






Australian Government


Department of Health, Disability and Ageing

Medicare Benefits Schedule Review Advisory Committee (MRAC) – Member biographies

November 2024



Name	Details
<p>Conjoint Professor Anne Duggan (Chair)</p> 	<p>Professor Duggan is Chief Executive Officer of the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care, where she leads national improvements in the safety and quality of health care.</p> <p>Anne was previously the Commission's Chief Medical Officer while also working as a gastroenterologist. She has a strong background in providing leadership to clinicians and colleagues to improve patient care and embed clinical governance frameworks.</p>
<p>Ms Jo Watson (Deputy Chair)</p> 	<p>Ms Watson is the current Deputy Chair of the Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee (PBAC).</p> <p>She also brings her experience as Chair of the Health Technology Assessment Consumer Consultative Committee and Deputy Chair of the Consumer Health Forum Board, where she promotes consumer advocacy and representation within diverse health contexts.</p>
<p>Dr Jason Agostino</p> 	<p>Dr Jason Agostino is a general practitioner and an epidemiologist with a focus on the health of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. He is the senior medical advisor at the National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (NACCHO).</p> <p>Dr Agostino is also a research fellow at the Australian National University where he leads work on improving early detection and management of cardiovascular disease risk for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and leads medical school teaching on evidence-based medicine.</p> <p>He works clinically as a GP at Gurriny Yealamucka, an Aboriginal community-controlled health service in the community of Yarrabah in far north Queensland.</p>

Name	Details
<p>Professor John Atherton</p> 	<p>Professor John Atherton is a Pre-eminent Staff Specialist and Director of Cardiology at the Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital (RBWH); Professor, Faculty of Medicine, University of Queensland; Adjunct Professor, Faculty of Health, Queensland University of Technology; and an appointed member of the Australian Government Medical Services Advisory Committee.</p> <p>John was one of four non-European official content reviewers for the 2016 European Society of Cardiology Heart Failure Guidelines, chaired the 2018 National Heart Foundation of Australia/ Cardiac Society of Australia and New Zealand (CSANZ) Heart Failure Guidelines, and sits on the Therapeutic Guidelines Cardiovascular Expert Group.</p> <p>John recently co-authored the first universal definition of heart failure. He is Data Custodian for the Queensland Cardiac Outcomes Registry (QCOR)- Heart Failure and sits as a Director on the newly formed National Cardiac Registry Board. He co-developed the RBWH cardiac genetic clinic in collaboration with Genetic Health Queensland, which takes state-wide referrals.</p> <p>John is part of a Metro North Genomic Institute working group that is investigating the feasibility of mainstreaming genetic services into cardiology practice in four hospitals in Queensland. His clinical and research interests include investigating novel methods to detect pre-symptomatic heart disease, heart failure disease management and cardiac genetics.</p>

Ms Jan Donovan



Jan has participated in national policy forums at the strategic level for three decades, including through her eight years with COTA Australia.

Jan is a passionate advocate for addressing health equity and the social determinants of health with a focus on people with chronic illness and disability. She has a strong interest in access to primary health care, the national medicines policy, health literacy, mental health, aged care and indigenous health.

Jan has extensive experience in public policy, strategy and governance matters at board level, including as a member of:


- Consumers Health Forum Board (2014 – current)
- Board of the National Prescribing Service (NPS Medicines Wise) (1998-2007)
- Board of the Australian Primary Health Care Research Institute at ANU (2005-2009).



Jan's former roles as a health consumer representative include ministerial appointment to the National Medicines Policy Review Committee in 2021/22 and the Vision 2040 Strategic Advisory Committee, and as:



- Deputy Chair of the Health Technologies Assessment Consumer Consultative Committee
- member of the Drug Utilization Sub Committee of the PBAC
- member of the Evaluation Committee of Health Care Homes
- member of the Medicines Safety Committee for the Australian Digital Health Agency.


Jan currently chairs the Community Reference Council of the Turner Institute for Brain and Mental Health at Monash University and the Project Steering Committee for the NSW Government – Sponsored Clinical Trial: Management of Urinary Tract Infections by Community Pharmacists.


