

Medicare Benefits Schedule (MBS) Review Advisory Committee (MRAC) Membership

The Department of Health and Aged Care is seeking expressions of interest for membership on the Medicare Benefits Schedule (MBS) Reviews Advisory Committee (MRAC). This independent committee is integral to the Government's commitment to maintaining a contemporary, sustainable, and evidence-based MBS that supports universal access to high-value health care for all Australians.

About MRAC

The MRAC provides expert advice to the Government on publicly funded services listed on the MBS and matters related to the MBS Continuous Review. It complements the work of the Medicare Services Advisory Committee (MSAC) in evaluating new services and conducting health technology assessments.

Role of the committee

What is the Medicare Benefits Schedule (MBS) Continuous Review?

The committee was established to support the MBS Continuous Review, a program assurance function that undertakes reviews to ensure the MBS continues to support high-quality care and remains flexible and contemporary. Ongoing rigorous, comprehensive review and analysis are essential for a consistent, clear, and evidence-based MBS that benefits both patients and health professionals.

The committee undertakes reviews that examine how the MBS is used in practice and recommends improvements based on contemporary clinical evidence. It allows for monitoring of previously implemented item changes and assists with the identification of priority areas where targeted research, investment, or support is required, through the assessment of cross-speciality items to maximize system benefits. The committee provides advice to the Government on how the MBS is used in practice and recommends improvements regarding clinical evidence and changes to service provision.

Further information on the MRAC, including its Terms of Reference, current membership, current and completed reviews can be found on the Department of Health and Aged Care MRAC webpage.

Committee Composition/ Membership:

Membership comprises an independent Chairperson, a Deputy Chair, and skills-based members, which will include a minimum of:

Two general practitioners

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And the following representatives:

- Non-general practice medical specialists
- Clinicians with experience in rural and remote practice
- Allied health practitioners
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander primary health care provider
- Consumers
- Nurses and/or nurse practitioners
- Health systems experts.

Role of an MRAC Member

Members are required to attend all MRAC meetings. The committee holds four meetings per year, which may be in-person or virtual. In-person meetings are held in Canberra and usually occur over two days, while virtual meetings are held over one day.

Members are also expected to undertake ongoing work on specific reviews by appointment to a specific review working group. Working group meetings are held virtually, with meetings generally scheduled out of business hours. Members are also required to read committee papers, comment on documents and respond to emails.

Terms of Appointment

Members are appointed based on their individual skills, knowledge, and expertise, and hold their appointment at the discretion of the department. Members are not appointed to represent the interests of organisations, bodies, or corporations.

The committee Chair, Deputy Chair, and members are generally appointed for an initial two-year term, with the possibility of extension up to a maximum of a four-year term. Membership terms may only exceed four years in exceptional circumstances and as agreed by the department. These circumstances may include the need to ensure that the knowledge and expertise required across the membership for the work of the committee is maintained.

Remuneration

Committee members receive remuneration for their attendance at MRAC meetings and review working group meetings. Information on current remuneration rates are available upon request.

How to Apply

While the current expression of interest has now closed, applications for any future vacancies may still be submitted. Please provide a copy of your curricula vitae and a statement of claims (maximum 500 words), framed around the knowledge, experience and skills that you would bring to the MRAC. Suitable applicants will be considered for vacancies as they arise. Applications or requests for further information on the MRAC and MRAC membership should be sent to MRAC.Secretariat@health.gov.au.

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