



# Health Technology Assessment Policy and Methods Review Reference Committee

## Communique – 14 September 2023 meeting

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

Representatives from the Centre for Research Excellence in Medicines Intelligence (MI-CRE) presented and discussed outcomes of some of their work for the Review. Support staff from the Review Secretariat in the Department of Health and Aged Care (Department) attended.

### What did the Committee discuss?

#### **Initial presentation of paper on *Options for optimising availability and use of ‘real world evidence’ to support HTA decision-making throughout the lifecycle of health technologies in Australia* by MI-CRE**

The paper leads at MI-CRE gave a brief presentation to the Committee on the progress of their research paper. The paper presented a range of scenarios where Real-World Data (RWD) may be of value to various applications within HTA. The paper leads at MI-CRE reflected that there is no widely agreed “best practice” approach and no universally accepted definition of RWD or Real-World Evidence (RWE).

The Committee heard about the proposed approach for presenting the information within the paper including details of a proposed “roadmap” for optimising availability and use of RWD, based on partnerships, trust, data and methods (including steps to maximise these underpinning principles). The Committee requested further analysis and details to be included in the paper relating to how to maximise the quality of RWD and RWE that directly addresses the questions that HTA is seeking to answer.

With regard to patient recorded data, there was extensive discussion on challenges of getting a broader accumulation of patient experience information to draw reliable evidence. The Committee suggested that MI-CRE consider identifying some short-term gains in addition to the longer-term “roadmap”. The Committee was supportive of the direction being proposed by MI-CRE. It noted the importance of clarifying how the “rules” for public sector and private sector holders and users of RWD work; and how they can be made to work together to support managed flows of information.

## **Issues and Options for Reform relating to the paper on Optimising the availability and use of RWD and production of RWE to support HTA decision-making throughout the lifecycle of health technologies in Australia**

The Committee had a discussion on its initial thinking for issues and opportunities relating to RWD and RWE for HTA applications. The Committee discussed that there is likely room for additional use of RWE and RWD for HTA applications, and it would be beneficial for guidance to be produced on approaches where it is going to be used, especially in connection with quality. The Committee spoke about how this area is rapidly evolving so guidance is likely to need a mechanism to ensure it is flexible and able to be regularly reviewed and updated.

The Committee discussed limitations of the current available data and the need to invest in curating or developing this type of data. The Committee noted that data standardisation represents an opportunity to improve the quality and usability of RWD as does the common data model proposed in the MI-CRE research, however there would need to be consideration of the impact these initiatives would have on resourcing.

There was extensive discussion around data governance issues and recognition of the potential barriers. The Committee agreed that there is a need to consider both shorter-term and longer-term changes required in this area.

### **Other business**

The Committee discussed potential topics of consultation to schedule with stakeholders ahead of the options paper draft.

### **Meeting close and next meeting**

The Committee noted that there are two meetings to be held in the following week with the next meeting to be held on 19 September 2023.