

**Access to Medicines Working Group – Streamlined Pathways Subgroup**  
**June 2019 – June 2020**  
**Communique**

Over the last 12 months from June 2019, the Access to Medicines Working Group - Streamlined Pathways Subgroup (AMWG-SPS) met 13 times. 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.

During this period, members agreed on a data collection and evaluation strategy to monitor the implementation of Stage 1 PBS process improvements. The department and MA will both collect data and report progress against the metrics to the Joint Oversight Committee.

Industry members welcomed the availability of pre-submission meetings throughout all 17 weeks of the PBAC cycle. With Stage 1 PBS process improvements coming into effect 1 July 2019, members turned their focus to further develop and refine processes to support proposed Stage 2 improvements.

To date, discussions have centred on the revised initial submission categories (including moving to a single submission date); introduction of resubmission pathways; and other transparency process improvements such as the Standardised Redaction of Public Summary Documents.

Members extensively discussed the process for applicants that wish to seek immediate reconsideration of a recommended PBAC outcome. It was agreed that data will be collected, through the notice of intent for pricing form, to monitor the potential impact of recommended outcomes not being eligible for immediate PBAC reconsideration for 12 months post implementation.

In November 2019, a public consultation webinar on the proposed Stage 2 PBS Process Improvements was held. Feedback from this webinar informed AMWG-SPS discussions on how best to implement proposed Stage 2 updates to the Procedure Guidance.

The implementation approach to the consumer focused Medicine Status Website was endorsed by the AMWG-SPS and launched in February 2020. Members were also consulted on the development of the Health Product Portal (launched late 2019).

Members received regular updates on developments relating to the associated cost recovery changes to support the PBS process improvements. In April 2020, it was noted the COVID-19 pandemic has affected implementation of Stage 2 PBS process improvements and supporting cost recovery arrangements so improvements (initially planned for introduction from 1 July 2020) will be implemented following government approval.

Members noted that Stage 2 development has finished and that the focus will now be on implementation, pending government agreement.

The AMWG-SPS will continue to meet throughout 2020 as needed.