

# MBS Review Advisory Committee

## Communique – Meeting 13

The Medicare Benefits Schedule (MBS) Review Advisory Committee (MRAC) is an independent, clinician and consumer-led, non-statutory committee established to advise government on publicly funded services listed on the MBS. The committee 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.

## MRAC Membership

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

The MRAC welcomed five new members at the 12 November meeting 2024. The new MRAC members are:

Professor Raghu Lingam – paediatrics

Professor Hylton Menz – podiatry

Dr Neil Meulman – general surgery

Dr Andrea Mosler – physiotherapy

Associate Professor Beverly Rowbotham - haematology

Information on current members can be found on the [MRAC webpage](#).

## MRAC Reviews

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

Findings and recommendations from MRAC working groups are subject to extensive consultation processes prior to MRAC consideration and finalisation. Following completion of a review, MRAC recommendations are submitted to Government for consideration.

Final reports from complete MRAC reviews are available on the [MRAC webpage](#).

## MRAC Meeting 13 Outcomes – 12 November 2024

The committee meets quarterly, and most recently met on 12 November 2024.

## Current reviews

### Review of Vascular Interventional Radiology items

The Vascular Interventional Radiology (VIR) Working Group was established to conduct a review of Vascular Interventional Radiology items. The Department referred this review to the committee following the MBS Review Taskforce review of vascular items, and further consultation with the sector.

The VIR Working Group has held seven meetings to date.

Consultation on a draft report is expected to take place in early 2025.

### Review of Long-acting Reversible Contraceptives

In June 2024, the Hon Mark Butler, Minister of Health, and Aged Care, formally requested the MRAC undertake a review of MBS items used for insertion and removal of long-acting reversible contraceptives (LARCs). This review is part of the Government's commitment to invest in Women's Health. Initial advice will be provided to Government by the end of 2024, with a second tranche of recommendations anticipated to follow in 2025.

The LARC Working Group are expected to meet in early 2025 to undertake the second phase of this review.

### Review of MBS time-tiered items for primary care

The Time-Tiered Working Group has been established to undertake the review of MBS time-tiered items for primary care. The review will consider issues such as item consistency, opportunities to streamline, and whether the current time-tiers to appropriately support contemporary clinical practice.

The working group has met on two occasions with the next meeting scheduled for early December 2024. Consultation on a Findings Report is expected to commence in 2025.

### Review of Allied Health Services accessible under MBS Chronic Disease Management Arrangements

The MRAC has commenced a review of allied health services accessible under MBS Chronic Disease Management Arrangements. The review will assess whether allied health chronic disease management items should be amended to better support management of chronic conditions for eligible patients. The review will consider the appropriateness of the number of individual allied health services per calendar year, amongst other matters.

The Allied Health Working Group (AHWG) has been established and held its first meeting on 20 November 2024. It is anticipated this review will take 18 months to complete, with targeted and public consultation processes to be undertaken.

A second meeting will be held early in 2025.

## Next meeting

The MRAC will meet next on 4 March 2025.