



# Health Technology Assessment Policy and Methods Review Reference Committee

## Communique – 1 December 2022 and 19 December 2022 meetings

### 1 December 2022 meeting

The first meeting of the Health Technology Assessment (HTA) Policy and Methods Review (Review) Reference Committee (Committee) was held by video conference on 1 December 2022.

All Committee members attended (see note at end) as well as support staff from the Review Secretariat in the Department of Health and Aged Care (Department).

### What did the Committee discuss?

#### Functions of the Committee

The Chair reminded the Committee members of its role which is to:

- Agree the terms of reference for the HTA Review
- Agree the expert in HTA to undertake an analysis of current methods used by the Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee (PBAC), contemporary research and relevant methodologies and purchasing practices used by comparable jurisdictions
- Oversee public consultations and considering submissions to the HTA Review
- Oversee the analysis undertaken by the expert in HTA
- Prepare and agree the final review report and recommendations.

#### Probity

The probity adviser, contracted by the Department to advise the Committee throughout the HTA Review, briefed the Committee on probity. This included principles and processes such as managing any conflicts of interest and agreeing how the Committee communicates externally during the HTA Review. The Committee endorsed the draft probity plan.

#### Communication

Two key points for stakeholders to note from the probity plan are:

1. Communiques (like this one) will be a key tool for staying up to date with the HTA Review. At the end of each meeting the Reference Committee will agree on content for a communique to be published on the Department's website.
2. In general, any approaches to Reference Committee members from stakeholders should be referred to the Review Secretariat for formal receipt and management. This is to support good record keeping, ensuring complete consideration of sources of input to the Committee, as well as to protect the Committee and its members from

unnecessary impositions on their time. The Reference Committee Chair may sometimes authorise or recommend that Committee members engage with two or more stakeholders at once.

## **Expert in HTA**

The Review Secretariat advised the Committee that there had been a request for tender for an expert in HTA to support the HTA Review in early 2022 and that the Department had evaluated the tenders received in accordance with the Commonwealth Procurement Rules. The Committee wanted to ensure that the process had included criteria that it thought would be important, such as understanding of HTA in Australia and comparable international jurisdictions; technical capacity and HTA experience in government and industry; multidisciplinary expertise; understanding of diversity of the Australian health system and existing bias and conflict of interests. The Review Secretariat was confident that these criteria aligned with those used to evaluate the tenders and offered to prepare a document setting this out for the Committee. The Review Secretariat agreed to circulate a summary of the HTA expert tender evaluation process prior to the next meeting to enable the Committee to conduct most of its consideration on the selection of the HTA expert out of session.

## **Terms of Reference**

The Committee discussed timeframes for developing the terms of reference for consultation with key stakeholders. The Committee agreed that it would be helpful to circulate a draft terms of reference discussion paper to the Committee prior to its next meeting to assist discussions about the terms of reference.

## **19 December 2022 meeting**

The Committee held its second meeting by video conference on 19 December 2022.

## **What did the Committee discuss?**

### **Terms of Reference**

The Committee considered a discussion paper for the terms of reference prepared by the Department. The Committee agreed that it could form the basis of the draft terms of reference for consultation with edits. The Committee discussed making a number of changes to the document including strengthening the emphasis on patient-centredness and clarifying the types of health technologies proposed to be in scope for the HTA Review. The Committee agreed to finalise these changes and in turn, the terms of reference for consultation after the meeting.

The Committee noted that the terms of reference would need to be finalised early in 2023 to ensure timely commencement of the HTA Review. The Committee discussed the possibility of an open consultation on the draft terms of reference, noting that this approach would require a sufficiently long consultation period which may not be feasible within the timeframe for the HTA Review. The Committee agreed to seek feedback from the following stakeholders.

| <b>Stakeholder group</b>          | <b>Organisation / representative group</b>  |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| <b>Medicines industry</b>         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Medicines Australia</li></ul>   |
| <b>Government advisory groups</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (ATAGI)</li></ul> |

| Stakeholder group  | Organisation / representative group   |
|--|---|
|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Life Saving Drugs Program Expert Panel (LSDPEP)</li> <li>Medical Services Advisory Committee (MSAC)</li> <li>Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee (PBAC)</li> </ul>  |
| <b>Patient and consumer representative organisations</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Allergy &amp; Anaphylaxis Australia</li> <li>Asthma Australia</li> <li>Australian Patient Advocacy Alliance</li> <li>Bowel Cancer Australia</li> <li>Breast Cancer Network</li> <li>Cancer Council</li> <li>Consumers Health Forum of Australia (CHF)</li> <li>Creaky Joints Australia</li> <li>Crohn's and Colitis Australia</li> <li>Cystic Fibrosis Australia</li> <li>Diabetes Australia</li> <li>Eczema Support Australia</li> <li>Haemophilia Foundation Australia</li> <li>The Leukaemia Foundation</li> <li>Lung Foundation of Australia</li> <li>Lymphoma Australia</li> <li>Melanoma Patients Australia</li> <li>Migraine Australia</li> <li>Musculoskeletal Australia</li> <li>MS Australia</li> <li>Myeloma Australia</li> <li>Ovarian Cancer Australia</li> <li>Pain Australia</li> <li>Patient Voice Initiative</li> <li>PRIMCAT Consumer Panel</li> <li>Prostate cancer Foundation of Australia</li> <li>Rare Cancers Australia</li> <li>Rare Voices Australia</li> </ul> |
| <b>Peak body – First Nations</b>                         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation</li> </ul>  |
| <b>Statutory authority</b>                               | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>National Blood Authority</li> </ul>  |
| <b>Government</b>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Minister for Health and Aged Care</li> </ul>   |
| <b>Commonwealth central agencies</b>                     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Department of Finance</li> <li>Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet</li> </ul>   |

| Stakeholder group             | Organisation / representative group  |
|-------------------------------|--|
|                               | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Treasury</li> <li>• Department of Health and Aged Care</li> </ul> |
| <b>States and territories</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Relevant state/territory departments</li> </ul>                       |

## Expert in HTA

The Committee considered a summary of the tender evaluation process for the expert in HTA prepared by the Department, which included detail about the process as well as evaluation criteria, technical scores, risks and value for money ranking of the tenderers.

The Committee expressed its view on the HTA expert noting the outcomes of the tender evaluation process.

## Who is the Reference Committee?

- Independent Chair: Adjunct Professor Debora Picone AO
- Patient Representatives: Ms Ann Single and Dr Dawn Casey PSM
- Chair of the Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee (PBAC): Professor Andrew Wilson
- Clinical/Scientific Representative: Professor Andrew Roberts AM
- Member nominated by Medicines Australia: Mr John Young
- Government Nominee: Ms Adriana Platona PSM

## Where can I find out more about the HTA Review?

[Health Technology Assessment Policy and Methods Review](#)