



Improving Access to Medicines – improving the administration of the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) and patient support programs

The Australian Government will continue to improve the administration of the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS), and ensure ongoing access to life saving medicines for Australian patients.

The Medication Program for Homeless People will be improved to ensure eligible homeless people have access to essential PBS medicines at no cost. Changes will streamline processes and improve efficiency.

From 1 January 2021, the Government will change the Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee (PBAC) submission categories to increase efficiency, cut red tape and improve transparency.

The Government will continue to pursue financial compensation from pharmaceutical companies whose actions delay the listing of cheaper generic versions of medicines on the PBS.

Why is this important?

Access to affordable medicines helps to save and protect lives. A more efficient, transparent and sustainable PBS will ensure all Australians continue to have access to affordable medicines. The Government will continue to drive targeted reforms to the administration of the PBS to ensure patients can receive affordable medicines as quickly as possible.

Who will benefit?

All Australians will benefit from affordable medicines that are listed as quickly as possible on the PBS. By streamlining the process for listings, the Government is making sure Australians get the medicines they need, where and when they need them.

How much will this cost?

Combined, these measures will save \$0.8 million from 2020–21 to 2023–24.