

Statement of Expectations

1 April 2024 – 31 March 2028

Vision

The Government's vision is for the Medical Services Advisory Committee (MSAC) to continue to be a high performing committee that provides sound advice to Government.

Role

As the Chair, it is expected that you will act to ensure transparency, within established processes and protocols, and accountability of the MSAC at all times. This includes active identification and management of the consideration of conflicts of interest, and maintaining the governance and best practice principles under which the committee operates, ensuring they are upheld with the utmost integrity. My department is committed to supporting the MSAC to fulfill these expectations.

Organisational governance

The MSAC is an independent non-statutory committee appointed by the Minister for Health to provide advice on whether a new medical service or health technology should be publicly funded. In carrying out these responsibilities, it is the Government's expectation that you will apply your leadership skills and clinical expertise to ensure the MSAC appraises medical services, health technologies and health programs for public funding through an assessment of their comparative safety, clinical effectiveness, cost effectiveness and total cost, using the best available evidence. This includes but is not limited to proposed additions to, amendments of and reviews of services funded through the Medicare Benefits Schedule (MBS) or other non-MBS funded programs (for example, blood products, screening programs, high-cost or highly-specialised therapies or medical devices).

Priorities

The MSAC assists the Government to achieve the program objective of Outcome 2.1 Medical Benefits of the Health Portfolio Budget Statements, which is to deliver a modern, sustainable Medicare program that supports eligible Australians to access high quality and cost-effective professional services. This requires work with consumers, health professionals, private health insurers, and state and territory government representatives to continue strengthening Medicare.

As an independent expert advisory body, it is important that the Committee takes into consideration relevant government policies and agreements such as the National Medicines Policy and the National Health Reform Agreements. These documents emphasise the importance of co-operation, collaboration and demonstrating respect for and recognising the expertise and contribution of all contributing partners. This includes engaging with other advisory committees so that government decision-making benefits from holistic advice.

As community expectations rise, the MSAC will increasingly need to clearly communicate the evidence base and rationale behind its advice to me. It is therefore critical that the health technology assessment processes and their outcomes are effectively communicated to all stakeholders, including to the public, to build and maintain community understanding, confidence and trust. Recognising the global dimensions of the Committee's work, the role requires the Chair to represent MSAC in international health technology assessment forums.