Update from the Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee July 2026

The PBAC held a 3-day meeting from 8 to 10 July 2026. This meeting covered a final total of 78 items, of which 25 required external evaluation. The submissions requiring external evaluation included 13 cost effectiveness/cost utility analyses, and 9 cost minimisation analyses.

Agenda items included a number of non-submission items to consider listing changes arising from recent commercial decisions of various sponsors, matters related to ongoing consideration of Designated Registered Nurse prescribing for several therapeutic groups of Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) listed medicines, and referrals from the Department for matters related to implementation of pricing policy measures.

Outcomes from this PBAC meeting will be available on the PBS website on 21 August 2026.

PBAC Metrics – July 2026

The PBAC noted that of the Category 1, Category 2, and Standard and Early re-entry items considered by the PBAC at the July PBAC meeting, the median time **between Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) lodgement for Australian Register of Therapeutic Goods (ARTG) listing, and the sponsor's first PBAC submission** was 265 days for items that were recommended, 383 days for items not recommended, and 168 days for items that were deferred.

	Time from TGA submission to PBAC submission (days)				
	Min	**Q1**	**Median**	**Q3**	**Max**
Recommended	43	222	265	470	1367
Not recommended	190	229	383	467	3606

The median time from the first PBAC submission to the outcome given at the July 2026 meeting was one standard PBAC cycle for both recommended and not recommended items. Three quarters of submissions received an outcome within two submission cycles.

	Time from first PBAC submission to outcome (PBAC cycles)				
	Min	**Q1**	**Median**	**Q3**	**Max**
Recommended	1	1	1	3	14
Not recommended	1	1	1	2	15

Out-of-session work

PBAC out-of-session work for the Committee Chairs in this period also included several meetings with stakeholders, including patient group representatives, clinical groups and industry representatives. The focus of discussions included

- revision of PBS listing arrangements to resolve unintended implementation barriers,
- alignment of certain PBS restrictions with latest clinical consensus and practice,
- broadening current listing arrangements to resolve unmet clinical need risks as some medicines are being removed from the PBS by the sponsor,
- PBAC process and guidance advice for referrals from other areas of the Department.

The PBAC has also noted ongoing reports about sponsor-provided access to certain medicines not listed on the PBS, and confusion about the status of these programs in terms of direct cost to patients, inequity for patients not able to cover direct costs for access, and variability of access across the country with limited sites / prescribing access for all eligible patients.

The committee undertook to write to relevant stakeholder groups about the need for guidance for clinicians regarding the need for informed financial consent before patients are placed on access schemes especially in circumstances where the financial exposure is unclear and potentially dynamic, and the importance of patients fully understanding other conditions of Patient Access Programs, in regard to program duration and longer-term treatment transitions.

Upcoming PBAC meeting

The next PBAC meeting is the Intracycle meeting scheduled for 4 September 2026.

Professor Robyn Ward AM
Chair, Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee

Ms Jo Watson
Deputy Chair, Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee