**Response**

**2**

The Department may, at its discretion, publish part or all of the information provided in your submission on the Department's website or in related documents. If information from your submission is published, the Department may identify you and/or your organisation as the author of the submission. All personal contact details will be removed prior to publishing.

Yes, I consent to my identified submission being published

**3**

**What is your name?**

Tamara Dawson

**7**

**Please select the type of individual(s) or organisation(s) you represent. Please select all that apply. - Selected Choice**

Patient or consumer (or representative organisation)

**8.1**

**What is the name of your organisation? - My organisation is called: - Text**

Melanoma & Skin Cancer Advocacy Network (MSCAN)

**9**

**Are you making feedback on behalf or your organisation?**

Your organisation

**13**

**Please select which chapter/s you would like to provide feedback on. You may provide feedback on as many or few chapters as you wish.**

1. Transparency, communication, and stakeholder involvement in HTA,2. Health technology funding and assessment pathways,5. Futureproofing Australia's systems and processes

**14**

**Please select the topics within the chapter(s) you would like to provide feedback on. 1. Transparency, communication and stakeholder involvement in HTA**

1.1. Transparency and communication of HTA pathways, processes and decisions,1.2. Consumer, clinician and other stakeholder engagement and consideration in HTA

**15**

**Please select the topics within the chapter(s) you would like to provide feedback on. 2. Health technology funding and assessment pathways**

2.1. Streamlining and aligning HTA pathways and advisory committees

**18**

**Please select the topics within the chapter(s) you would like to provide feedback on. 5. Futureproofing our systems and processes**

5.1. Proactively addressing areas of unmet clinical need and gaps in the PBS,5.2. Establishment of horizon scanning programs to address specific informational needs within HTA and the health system,5.4. Mechanisms for continuous review and improvement,5.5. Capacity and capability of the HTA system

**21**

**Taking all Options within this section: 1.1. Transparency, communication and stakeholder involvement in HTA into account.**

**Overall, to what extent could the options (if implemented) address the issues that relate to them?**

Mostly address the issue(s)

**22**

**If you would like to expand on your answer above you can do so below:**

MSCAN welcomes the options suggested to address transparency, communication and stakeholder involvement in HTA.

Plain English summaries and improvements to the HTA webpage will significantly improve consumer participation in HTA processes. It's an important first step in the process.

**23.1**

**If implemented, overall would these Options have a positive or negative impact on you (/your organisation)? - Publish plain language summaries**

Very positive

**23.2**

**If implemented, overall would these Options have a positive or negative impact on you (/your organisation)? - Improvements to the HTA webpage including development of a dashboard**

Very positive

**25**

**If you would like to expand on your answer above you can do so below -Publish plain language summaries**

MSCAN welcomes the Option that proposes plain language summaries be published.

**26**

**If you would like to expand on your answer above you can do so below -Improvements to the HTA webpage including development of a dashboard**

The HTA webpage is an important first contact point for consumers and consumer organisations to be involved in HTA processes. MSCAN welcomes a website that is easy to navigate and uses visual components.

**27**

**Taking all Options within this section: 1.2. Consumer, clinician and other stakeholder engagement and consideration in HTA into account.**

**Overall, to what extent could the options (if implemented) address the issues that relate to them?**

Mostly address the issue(s)

**28**

**If you would like to expand on your answer above you can do so below:**

Consumer engagement throughout the HTA process is essential for delivering the best outcomes for patients. MSCAN welcomes the all the options outlined in the Options Paper to engage stakeholders earlier and more consistently throughout the HTA processes.

**29.1**

**If implemented, overall would these Options have a positive or negative impact on you (/your organisation)? - Develop an engagement framework**

Very positive

**29.2**

**If implemented, overall would these Options have a positive or negative impact on you (/your organisation)? - Strengthen consumer evidence**

Very positive

**31**

**If you would like to expand on your answer above you can do so below -Develop an engagement framework**

MSCAN welcomes the Options outlined to develop an engagement framework. In particular, we acknowledge the importance of a framework that describes how and why engagement with all stakeholders is used across all HTA processes. We note the particular focus on consumers.

**32**

**If you would like to expand on your answer above you can do so below -Strengthen consumer evidence**

MSCAN welcomes the options outlined to strengthen consumer evidence. In particular, we note the suggested multi-stakeholder advisory group (including consumers) that will report to government.

MSCAN supports consumer involvement in helping to define the Australian context for a medicine and what is appropriate in terms of current standard of care or comparator as well as aligning on the appropriate patient populations.

To ensure Australia's patients have access to the right treatment at the right time, we welcome the preparation and use of real-world evidence. MSCAN has consistently noted the importance of using PROMs and PREMs. Guidance around what measure would be welcomed by decision makers and templates/tools to employ would be very useful for organisations like MSCAN.

Australians living in rural and regional Australia often face additional challenges in accessing healthcare. We note that this is an issue in the melanoma and skin cancer landscape and across other disease types as well.

