

## Summary of Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme

**2015-2016**

Total Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) government expenditure (both Section 85 and Section 100) on an accrual accounting basis for the 2015-2016 financial year was **\$10,838.0 million**, compared with \$9,072.1 million for the previous year. This is an increase of **19.5%**.

The majority of the Expenditure and Prescriptions Report and the remainder of this summary refer to PBS Section 85 data reported on a cash accounting basis by date of processing.

Total PBS prescription volumes decreased by 1.9% to a total of 208.0 million for 2015-16, compared to 212.1 million for the previous year.

Government expenditure amounted to **\$7,964.9 million** which was **85.1%** of the total cost of PBS prescriptions. The remainder was patient contributions that amounted to **\$1,394.2 million**, down from \$1,465.9 million in the previous twelve-month period.

The majority of government expenditure on PBS prescriptions was directed towards concessional cardholders (**\$6,044.8 million, 75.9% of the total**). This is compared to concessional expenditure of \$5,503.9 million in the previous period (77.4% of the total).

The average dispensed price per prescription of PBS medicines **increased** to **\$45.00** for 2015-16 (\$40.45 for the previous financial year). The average government cost of these scripts was **\$38.29** for the same period (\$33.54 for 2014-15).

The three drugs with the highest cost to government were **Ledipasvir + Sofosbuvir (\$357.9 million)**, **Adalimumab (\$334.7 million)** and **Ranibizumab (\$217.8 million)**. The PBS drugs most frequently dispensed were **Atorvastatin**, followed by **Esomeprazole** and then **Rosuvastatin**. See Table 10(b) for details.

*Note that there may be minor differences in data reported in this publication compared to previous editions of Expenditure and Prescriptions. This is because of a different treatment of Closing the Gap prescriptions, and the receipt of some late adjustments to claims from pharmacies due to the new streamlined claiming process.*