

Seventh Community Pharmacy Agreement
Pharmacy Stakeholder Consultation Committee Communique,
16 November 2022

The fifth meeting of the Seventh Community Pharmacy Agreement (7CPA) Pharmacy Stakeholder Consultation Committee (PSCC) was held on 16 November 2022.

Key Discussion

Representatives discussed funding for Community Pharmacy Programs under the 7CPA and agreed to continue discussions on ways to address funding pressures.

Representatives discussed Government's consideration of pharmacy as part of the broader health workforce.

Representatives discussed the summary of identified implementation activities to be undertaken under the 7CPA. Representative noted the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia's continuing work on update of the Pharmacy Professional Practice Standards, expiry of the Closing the Gap PBS Co-payment measure grace period on 30 June 2022 and activities around improving patient access to Consumer Medicines Information.

Representatives discussed progress on the development of proposed program rule changes for certain Community Pharmacy Programs. Representatives also discussed a proposal aimed at better visibility of the uptake of Community Pharmacy Programs amongst First Nations people.

Representatives noted the Second Report on Key Performance Measures for the 7CPA, which presents new information relating to progress and delivery of 7CPA programs and related activities for the period 1 January – 30 June 2020. This report will be published on the PBS website at: www.pbs.gov.au/info/general/key-performance-measures-for-the-seventh-community-pharmacy.

Representatives noted an update from the Pharmacy Guild of Australia relating to medicines pricing information for consumers, available from: www.findapharmacy.com.au/pbs-pricing. Representatives noted that a key issue for consumers is knowing the price of their medicines prior to being dispensed.

Representatives noted an update from the Consumers Health Forum of Australia regarding work in relation to Quality Use of Medicines, noting that funding for this work will cease with the closure of the National Prescribing Service. Representatives also received updated advice regarding the upgraded National Diabetes Services Scheme (NDSS) Connect Portal for use by NDSS Access Points and community pharmacies.

Representatives noted the upcoming closure of the Australian Association of Consultant Pharmacy in early 2023 and discussed the future of pharmacist accreditation with respect to community Pharmacy Programs, with the Department noting it is working to ensure that appropriate changes are made to the Pharmacy Programs Portal. The Department agreed to continue discussions regarding pharmacist re-accreditation.

The PSCC intends to meet again in May 2023.

Background

The PSCC is one of two 7CPA consultation committees and has been established as a mechanism intended to facilitate broad engagement between parties interested in the operation and development of the elements of the pharmacy sector funded by the Commonwealth, including community pharmacy programs.

The PSCC has representation from the Australian Government Department of Health and Aged Care, the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia, the Pharmacy Guild of Australia, Consumers Health Forum of Australia and the National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation.

The meeting was chaired by Ms Elsy Brammesan, Acting Assistant Secretary, Pharmacy Branch, Department of Health and Aged Care.

Further information regarding the 7CPA is available at:

www.pbs.gov.au/info/general/seventh-community-pharmacy-agreement