

MBS Review Advisory Committee

Communique – Meeting 18

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, Disability and Ageing [MRAC webpage](#).

Applications for any future vacancies may be submitted via the application form available 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 18 Outcomes – 3 March 2026

The committee meets quarterly, and most recently met on 3 March 2026.

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 developed a series of new and amended items that are intended to align the MBS with established, current and evidence-based clinical use of interventional radiology and interventional neuroradiology.

At the 3 March 2026 meeting, the MRAC endorsed the VIR Final Report for submission to government and will be published on the MRAC webpage in due course.

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 appropriately support contemporary clinical practice.

An update on the review was provided at the 3 March 2026 meeting, noting a public consultation process seeking feedback on a Draft Report and recommendations will commence later this year.

Review of MBS referred chronic condition management services

The MRAC has commenced a review of MBS referred chronic condition management services. These include allied health and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander primary health care professional services for patients with a GP chronic condition management plan. The MRAC will assess whether these services are adequately supporting patients with chronic conditions and whether individual and group MBS services could be improved to better support eligible patients.

A four-week targeted consultation process commenced on 19 February 2026, seeking feedback from relevant stakeholders on draft recommendations for stage one of the review. MRAC will consider all feedback at their next meeting to be held on 9 and 10 June 2026 and seek endorsement to undertake an open consultation process later this year.

Review of the inclusion of audiometrists as Allied Health Professionals for limited audiology items

The MRAC formally commenced a review of limited audiology health services under the MBS to allow audiometrists access to selected MBS items within their clinical scope of practice. The review will assess patient access to a limited number of audiology diagnostic MBS items through the consideration of the appropriateness of existing MBS services and all other complementary services available.

At the 3 March 2026 meeting, MRAC considered feedback from a targeted consultation process which concluded on 11 December 2025. A Draft Report will be presented to MRAC for endorsement to commence a public consultation process.

Review of rural generalist access to MBS items

At its meeting of 8 December 2025, the MRAC agreed to commence a review of MBS Access for Rural Generalists and agreed to establish a working group to undertake this work.

In September 2025, the Health Ministers' Meeting recognised rural generalist medicine as "a new field of specialty practice within the specialty of General Practice", with the protected title of "specialist rural generalist".

The first meeting of the Rural Generalists Working Group (RGWG) was held virtually on 24 February 2026, where terms of reference for the working group were agreed.

MRAC endorsed the working groups terms of reference at its meeting on the 3 March 2026.

Review of direct referral pathways from allied health and other primary care providers to non-GP specialists

The MRAC has formally commenced a review of direct referrals from allied health and other primary care providers to non-GP specialists.

The MRAC is developing an implementation framework for Recommendation 12 of the [Unleashing the Potential of our Health Workforce – Scope of Practice Review Final Report](#).

Recommendation 12 of the Final Report proposes that the Australian Government establish new direct referral pathways to specified non-GP specialists for MBS services, provided that:

- the referral is within the referring professional's scope of practice (meaning within the activities they have the knowledge, skills and experience to perform and for which they are accountable);
- relevant treating team members, including the patient's GP and practice, are notified promptly via digital means as available; and
- the health professional making and receiving the referral being part of a broadly defined clinical team or clinical network.

At the 3 March 2026 meeting, the committee considered the principles for this review.

Next meeting

The MRAC will meet in Canberra on 9 and 10 June 2026.