Jan is a member of the Australian Institute for Health and Welfares Primary Care Committee and participates in several national research advisory groups including the Linked data Asset for Australian Health Research



Name	Details
	(LINDAHR), the Centre for Excellence in Medicines Intelligence at University of NSW, and the Dementia risk reduction in primary care: The Happi Mind Study at Monash University.
<p data-bbox="204 463 542 495">Professor Adam Elshaug</p> 	<p data-bbox="810 463 1385 593">Professor Adam Elshaug is a Director for the Centre for Health Policy, Melbourne School of Population and Global Health at the University of Melbourne</p> <p data-bbox="810 624 1385 1041">Adam is a health services and systems researcher, and policy advisor. He directs a program of research measuring health service utilisation with a particular focus on low-value or inappropriate healthcare. Partners include four state health departments, Veterans Affairs, four PHIs (representing ~68% of privately insured Australians), US Medicare, NICE and Thailand. For this program Adam has been awarded the HSRAANZ Impact Award and the Research Australia Data Innovation in Health and Medical Research Award.</p> <p data-bbox="810 1072 1385 1359">Adam was a member of the MBS Review Taskforce and its Principles and Rules sub-committee. He is a Board Member of the NSW Bureau of Health Information (BHI), sits on the Expert Advisory Committee for Evidence-based Interventions (NICE and NHS England) and since 2014 he has been economic and policy advisor to Cancer Australia.</p> <p data-bbox="810 1391 1385 1556">A 2010-11 Commonwealth Fund Harkness Fellow based at AHRQ (USA), then Sidney Sax Fellow at Harvard Medical School, for 2019-20 Adam was Visiting Fellow at The Brookings Institution in Washington DC.</p> <p data-bbox="810 1588 1385 1686">Prior to joining Melbourne in September 2020 Adam was Co-Director of the Menzies Centre for Health Policy at The University of Sydney.</p>


Name	Details
<p>Professor Sally Green</p> 	<p>Professor Sally Green is Co-Director of Cochrane Australia and Deputy Head (Research) of the School of Public Health and Preventive Medicine at Monash University. She holds a PhD in Epidemiology and Preventive Medicine from Monash. Professor Green's research aims to improve health outcomes and strengthen health services through high quality, timely research synthesis and guideline development. Her work is focused on implementation of research into clinical practice and health policy.</p> <p>Professor Green is a member of Cochrane's international Governing Board.</p>
<p>Professor Raghu Lingam MBChB, MRCPCH, RACP, MSc, PhD</p> 	<p>Professor Lingam is a senior clinical academic with expertise in maternal and child health services research. He is Professor in Paediatric Population and Health Services Research at the University of New South Wales, Honorary Professor of Population Child Health at Kings College London and the Black Dog Institute (NSW), and a Consultant Paediatrician within the Sydney Children's Hospital Network. He leads the Population Child Health and Health Services Research Group, UNSW Sydney, the NSW Centre for Child Health Services Research and Innovations (CHRIS) and its national counterpart Child Unlimited. He has developed and evaluated large-scale child health intervention programs in low- and high-income settings to optimize the health, growth and development of children and young people. He has extensive experience in experimental (individual, step wedge and cluster randomised controlled trials), quasi experimental child health services research and implementation evaluation studies. He has over 140 research publications and has attracted over 45 million dollars in research funding in the last 5 years.</p>


Name	Details
<p>Ms Alison Marcus</p> 	<p>Ms Alison Marcus has been active in the consumer movement and a member of Consumers Health Forum since 2003.</p> <p>Over that time, she has represented consumers' interests on a range of statutory and other committees in medicines regulation, community pharmacy research projects, advertising oversight of pharmaceuticals, safety and quality health care standards and review of the MBS.</p> <p>Alison has an interest in supporting improvements in health literacy for users of health services, including the tools used to provide access to information and regulation of the standards of information.</p> <p>Since 1978, Alison has been a registered nurse working in intensive care, community health, midwifery, infection control, diabetes education and stomal therapy in metropolitan, regional and remote settings in several states of Australia. She has also worked as a sessional clinical teacher and occasional lecturer in acute and community hospitals and tertiary programs.</p>
<p>Associate Professor Liz Marles</p> 	<p>Associate Professor Liz Marles is a general practitioner based in Sydney where she is the Director of the Hornsby- Brooklyn GP Unit. She has a strong interest in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health having worked for 15 years at the Aboriginal Medical Service in Redfern and then established the Bungee Bidgel Aboriginal health clinic at the Hornsby GP Unit.</p> <p>Outside her clinical work, Liz is the Clinical Director for Primary Care at the Australian Commission for Safety and Quality in Healthcare, Director of Therapeutic Guidelines, a member of the PBAC and a member of Cancer Australia's Advisory Council.</p> <p>Liz is also a past President of the RACGP and a Clinical Associate Professor at Macquarie University.</p>


Name	Details
<p>Dr Sue Masel</p> 	<p>Dr Sue Masel is a GP based in Goondiwindi, Queensland. She is a Rural Generalist in procedural anaesthetic and obstetric practice, dividing her work time between Goondiwindi Medical Centre and Goondiwindi Hospital.</p> <p>Sue has been living and working in Goondiwindi for 23 years and has a keen interest in rural medicine. She is a medical educator, an advocate for training in local work teams, and has special interests in skin cancer medicine and women's health. She and her husband Matt are GP colleagues and have 4 children.</p> <p>Sue's current Medical Education roles include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rural Generalist trainer on RG workshops, • Supervisor Liaison Officer for RACGP Queensland • GP Supervisor Goondiwindi Medical Centre • PROMPT trainer on Goondiwindi Hospital team. <p>Sue's current representation roles include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Founding Director of Rural Doctors Foundation Ltd and has continued on the board since 2014. • Past President of Rural Doctors Association of Queensland (RDAQ Inc 2013-2014) • Queensland representative for Rural Doctors Association of Australia (RDAA 2018 – present) • Member of the Gundy Muster Organising Committee (ongoing)


Name	Details
<p>Professor Hylton Menz</p> 	<p>Professor Hylton Menz is a podiatrist at La Trobe University in Melbourne, Victoria. He graduated with first class Honours and the University Medal from La Trobe University in 1993 and completed his PhD in the Faculty of Medicine at the University of New South Wales in 2002. He received continual National Health and Medical Research Council of Australia fellowship funding between 2003 and 2022. Professor Menz's broad research disciplines are human movement, rehabilitation and rheumatology, with a particular focus on musculoskeletal foot problems in older people.</p> <p>Professor Menz has published over 380 journal publications, 3 books and 18 book chapters. His work has been cited over 20,000 times and his Scopus h-index is 76. He has won several awards for his research, including the Young Tall Poppy Award by the Australian Institute for Policy and Science, the La Trobe University Excellence in Research Award, first prize in the British Medical Association Book Awards, a Fulbright Senior Scholarship to Harvard University, a La Trobe University Excellence in Graduate Research Supervision Award and a La Trobe University Overall Research Excellence Award. In 2016, he was awarded a Doctor of Science from the University of New South Wales, and in 2020 he became the first podiatrist to be inducted into the Australian Academy of Health and Medical Sciences.</p> <p>Professor Menz's current research focuses on the epidemiology and management of foot disorders in older people, with a particular emphasis on non-surgical treatments for osteoarthritis. He is currently co-chair of the Australian Foot and Ankle Research Network, co-chair of the Outcome Measures in Rheumatology (OMERACT) Foot and Ankle Working Group, and serves on the steering committee of the International Foot and Ankle Osteoarthritis Consortium.</p>

Name	Details
<p>Dr Neil Meulman</p> 	<p>Dr Neil Meulman is a rural general surgeon who enjoys the variety of practice and lifestyle that being a rural practitioner brings.</p> <p>Educated and trained in Sydney, Neil became the third general surgeon in Bathurst NSW. He is now in his 30th year in the Central Tablelands of NSW.</p> <p>Neil has always had strong sense of the importance of equity of health care provision regardless of socioeconomic status or location. As a surgeon he was a member of the Australian Defence Force with deployments to East Timor and the Solomon Islands. After leaving the army Neil continued to travel to Gizo in the Solomon Islands providing surgical services to the Western Province.</p> <p>Neil also has a passion for flying. With a pilot's licence he reestablished a fly in surgical service to Bourke NSW. He provided the service for nothing for six months to facilitate its reinstatement. He has also provided outreach consultations and operations to the surrounding towns of Mudgee and Cowra. For patients further afield, he is a frequent user of telehealth to more remote locations.</p> <p>He understands well the importance of quality medical capability outside the metropolitan centres. He is a strong advocate encouraging young doctors to consider a rural career where the need is greatest.</p>
<p>Dr Andrea Mosler</p> 	<p>Dr. Andrea Mosler is a Specialist Sports and Exercise Physiotherapist and Senior Research Fellow at La Trobe University and is currently working on injury prevention in football, hip/groin pain, and women in sport research projects. Her PhD, completed in 2018, investigated the risk factors for hip and groin pain in professional football players and was conducted while working at Aspetar, Qatar. Andrea previously worked for 18 years at the Australian Institute of Sport as a Senior Sports Physiotherapist and has been an Australian team physiotherapist at many sporting events including the 2000, 2004 and 2008 Olympics Games and the 1998 Commonwealth Games. She is Deputy Editor of the British Journal of Sports</p>

