SPS will continue to meet throughout 2021 as needed.