

The Health Services Research Association of Australia & New Zealand

22 February 2024

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on the Health Technology Assessment Policy and Methods Review Consultation 2 Options Paper. The **Health Services Research Association of Australian and New Zealand (HSRAANZ)** is the key professional organization for individuals and groups in Australia doing, funding, implementing and disseminating health services research, in order to improve the health system and health services. Our key objectives relate to sustainability and excellence in health services and the development of strategically important research.

We are writing to express our support for the integration of environmental impact considerations, as outlined in **Section 5.3 Environmental Considerations in HTA**, within Health Technology Assessments (HTA). Specifically, we encourage **all 6 options for environmental impact reporting**, described on page 161 be implemented. This represents a significant opportunity to enhance decision-making processes, and advance sustainability within the healthcare system.

The Australian healthcare system contributes around 7% of the country's greenhouse gas emissions annually. To reduce this, the health sector needs to take urgent action. Integrating environmental impact data will enable stakeholders to prioritize environmentally friendly options when clinically equivalent alternatives exist, nurturing a culture of sustainability within healthcare. Additionally, integrating environmental impact data into approval and reimbursement decisions by HTA bodies promotes conscientious resource allocation within health systems, ensuring alignment with clinical efficacy and environmental sustainability goals, thereby maximizing societal benefits.

Implementation will require the development of guidance documents aligned with international standards, and the creation of an 'environmental HTA reference case' tailored to the Australian context. To achieve this, the HSRAANZ sees the need for **specific research funding** to support further life cycle assessment of carbon emissions in high volume healthcare products and procedures, and **to ensure implementation and evaluation of these reforms are evidence based**.

In conclusion, the integration of environmental impact considerations in HTA assessments represents a significant step towards promoting sustainable healthcare practices in Australia. By harnessing the potential of environmental data to inform reimbursement decisions, we can drive positive change towards a more environmentally responsible healthcare system.

Yours sincerely,



Alison Pearce
President



Stephen Law
Treasurer