

# Access to Medicines Working Group (AMWG) Communique - February

## AMWG Meeting:

The fifth meeting of the reinvigorated AMWG occurred on 19 February 2015.

## Attendees:

Attendees included co-Chairs: Mr Andrew Stuart (Deputy Secretary of the Department of Health) and Mr Martin Cross (Chairman of Medicines Australia); representatives from Medicines Australia and the Pharmaceutical Benefits Division of the Department of Health.

## Purpose:

The purpose of the meeting was to update the AMWG on progress against the four work-streams:

1. Post-market reviews
2. Managed Access Programme (formerly Managed Entry Scheme)
3. Section 99ACB of the *National Health Act 1953*
4. Transparency of PBS processes

## Progress:

The AMWG sub-groups provided verbal reports to the AMWG on the progress and achievements to date.

### *Post Market reviews*

Work on an agreed post-market review framework was agreed as completed. The group discussed opportunities for an announcement of the agreement and publication of the new framework.

### *Managed Access Programme*

Substantive progress has been made on developing a workable framework for a Managed Access Programme. The group considers the framework will be ready for broader review at the March 2015 PBAC meeting.

### *99ACB*

The sub-group, including GMIA, has been unable to resolve fundamental points of disagreement on the legislative intent discussion. The group has agreed to try a 'step-wise' approach to deal with issues relating to 99ACB. Medicines Australia will develop an alternative step-wise proposal for consideration.

### *Transparency*

Medicines Australia and Health are developing a road map of transparency activities and projects. Medicines Australia will provide feedback on a Transparency and Efficiency initiatives table developed by Health. To progress the sub-group work both parties will work on condensing transparency principles at a higher level.

### **Communication:**

At the end of March 2015 in the wake of the PBS Access and Sustainability negotiations and the 2015-16 Budget process, the AMWG was temporarily suspended. Thus the delay in publishing the 19 February AWMG meeting communique.

The AMWG is expected to recommence in September 2015.