

Frequently Asked Questions

NDSS Request for Proposal Process

Why is the Government conducting the Request for Proposal process and what is it going to achieve?

The Government further foreshadowed changes to the NDSS in the 2015-16 Mid-Year Economic and Fiscal Outlook, which announced that the Government will achieve further efficiencies through the sourcing and purchasing of selected products on the NDSS. Currently, the Scheme costs the Government approximately \$245 million per annum to administer.

Through this process, the Department is seeking a broad national approach to supply of NDSS products and to deliver savings through bulk product sourcing and purchasing, while maintaining the integrity and sustainability of the NDSS.

Will I still have access to products that will enable me to effectively self-manage my diabetes?

The Government remains committed to supporting people with diabetes through providing a range of products and service through the NDSS. Throughout this Request for Proposal, the Department remains committed to ensuring that a range of clinically effective products is available to NDSS registrants to effectively self-manage their diabetes.

Why were the three product categories (blood glucose test strips, syringes and urinary ketone test strips) chosen for this Request for Proposal process?

Products within these three categories were identified as non-proprietary and/or were not specifically linked to particular brands of insulin or insulin pumps.

Will my specific product be affected by these changes?

Depending on the outcomes of the Request for Proposal process, there is the possibility that specific products will no longer be subsidised through the NDSS. However, the Department is committed to ensuring that a sufficiently diverse range of products are available to NDSS registrants so that they can continue to effectively self-manage their diabetes.

Will I have to switch products as a result of this Request for Proposal process?

Depending on the outcomes of the Request for Proposal process, there is the possibility that specific products will no longer be subsidised through the NDSS. The Department will be working with key stakeholder groups during the transition period prior to 1 July 2018 to ensure that NDSS registrants are provided the support they require to switch to alternative products if required.

Is limiting product choice on the NDSS Product Schedule one of the objectives of the Request for Proposal process?

It is not the Department's intention to limit a NDSS registrant's choice of products listed on the NDSS Product Schedule. Any possible changes to the list of products in these NDSS product categories (blood glucose test strips, syringes and urine ketone test strips) available after 1 July 2018 will depend on the outcomes of the Request for Proposal process.

Will I have to pay more for my NDSS Products in the future?

The Department reviews the amounts that registrants contribute towards the cost of NDSS Products on a regular basis to ensure the sustainability of the NDSS and ensure that all NDSS registrants can continue to have timely and affordable access to NDSS Products. This may mean your registrant contribution amount will change over time.

This Request for Proposal process will not affect the way the Department reviews the registrant contribution for NDSS Products.