

Letter of Intent – Principles of Co-operation between the Australian Government and AstraZeneca – in relation to the University of Oxford COVID-19 vaccine candidate

Context

1. The World Health Organization has declared that there is currently a global pandemic due to the spread of COVID-19 causing a public health crisis globally and in Australia.
2. The Australian Government has reacted swiftly and effectively in response to the COVID-19 crisis and has been a leader in the international community.
3. Securing early access to a safe and effective vaccine against COVID-19 for the whole of population is a key priority for the Australian Government.
4. To foster co-operation between the Australian Government and AstraZeneca Pty Limited (the Parties) in relation to vaccine development, production and access, the Parties wish to sign this letter as a record of their mutual intentions (Letter of Intent).

Purpose

5. The Parties each want to see the development, production and distribution of the COVID-19 vaccine candidate currently under clinical development by the University of Oxford, and should it prove successful, commit to take all steps possible to make the vaccine available in Australia to advance and improve public health.
6. Having regard to the nature of a global pandemic crisis requiring immediate action:
 - (a) AstraZeneca recognises the urgent need to apply efforts towards swift and uninterrupted development of a safe vaccine; and
 - (b) The Australian Government recognises the possibility that the development of a safe vaccine is yet unknown, and may not be possible.

Principles of co-operation

7. Subject to a Party's internal approvals and the availability of its resources, the Parties intend for the duration of this Letter of Intent:
 - (a) to cooperate in the ongoing development of a vaccine, including discussion and consideration of the next steps to complete all stages in the vaccine development cycle;
 - (b) to work expeditiously and swiftly together to achieve broad and equitable access to the University of Oxford's COVID-19 vaccine candidate at the first possible opportunity, should the vaccine prove successful, safe and effective;

- (c) to conclude appropriate purchasing, indemnity and other contractual arrangements between them relating to the development, production and distribution of the vaccine in Australia, including arrangements with a selected Australian contract manufacturer to maximise and deliver early and equitable whole of population access to the vaccine in Australia;
- (d) where a vaccine has been successfully developed, to meet the increasing demand for the vaccine proactively by increasing manufacturing and supply capacity in every way reasonably practicable, including through the Australian contract manufacturing arrangement; and
- (e) to share information, advice and expertise (as appropriate) to facilitate the above activities. Where a Party considers any information it proposes to share with the other Party to be of a confidential nature, the relevant Party may require that the Parties enter into a legally binding confidentiality agreement before sharing the relevant information.

8. All of the above cooperation activities are intended to be conducted having regard to Australian laws and regulations.

Status of this Letter

- 9. This Letter of Intent serves as a record of the principles of co-operation between the Parties and is not legally binding.
- 10. Any legally binding commitments or obligations are to be set out in a separate definitive binding agreement to be negotiated, agreed and signed between the Parties.

Duration

- 11. This Letter of Intent is intended to end on 1 July 2021, unless a Party wishes to end it sooner by giving reasonable prior written notice to the other Party or the Parties enter into a definitive binding agreement in relation to the COVID-19 vaccine candidate.
- 12. The Parties may extend the term of this Letter of Intent by way of a written variation signed by both Parties.

Yours sincerely



Greg Hunt, on behalf of the Australian Government

___ / ___ / 2020

18 AUG 2020

I acknowledge receipt and the intentions of this Letter of Intent:
s 47F

s 47F

on behalf of AstraZeneca

18 / 8 / 2020

THIS DOCUMENT HAS BEEN RELEASED
BY THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH UNDER THE
FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 1982 (CTH)