



Australian Government

Australian Government response to the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Health and Ageing Report: Living with the pain of adhesive arachnoiditis

May 2014

Government response to recommendations

Recommendation 1:

In the context of corporate social responsibility the Committee encourages GlaxoSmithKline to consider establishing a charitable foundation to assist sufferers of adhesive arachnoiditis.

The foundation could operate as a flexible means of assisting those affected by adhesive arachnoiditis. Priorities for support would need to be established in consultation with sufferers of adhesive arachnoiditis and their families, but could include activities to:

- raise awareness of the condition;
- support research into adhesive arachnoiditis;
- coordinate adhesive arachnoiditis support groups;
- make representations to government;
- establish and maintain an Australian case register; and
- Provide top-up funding for home modifications or other practical assistance.

Response

The Australian Government notes that responding to the recommendation is a decision for GlaxoSmithKline as an independent entity.

Recommendation 2:

The Royal Australian College of General Practitioners and Medicare Locals provide general practitioners with educational and training opportunities aimed at raising awareness of the diagnosis, symptoms and treatment of chronic adhesive arachnoiditis. The Australian and New Zealand College of Anaesthetists advise pain units and its membership of the likely incidence of adhesive arachnoiditis in the community.

Response

The Australian Government supports the raising of awareness of chronic adhesive arachnoiditis through appropriate agencies.

Recommendation 3:

Medicare Locals, and other health providers, actively engage with local communities and health professionals to determine the needs of people living with adhesive arachnoiditis and chronic pain, to develop strategies to assist sufferers optimise management of chronic pain and achieve the best possible quality of life.

Response

The Australian Government notes the recommendation.

Recommendation 4:

The Australian Government, through the Australian Research Council and National Health and Medical Research Council, support research projects in relation to adhesive arachnoiditis, in particular areas that can be leveraged to a wider patient base, such as chronic pain management, particularly neuropathic pain.

Response

The National Health and Medical Research Council, as the leading expert body promoting the development and maintenance of public and individual health standards, is well placed to support research in regard to adhesive arachnoiditis. The Department of Health will consult with the Australian Research Council and the National Health and Medicare Research Council in regard to this issue.