

SENATE COMMUNITY AFFAIRS REFERENCES COMMITTEE:
INQUIRY INTO BARRIERS TO CONSISTENT, TIMELY AND BEST PRACTICE
ASSESSMENT OF ADHD AND SUPPORT SERVICES FOR PEOPLE WITH ADHD

Hearing Details

Date:	Thursday, 29 June 2023
Time:	4.30pm – 5.30pm AEST
Venue:	Committee Room 2S1, Parliament House, Canberra
Webex link:	https://aph.webex.com/aph/j.php?MTID=ma58dc83cab782b993f1db829a5c107dd
Meeting number:	2654 727 6771
Password:	7exMP2e9Vue
Connect 10 minutes before timeslot. Please mute your microphone when not speaking.	

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5. ADHD Medicines

Question - Cost of ADHD medicine

- The Australian Government is committed to ensuring Australians have access to affordable medicines through the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS).
- Recent PBS listings for attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) include:
 - From 1 May 2023, the PBS listings of long-acting methylphenidate (Ritalin® LA, Rubifen LA) were expanded to include treatment of patients who have a retrospective diagnosis of ADHD and are commencing treatment after 18 years of age.
- Currently, there are five medicines listed on the PBS for the treatment of Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (dexamfetamine, methylphenidate, atomoxetine, guanfacine and lisdexamfetamine).
- In 2022, over 3 million PBS prescriptions were dispensed to more than 400,000 patients with a government cost exceeding \$150 million.

Some additional info in case the Department gets asked:

- The utilisation of these medicines has been steadily increasing in the last five years.
- Methylphenidate was the most prescribed medicine in 2022 with over 1.2 million prescriptions dispensed followed by lisdexamfetamine.
- In 2022, the majority of prescription were dispensed to males.

Note that 2022-23 data is not available yet, hence, the calendar year. If required, we can provide 2022-23 with a caveat.

Full figures for the last 5 CY for your reference:

Year	Government Expenditure	Patients	Prescriptions
2018	\$59,200,552	186,423	1,357,859
2019	\$76,241,214	215,720	1,628,649
2020	\$97,132,843	254,957	1,952,514
2021	\$120,064,947	327,065	2,489,217
2022	\$151,963,750	413,747	3,171,241

Background

- The Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee (PBAC) is an independent expert body comprising doctors, other health professionals and consumer representatives, that makes recommendations to the Government about PBS listings.
- Under legislation, the Government cannot list a new medicine on the PBS unless the PBAC makes a recommendation in favour of its listing. Similarly, the Government relies on the advice of the PBAC for a change to the circumstances (e.g. the eligible patient population) of a PBS listing to be made.
- Consideration of a medicine for PBS listing is generally initiated by the sponsor making applications to the PBAC. Pharmaceutical companies have access to the scientific data and other information necessary to inform the PBAC's consideration.

ATTACHMENT C

Number of PBS prescriptions by medicine type and year

Year	Methylphenidate modified release	Dexamfetamine	Lisdexamfetamine	Methylphenidate immediate release	Guanfacine	Atomoxetine	Total prescriptions	Annual growth in prescriptions
2013	407,798	215,548	-	145,479	-	38,010	806,835	-
2014	438,178	220,287	-	158,092	-	39,169	855,726	6.1%
2015	472,911	233,804	17,635	172,920	-	43,404	940,674	9.9%
2016	492,519	241,625	111,442	182,412	-	46,817	1,074,815	14.3%
2017	515,291	255,219	178,853	194,836	-	51,697	1,195,896	11.3%
2018	548,959	277,246	243,491	217,798	10,490	54,779	1,352,763	13.1%
2019	595,720	305,918	303,278	245,911	117,408	55,526	1,623,761	20.0%
2020	667,771	354,158	378,209	286,712	201,198	59,647	1,947,695	19.9%
2021	762,162	417,702	623,856	338,507	276,694	67,240	2,486,161	27.6%
2022	857,935	518,813	960,338	402,002	359,852	74,569	3,173,509	27.6%