



# Health Technology Assessment Policy and Methods Review Reference Committee

## Communique – 21 December 2023 meeting

The Health Technology Assessment (HTA) Policy and Methods Review (Review) Reference Committee (Committee) met by video conference on 21 December 2023.

A representative from the People, Communication and Parliamentary Division within the Department of Health and Aged Care (Department) were invited to speak to the Committee. Support staff from the Review Secretariat in the Department and the probity advisor also attended.

### **What did the Committee discuss?**

#### **Follow up: Consideration of pathways options**

The Committee continued its discussion on options relating to funding pathways. The Committee noted the current state of funding, with an HTA Advisory Committee linked to its respective funding mechanism. The options discussed covered timeframes of highly specialised therapies (HST), horizon scanning to facilitate timely consideration and implementation of therapies by jurisdictions, the future remit of the Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee (PBAC), and consideration of future HTA pathways for health technology evaluation. The Committee discussed a review of the academic literature in the expert paper from Adelaide Health Technology Assessment (AHTA) on international health technology market approval, funding and assessment pathways that will inform the part on this topic in the Consultation 2 Options Paper. The Committee discussed whether aspects and timing of certain steps in the HTA pathway could potentially be changed to progress certain submissions more efficiently.

The Committee discussed factors which need to be addressed to potentially reduce the number of resubmissions and increase the number of submissions recommended by the HTA Committee at first-time consideration. As part of the discussion, the Committee noted some preliminary analyses of price negotiation dynamics informed by applications to the PBAC over the past two years. The Committee emphasised the importance of balancing incentives between Government and industry to achieve reduced timelines. The Committee discussed potential options around supporting effective HTA processes and streamlining price negotiation. The Committee recalled stakeholder feedback regarding the subsequent lengthened timelines of the submission process when price negotiation is not straightforward and noted the dynamic tension arising from pricing negotiation between health care payers, health care suppliers and patients.

## **Construction of Consultation 2: Questions for Stakeholders**

The Committee held a discussion on the approach and questions for Consultation 2, including the timeframe and opportunities for forums. The focus for the consultation is to test the options, specifically identifying any gaps or unintended consequences that need to be addressed. The Committee recognised the value and importance of feedback on the options to be presented to stakeholders, noting the diversity of stakeholders and the nature and level of their impact from HTA. The Committee discussed how best to ensure input was gathered in a form that enabled respondents to understand the options and provide input efficiently and enable the Reference Committee to take account of issues identified.

## **Meeting Close and next meeting**

The Committee noted the next meeting will be held on 19 January 2024.