



Health Technology Assessment Policy and Methods Review Reference Committee

Communique – 18 August 2023 meeting

The Health Technology Assessment (HTA) Policy and Methods Review (Review) Reference Committee (Committee) met by videoconference on 18 August 2023.

Representatives from all Australian State and Territory Health Departments (or equivalent) and from the Council of Australian Therapeutic Advisory Groups (CATAG) were invited to speak with the Committee regarding issues and opportunities relating to Commonwealth HTA policy and methods from the perspectives of State and Territory Governments, particularly the intersection with public hospitals and health services. Support staff from the Review Secretariat in the Department of Health and Aged Care (Department) attended.

What did the Committee discuss?

Issues and Opportunities relating to HTA from the States' and Territories' perspectives

The Committee heard priorities put forward by State, Territory, and CATAG representatives regarding key issues for consideration within the HTA Review. A range of matters were discussed, particularly regarding optimising national collaboration and cohesion in the assessment and funding of health technologies to improve clarity and consistency, reduce duplication of effort, and optimise timely, equitable and sustainable access to affordable health technologies. Potential opportunities discussed included consideration of different governance models, alignment and streamlining of HTA processes and methods, long-term funding sustainability, horizon scanning and system preparedness, and improvement in communications and information-sharing, particularly in regards HTA decision-making.

The strengths of Australia's current healthcare and HTA systems were acknowledged by all present, along with a strong appetite for collaboration to improve national cohesion. The Committee acknowledged potential opportunities relating to transparency, communications, national priority setting, consistency and connectivity in processes and pathways.

The Committee thanked the States and Territories representatives for their collaborative approach to the discussion and looked forward to working with them further through the Review.

International Collaboration Deep-dive: Consideration of potential options

The Committee considered further details regarding potential options around international collaboration and work-sharing, initially discussed at their 14 July meeting. The Committee discussed options relating to participating in international collaboration on horizon scanning, development of standardised best-practice methods for HTA, and possible work-sharing, including possible linkages into the work of the international HTA collaboration arrangement

between Australia, the UK and Canada (since this meeting this collaboration has expanded, details are available at [Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme \(PBS\) | International HTA collaboration expands](#)). The Committee to review and discuss potential options in this context at a subsequent meeting.

Other Business

The Committee discussed a number of administrative matters regarding the operation of the Committee.

Meeting close and next meeting

The Committee noted the next meeting will be held on 25 August 2023.