

Statement of Intent

Chair of Medical Services Advisory Committee

December 2024 – March 2028

In April 2024, I, Jonathan Craig, received a Statement of Expectations from the Minister for Health and Aged Care, the Hon Mark Butler MP regarding the expectations for holders of the role of Chair of the Medical Services Advisory Committee (MSAC).

This Statement of Intent is a formal commitment to meet the expectations of the Hon Mark Butler MP as the Chair of the MSAC.

Vision

I fully support the Government's vision that the MSAC continue to be a high performing committee providing sound advice to Government.

Role

As the MSAC Chair, acting within established processes and protocols, I will act to always promote integrity, transparency and accountability of the MSAC.

This will include:

- Working closely with the Minister for Health and Aged Care and the Department of Health and Aged Care (the Department) to support the MSAC to fulfill all Government expectations and requirements
- Maintaining the integrity of committee governance and best practice principles, by supporting all committee members in their roles and responsibilities and by maintaining strong communication with the Department at all times. This will include, but is not limited to, prioritising committee work, promoting committee activities and providing clear guidance to the committee where necessary
- Working collaboratively with MSAC deputy chairs and subcommittee chairs to ensure smooth integration of all inputs required for efficient and comprehensive MSAC deliberations
- Actively identifying and managing conflicts of interest, and supporting updated Departmental processes in this area
- Declaring to the Department all relevant external roles and commitments, and undertaking to work with the Department to minimise all conflicts and uphold the prioritisation of MSAC Chair activities
- Leading the MSAC in ways which foster a culture of integrity, accountability, and transparency to ensure the committee actions are aligned to its purpose.

Governance

I will act to ensure the MSAC recognises and works in line with all non-statutory committee expectations outlined in the Statement of Expectations provided to me. I will work with independence and integrity and apply my leadership skills and clinical expertise and experience in Health Technology Assessment (HTA) to support the MSAC in appraising

medical services, health technologies and health programs for public funding. For this, I will support the assessment of the comparative safety, clinical effectiveness, cost effectiveness and total cost, using the best available evidence for all MSAC applications. This will include providing necessary support to ensure optimal functioning of the MSAC subcommittees and working closely with the MSAC Executive team to establish shared processes and goals.

As the MSAC Chair, I will lead the MSAC in proposing additions to, amendments of and reviews of services funded through the Medicare Benefits Schedule (MBS), or other non-MBS funded programs.

Priorities

My key priority as the MSAC Chair will be to ensure Australians are provided with reliable, timely, and affordable access to high quality, cost effective, and clinically effective professional services and medical technologies funded through a variety of funding mechanisms, including supporting access to a contemporary and sustainable MBS. This goal is identified in objective of Outcome 2.1 - Medical Benefits Health's Portfolio Budget Statements.

As the MSAC Chair, I will ensure that MSAC processes and advice are person-centred by elevating the consumer voice through broader and more meaningful inclusion and engagement of consumers and First Nations people in the MSAC process. Additionally, I will work to promote engagement with other advisory committees such as the Mental Health Response Advisory Committee, the Medical Devices and Human Tissue Advisory Committee, and the Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee, in the practice of formulating all recommendations from the MSAC to the Minister for Health and Aged Care.

I will work to promote awareness within the MSAC of the National Health Reform Agreements. This will include, but is not limited to, building strong partnerships with relevant state and territory government bodies, encouraging greater dialogue and emphasising the importance of co-operation, collaboration and demonstrating respect for and recognising expertise at all levels of MSAC communications. Supporting the MSAC to meet community expectations and to clearly communicate the evidence base and rationale behind its advice to the Minister for Health and Aged Care will be a further priority during my time as Chair. This includes effective communication regarding the health technology assessment processes and their outcomes to the Government, consumers and external stakeholders, to build and maintain community understanding, confidence and trust in the HTA process. As part of this, I will consider the global dimensions of MSAC's recommendations and act to represent the MSAC in international health technology assessment forums as required.

Under my guidance, the MSAC has provided a response to the Health Technology Assessment Policy and Methods Review report. This response demonstrated support for recommendations to ensure that HTA is person-centred, to enhance the consumer voice, to develop a clearer pathway for the assessment of highly specialised therapies, and the development of national health data infrastructure to monitor the performance of new health technologies. In consultation with the Department, I undertake to work closely with the Implementation Advisory Group, in partnership with health consumers, health professionals, industry and governments, to add value and efficiencies to Australia's current HTA system and improve access for all Australians.