

OTHER MATTERS CONSIDERED BY THE PBAC

Matters relating to: ‘The Standardised Redaction of Public Summary Documents’

The PBAC noted that the Strategic Agreement between the Australian Government and Medicines Australia commits that *‘During the Term, the Commonwealth and Medicines Australia will work to improve the efficiency, transparency [emphasis added] and timeliness of the PBS listing processes...’* and considered that it was timely to revisit the redaction process for Public Summary Documents (PSDs). The PBAC confirmed that it is committed to its decision-making deliberations being as transparent as possible and reiterated its preference that PSDs should not have any redactions, but noted that there are a number of sensitivities to be considered and resolved.

In particular the PBAC considered that information about the clinical data considered by the Committee should be included in the public summaries of its considerations as it is important to provide reason to the PBAC’s advice. The PBAC also considered that there is a public interest in the PBAC’s view of each medicine being available. The PBAC further noted that the current ranges for economic and financial figures, which are substituted for specific values in PSDs, are based on broad parameters developed 10 years ago and are now outdated such that they are longer informative and can be misleading. The PBAC provided advice on ranges for economic and financial figures that it considered would be fit for purpose in the contemporary context.

The PBAC indicated its preference for greater transparency to be introduced in PSDs from the November 2019 PBAC meeting, but noted further consultation with the pharmaceutical industry is needed to understand and work through commercial-in-confidence issues and sensitivities. The PBAC asked the Department to have further discussions with the pharmaceutical industry.