



MBS Review Advisory Committee

Communique – March 2023

The Medicare Benefits Schedule (MBS) Review Advisory Committee (MRAC) supports the MBS Continuous Review to ensure the MBS is contemporary, sustainable, evidence based, and supports universal access to high value care for all Australians.

The MRAC meets quarterly, and most recently met on the land of the Wurundjeri people on 1 March 2023.

Current MRAC membership

The MRAC is comprised of practising clinicians, academics, health system experts and consumers. Its Terms of Reference are available on the Department of Health and Aged Care [MRAC webpage](#).

Member	Specialty
Conjoint Professor Anne Duggan (Chair)	Policy and Clinical Adviser/Gastroenterology
Ms Jo Watson (Deputy Chair)	Consumer Representative
Dr Jason Agostino	General Practice / Epidemiology / Indigenous Health
Dr Matt Andrews	Radiology
Professor John Atherton	Cardiology
Professor Wendy Brown	General Surgeon – Upper Gastrointestinal and Bariatric Surgery
Professor Adam Elshaug	Health Services/Systems Research
Ms Margaret Foulds	Psychology
Associate Professor Sally Green	Health Services / Systems Research
Dr Chris Helms	Nurse Practitioner
Professor Harriet Hiscock	Paediatrics
Professor Anthony Lawler	Health Services Administration / Emergency Medicine

Member	Specialty
Ms Alison Marcus	Consumer Representative
Associate Professor Elizabeth Marles	General Practice / Indigenous Health
Dr Sue Masel	Rural General Practice
Professor Christobel Saunders	General Surgeon – Breast Cancer and Reconstructive Surgery
Associate Professor Ken Sikaris	Pathology
Ms Robyn Stephen	Paediatric Speech Pathology
Associate Professor Angus Turner	Ophthalmology / Rural and Remote Medicine
Professor Christopher Vertullo	Orthopaedic Surgery
Department of Health and Aged Care Adviser	
Associate Professor Andrew Singer	Principal Medical Adviser

MRAC Reviews

MRAC working groups may be established to conduct reviews and typically consist of a subset of MRAC members and external subject matter experts as required.

Findings and recommendations from MRAC working groups are subject to extensive consultation processes prior to MRAC consideration, finalisation and submission to Government.

MRAC meeting 6 – 1 March 2023

The committee was briefed on the progress of current reviews

Colonoscopy Post Implementation Review

The Colonoscopy Working Group was established to conduct a post implementation review of November 2019 colonoscopy item changes as recommended by the MBS Review Taskforce.

The Department of Health and Aged Care referred this post implementation review to the MRAC following an initial review of data, and feedback from the sector.

The first meeting of the Colonoscopy Working Group was held on 3 February 2023, with further meetings scheduled to be held in March and April 2023.

Vascular Interventional Radiology Services

The Vascular Interventional Radiology Working Group was established in February 2023 to conduct a review of vascular interventional radiology services following MRAC endorsement on 5 August 2022.

The review was initiated by the Department of Health and Aged Care, following the MBS Review Taskforce's review of vascular services and further consultation with the sector.

The first meeting of the Vascular Interventional Radiology Working Group (VIRWG) is scheduled to take place in March 2023.

The committee progressed a post implementation review of Telehealth services

Following a formal request from the Minister for Health and Aged Care, the committee commenced monitoring of MBS telehealth services in 2022, and formally commenced a post implementation review of these services at its meeting on 1 March 2023.

The committee will continue its review of MBS telehealth services at its upcoming meeting in May 2023.

The committee commenced a post implementation review of Electrocardiogram (ECG) services

The MRAC agreed to establish a working group to lead a post implementation review of 1 August 2020 changes to MBS ECG items, as directed by the former Minister for Health.

The first meeting of the working group is expected to be held in April 2023.