**46**

Taking all Options within this section: 2.1. Streamlining and aligning HTA pathways and advisory committees into account.

Overall, to what extent could the options (if implemented) address the issues that relate to them?
Address some but not most of the issue(s)

**47**

If you would like to expand on your answer above you can do so below:

While MSCAN acknowledges that we are not experts in HTA processes, we have been involved in a number of HTA matters, including several PBAC submissions relevant to our patient community, over the course of the last 5 years. MSCAN welcomes approaches that seek to reduce the time to access for medicine to address the current time to access for medicines. MSCAN considers the current time to access (of 400+ days) too long.

MSCAN understands that the proposed options for '~early resolution mechanisms for submissions of major new therapeutic advances in areas of HUCN' will deliver expedited access but only for a small portion of medicines. We maintain that options that allow for early access for the majority of medicines are needed.

We also maintain that early engagement and alignment on the Australian context across stakeholders and how a medicine may benefit a patient community will support this.

The treatment paradigm has shifted tremendously for melanoma and some skin cancers as a result of medicines and we support treatment options being available for Australian patients as quickly as possible once safety and efficacy are assured. Pathways that facilitate expedited access and ensuring that medicines are accessible for Australian patients should be a priority.

**48.1**

If implemented, overall would these Options have a positive or negative impact on you (/your organisation)? - Pathway for drugs for ultra-rare diseases (Life Saving Drugs Program (LSDP))
Positive

**48.2**

If implemented, overall would these Options have a positive or negative impact on you (/your organisation)? - Vaccine pathway
Positive

**48.3**

If implemented, overall would these Options have a positive or negative impact on you (/your organisation)? - Expanding role of PBAC
Positive

**48.4**

If implemented, overall would these Options have a positive or negative impact on you (/your organisation)? - Unified HTA pathway for all health technologies with Commonwealth funding
Positive

**131**

Taking all Options within this section: 5.1. Proactively addressing areas of unmet clinical need and gaps in the PBS into account.

Overall, to what extent could the options (if implemented) address the issues that relate to them?
Mostly address the issue(s)

**133.1**

If implemented, overall would these Options have a positive or negative impact on you (/your organisation)? - Development of a priority list
Very positive

**133.2**

If implemented, overall would these Options have a positive or negative impact on you (/your organisation)? - Identifying therapies to meet priority list (horizon scanning)
Very positive

**133.3**

If implemented, overall would these Options have a positive or negative impact on you (/your organisation)? - Early assessment and prioritisation of potentially promising therapies
Very positive

**133.4**

If implemented, overall would these Options have a positive or negative impact on you (/your organisation)? - Proactive submission invitation and incentivisation
Very positive

**133.5**

If implemented, overall would these Options have a positive or negative impact on you (/your organisation)? - Early PICO scoping
Very positive

**136**

If you would like to expand on your answer above you can do so below -Identifying therapies to meet priority list (horizon scanning)
MSCAN welcomes the focus in the Options paper on Horizon Scanning. This is an incredibly important component of improving the HTA process and delivering better outcomes for Australia's patients.

Workshops that facilitate multistakeholder consultation should be at the core of an horizon scanning system to ensure needs, gaps, possible changes and preparedness is aligned and well considered.

**140**

Taking all Options within this section: 5.2. Establishment of horizon scanning programs to address specific informational needs within HTA and the health system into account.

Overall, to what extent could the options (if implemented) address the issues that relate to them?
Mostly address the issue(s)

**142.1**

If implemented, overall would these Options have a positive or negative impact on you (/your organisation)? - Horizon scanning for advanced therapies (including high cost, HSTs funded through the NHRA) and other potentially disruptive technologies
Very positive

**142.2**

If implemented, overall would these Options have a positive or negative impact on you (/your organisation)? - Horizon Scanning to meet priority areas (including addressing equity and HUCN)
Very positive

**142.3**

If implemented, overall would these Options have a positive or negative impact on you (/your organisation)? - Horizon Scanning to help operational and capacity planning for HTA and health systems
Very positive

**152**

Taking all Options within this section: 5.4. Mechanisms for continuous review and improvement into account.

Overall, to what extent could the options (if implemented) address the issues that relate to them?
Mostly address the issue(s)

**154.1**

If implemented, overall would these Options have a positive or negative impact on you (/your organisation)? - A program of continuous review and improvement for current HTA policies and methods
Positive

**157**

Taking all Options within this section: 5.5. Capacity and capability of the HTA system into account.

Overall, to what extent could the options (if implemented) address the issues that relate to them?
Mostly address the issue(s)

**159.1**

If implemented, overall would these Options have a positive or negative impact on you (/your organisation)? - Improve HTA capacity and workforce in Australia
Very positive

**167**

**In summary, considering all the draft reform options together:**

**How confident are you that the reform options (if implemented) will make health technology assessments better overall?**

Somewhat confident

170

**Finally, do you have any further comments about the draft Options Paper or consultation you would like to make before submitting your feedback?**

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment on the Options Paper.