



Health Technology Assessment Policy and Methods Review Reference Committee

Communique – 14 April 2023 meeting

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

Support staff from the Review Secretariat in the Department of Health and Aged Care (Department) and the probity adviser attended.

What did the Committee discuss?

Meeting with the HTA Expert

The Committee held an introductory meeting with the HTA expert to discuss work to be undertaken to support the HTA Review. The Committee raised that when looking at HTA approaches used in other countries, it would be important that differences in the operation of health systems, and lessons learnt in those countries from particular reforms, are taken into account. The Committee actively engaged the HTA expert to be both reflective of existing methods and forward looking to meet the challenges of new technological advances. The HTA expert and Committee discussed how they would work with each other and communication channels. The Committee invited the HTA expert to attend future Committee meetings as required, to seek clarification on any work being undertaken by the HTA expert.

Update on progress of research and analysis procurements

The Committee noted that arrangements to engage the HTA expert are still in progress and once finalised, the HTA expert will be announced via official communication channels along with information about the work to be undertaken.

Invitations to participate in the Association of Regulatory and Clinical Scientists Conference and Health Technology Assessment International Annual meeting

The Committee noted that some of its members had received invitations to participate in the Association of Regulatory and Clinical Scientists (ARCS) Conference and to hold a session at the Health Technology Assessment International (HTAi) Annual Meeting during June 2023. Several members indicated they were participating in the ARCS Conference and HTAi Annual Meeting. It was agreed these conferences were useful opportunities to provide an update on the progress of the HTA Review and hear discussion and ideas from the regulatory, clinical scientific and patient communities.

Focused discussion of issues

The Committee held a discussion on key issues and ideas likely to arise during the HTA Review. The Committee considered policy discussions useful to understand complexities within HTA and agreed to hold further discussions in this area at future meetings. The Committee decided that briefings from experts directly involved in health technology assessments may be insightful to understand HTA-related issues.