Name	Details
	Medicine, Associate Editor of the Journal of Science and Medicine in Sport and continues to practice clinically in conjunction with her research work.
<p>Associate Professor Beverley Rowbotham AO, MD, MBBS (Hons 1), FRACP, FRCPA, FAICD</p> 	<p>Beverley Rowbotham Is a haematologist and chairs the Federal Government’s National Pathology Accreditation Advisory Council. She has a strong background in medical leadership and patient safety through her roles as President of the Royal College of Pathologists of Australasia, long serving Chair of Federal Council of the Australian Medical Association, and Chair of the medical indemnity company, Avant Mutual Group. She brings her experience as a member of many Federal Government advisory committee roles including the original MBS Review Taskforce.</p>

Name	Details
<p>Professor Christobel Saunders AO, MB BS, FRCS, FRACS, FAAHMS</p> 	<p>Professor Christobel Saunders is the current James Stewart Chair of Surgery, the Head of the Department of Surgery at the University of Melbourne (Royal Melbourne Hospital precinct), Director Medical Research at Melbourne Medical School, and consultant surgeon in the Department of General Surgery at Royal Melbourne Hospital and the Peter MacCallum Cancer Institute. Christobel is internationally recognised as one of Australia's most prominent research-orientated cancer surgeons. She has substantially contributed to breast cancer research, including clinical trials of new treatments, and psychosocial, translational and health services research.</p> <p>In recognition of her sustained career excellence and innovation, Christobel has been publicly acknowledged through numerous awards and honours, including the Order of Australia 2018, Uccio Querci della Rovere Award (2018), WA Women's Hall of Fame Inductee (2018) and WA Scientist of the Year (2017), Cancer Council WA career Achievement Award (2021) and was elected to the Australian Academy of Health and Medical Science in 2016.</p> <p>She has performed research for >30 years evaluating the efficacy and utility of therapy for early breast cancer. In the past five years, Christobel has published over 200 peer-reviewed journal articles. She sits on the boards of several health and research organisations including as Vice-President for All.Can International and on the boards of All.Can Australia, Breast Cancer Trials, the Australian Centre for Value-Based Health Care and PathWest. Christobel is closely involved in strategic planning and management of health and cancer services in Australia including being a member of the Medicare Review Advisory Committee, panel member of the Medical Services Advisory Committee, past President of the Breast Surgical Society of ANZ, and past Advisory Council member of Cancer Australia. She was the Inaugural Chair of the state Health Service Provider, PathWest Laboratory Medicine.</p>
<p>Dr Clare Skinner</p>	<p>Dr. Clare Skinner is a specialist emergency physician with interests in health system</p>

Name	Details
	<p>reform, clinical redesign, leadership, advocacy, and workplace culture and safety.</p> <p>Clare served as President of the Australasian College for Emergency Medicine from November 2021-2023 and currently holds important roles as a Senior Staff Specialist in Emergency Medicine at Hornsby Ku-ring-gai Hospital and the Northern Sydney Local Health District.</p> <p>Clare regularly shares her insights through contributions to academic journals, mainstream media, and medical blogs, and as a regular speaker at emergency medicine and leadership conferences.</p> <p>Clare's contributions to the field were recognised in 2018 when she was selected among the Top 50 Public Sector Women in NSW.</p>

Name	Details
<p>Professor Rosalie Viney</p> 	<p>Rosalie Viney is Professor of Health Economics and Director of the Centre for Health Economics Research and Evaluation at the University of Technology Sydney. She has extensive experience in health economics, health services and health policy research. Her research interests include health technology assessment and priority setting, measurement and valuation of quality of life and health outcomes, consumer preferences for health and health care, evaluation of health policy, and the impact of funding arrangements on utilisation and outcomes of health care. Rosalie has undertaken a broad range of commissioned projects for State/Territory Health authorities, and for the Australian Government Department of Health. Rosalie has also had longstanding involvement in the fields of health economics and health services research in Australia and internationally, through the Australian Health Economics Society and the Health Services Research Association of Australia and New Zealand, and through the International Health Economics Association where she was a Board member from 2020-2024, and the EuroQol Foundation, where she is a member and the current Chair of the Scientific Executive. Rosalie was a member of the NHMRC Research Committee from 2015-2021. Until March 2017 she was also a member of the Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee (PBAC) and Chair of its Economics Sub-Committee. She is a current member of the Life Saving Drugs Panel. She is a Fellow of the Australian Academy of Social Sciences.</p>