



**WAPHA**  
WA Primary Health Alliance

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PERTH NORTH, PERTH SOUTH,  
COUNTRY WA  
An Australian Government Initiative

# Media Release

## Medicare Benefits Schedule Review Taskforce interim report released

14 September 2016

WA Primary Health Alliance (WAPHA) welcomes the Commonwealth Government's interim report on the Medicare Benefit Schedule Review.

The Medicare Benefits Schedule Review Taskforce is considering how the more than 5,700 items on the MBS can be aligned with contemporary clinical evidence and practice and improve health outcomes for patients.

WAPHA chief executive officer Learne Durrington echoed the comments made by the Taskforce chair Professor Bruce Robinson that "a modernised MBS is critical to how we fund and deliver health services in the future".

Ms Durrington said it was important the MBS review delivered on the Taskforce's vision to ensure the MBS provides affordable universal access to best practice health services that represent value for both the individual patient and the health system.

"We recognise the important role GPs play in keeping people well in their community so that a person's health needs can be treated within the primary care environment," Ms Durrington said.

"At the cornerstone of all of WAPHA's activity is meaningful engagement with GPs and other members of the general practice team. It is important that this MBS review has been led by clinicians and has emphasised genuine consultation with all relevant stakeholders—both providers and consumers of MBS services."

Outcomes of the MBS Review so far include;

- More than 1,500 surveys and more than 240 written submissions were received in response to the consultation paper released in September 2015. Approximately 300 health professionals provided specific examples of low-value and high-value usage through the online survey, as well as examples of potential obsolete items or misuse.
- The establishment of the first five Clinical Committees - Gastroenterology, Ear Nose and Throat, Obstetrics, Diagnostic Imaging, and Thoracic Medicine. These first Committees have trialled the Review methodology.



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- Approximately 100 individuals have agreed to participate in the first tranche of Clinical Committees.
- An initial 23 MBS items referred for stakeholder consultation.
- The establishment of a Principles and Rules Committee to review the regulations that underpin the MBS.
- Development of a timeline for establishing Clinical Committees in other disciplines through 2016.

To read the Taskforce's interim report, [click here](#).

## ENDS

For more information:

Brian Oliver

Communications and Marketing Manager

WA Primary Health Alliance

Tel: 08 6272 4913

Email: [brian.oliver@wapha.org.au](mailto:brian.oliver@wapha.org.au)

- WAPHA is the organisation that oversees the strategic commissioning functions of the three Western Australian Primary Health Networks: Perth North, Perth South and Country WA.
- WAPHA is pleased to announce the launch of its Innovation and Evidence Grants program for Perth North and Perth South Primary Health Networks (PHNs).