



Health Technology Assessment Policy and Methods Review Reference Committee

Communique – 14 March 2023 meeting

The Health Technology Assessment (HTA) Policy and Methods Review (Review) Reference Committee (Committee) met by video conference on 14 March 2023.

All Committee members attended as well as support staff from the Review Secretariat in the Department of Health and Aged Care (Department) and the probity adviser. The Committee welcomed Ms Elizabeth de Somer to the Committee as the new member nominated by Medicines Australia, following Mr John Young's resignation from the Committee to take up a position on the Novartis Board.

What did the Committee discuss?

HTA Review Work Plan discussion

The Committee considered a draft, detailed Work Plan for the HTA Review and schedule of key deliverables including those set out in the Commonwealth's Strategic Agreement with Medicines Australia, proposed meeting dates, and risks and mitigation strategies.

The Committee discussed the expected timeframes for review activities and milestones. The Committee agreed that the papers prepared by the HTA expert and Department for consideration by the Committee should be published on the Department's website where possible to facilitate stakeholder consultation. The Committee requested that the Department discuss with the HTA expert, the impact that preparation of publication versions of papers will have on timelines and that the Work Plan be revised based on this discussion. The Committee agreed to work towards finalising the Work Plan at its next Committee meeting.

The Committee agreed to the publication of a summary of the Work Plan on the Department of Health and Aged Care website and considered that some pictorial resources would be helpful.

HTA Review Consultation Plan discussion

The Committee considered a draft Consultation Plan setting out approaches to consultation, timeframes for consultation, acknowledging the timeframe constraints, and consultation related key milestones as well as probing questions for consultation. The Committee agreed to provide opportunities for stakeholders to provide input through various different forums (i.e. written submissions and virtual forums). The Committee also considered it was important to have face-to-face consultation forums and agreed that the Consultation Plan should include this option.