# National Medicines Policy – consultation on the revised NMP

# Overview

## Australia’s National Medicines Policy

The Department of Health and Aged Care is inviting stakeholders to provide further feedback on a revised draft of the National Medicines Policy (NMP).

Finalisation of the NMP Review was extended until after the recent Federal Election in May 2022.

The Minister for Health and Aged Care, the Hon. Mark Butler MP has reappointed Professor Michael Kidd AM as the sole reviewer to complete the Review and provide a final report to Government later this year.

**Provide your feedback on the draft National Medicines Policy**

Stakeholders will have the opportunity to engage and provide feedback on the revised draft of the 2022 NMP through a range of channels. The diverse perspectives, experience and knowledge of all stakeholders is highly valued and will contribute to the report to Government and finalisation of the 2022 NMP.

The revised draft National Medicines Policy 2022 and supporting documents are available at Related Documents at the bottom of this page.

**The consultation survey will be open for six weeks from 17 August 2022 until 27 September 2022 at 11:59 pm.**

The online consultation survey is accompanied by targeted consultations and an open public stakeholder forum that will be scheduled during September 2022.

For enquiries about the Review please email NMP@health.gov.au.

## What we’ve asked

The Committee undertook extensive stakeholder engagement to ensure that a range of issues and diverse experiences informed the refresh of the NMP as a high-level policy framework. The figure below summarises the consultation phases that were completed between 30 August 2021 to 2 March 2022.

## Phase 1 consultation phases

## What we’ve heard

While respondents broadly agreed with most components of the initial consultation draft 2022 NMP, a summary of feedback highlighted the need to:

* Ensure consistency in the language and phrasing to strengthen readability. This included suggestions to increase the use of person-centred language, and to use clearer language to support the understanding of each of the Policy’s components. This was commonly suggested for the Policy’s aim, and the descriptions of the Policy’s principles and Central Pillars.
* Increase specificity and detail throughout the Policy. This was commonly suggested with reference to the Central Pillars, with calls for greater detail on how the Pillars would be implemented, and the roles and responsibilities of all partners.
* Provide more explicit linkage between the NMP’s components. For example, some respondents suggested that there be more explicit linkage between the Policy’s principles with the Central Pillars, governance and evaluation components (including reporting mechanisms).

## What we’ve done

The Committee considered the best way to reflect stakeholder feedback and developed a revised consultation draft 2022 NMP (revised draft 2022 NMP). The Committee also developed a Summary Stakeholder Consultation Report to:

* Provide recommendations based on stakeholder feedback and their own expert experience, and
* Address feedback that was out of scope for the high-level Policy framework refresh.

This report is available (see Related Documents at the bottom of this page) and can be read in tandem with the revised consultation draft 2022 NMP.

### New and updated sections

The Committee have added and updated sections of the NMP. The table below provides a snapshot of changes the Committee have made. The inclusion of this table is intended to assist in directing feedback.

| **Section** | **New/Updated** | **Change** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Vision | New | New addition reflecting stakeholder calls for a vision statement. |
| Aim | Updated | Updated reflecting stakeholders calls for clearer aim and connections with content of Policy. |
| Scope | Updated | Updated to include reference to ensure distinction between complementary medicines and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander traditional medicines;Includes reference to medical devices and medicines-related services. |
| Achieving the vision and aim through partnerships | New | New additions which include:* Recognition of the centrality of individuals, carers, families and communities, including the relationships between the NMP partners. This can be found on page 3, *Achieving the vision and aim through partnerships.*
* Broad responsibilities and functions of partners to progress the intended outcomes of the Central Pillars. The list of partners and their responsibilities and functions can be found on pages 16-22
 |
| Principles | Updated | Updated for clarity. |
| Enablers | Updated | Updated for clarity. |
| Central Pillars | Updated | Updated for clarity. |
| Making the partnership work | New | New addition to emphasise the importance of a partnership approach to the NMP;The key responsible partner tables which were previously under each relevant Pillar can now be found in this section (pages 16-21). |
| Governance framework | Updated | Updated for clarity - strengthened reference to partnership approach and clarity of purpose and is now referred to as a Governance framework. |
| Implementation | Updated | Updated for clarity. |
| Evaluation | Updated | Updated for clarity. |

## Why we are consulting

The diverse perspectives, experience and knowledge of all stakeholders is valued and will contribute to the report to Government and finalisation of the 2022 Policy.

### Consultation Information

The revised consultation draft 2022 National Medicines Policy (see Related Documents at the bottom of this page) is open for consultation via the Consultation Survey. The survey will close at 11.59 pm on Tuesday 27 September 2022. **All responses must be provided through the survey.**

Please contact NMP@health.gov.au for any queries related to the survey.

## About the Survey

The survey is structured into 6 parts. Each section of the survey includes a preamble highlighting additions and amendments made by the Committee, with an example of what has changed, followed by the questions.

The survey sections and the number of questions include:

* Section 1. Privacy information
* Section 2. Introduction
* Section 3. Vision, aim, scope principles and enablers
* Section 4. Central Pillars
* Section 5. Partnerships – achieving the NMP’s vision and aim, includes
	+ Key responsible partners
	+ Governance
	+ Implementation
	+ Evaluation
* Section 6. General Comments

If you wish, you can complete the survey in stages by using the ‘save and return’ feature. At the bottom of each survey page, you can select the 'Save and come back later...' button. You will then be asked to provide an email address. A unique link will be emailed to you that will allow you to return where you left off. Email addresses entered for this purpose are not saved with your responses to the survey.

You can also choose the order in which you complete the sections of the survey. You will be returned to the contents page after you have completed the answers to each section. You will need to answer 'required' questions before you can submit your response.

**How will responses be used?**

The feedback gained through this process will be collated and used to support finalisation of the 2022 National Medicines Policy.

**Targeted consultation sessions**

Six targeted Webex consultation sessions are scheduled for a range of key stakeholder groups as presented below. Please be aware that due to the ongoing, high level of COVID transmission across the community, these sessions will be hosted via Webex. Please also note that Webex sessions will be recorded so that all feedback is captured and considered appropriately.

* Session A – Prescribers
	+ 1:30–2:30 pm Wednesday 24 August 2022
* Session B – Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders
	+ 10:00–11:00 am Thursday 25 August 2022
* Session C – Consumers
	+ 3:00–4:00 pm Monday 5 September 2022
* Session D – Medicines industry
	+ 12:00–1:00 pm Thursday 8 September 2022
* Session E – Pharmacy sector
	+ 3:00–4:00 pm Thursday 15 September 2022
* Session F – States and territories
	+ 3:00–4:00 pm Thursday 22 September 2022

To register interest, please email NMP@health.gov.au (no later than two days prior to the session, if possible) with the subject indicating which session you wish to attend, for example “EOI Session C - Consumers”,  and provide:

* your full name
* organisation (if applicable)
* nominated email address (for invitation)

You will then be sent a meeting invitation with the Webex details (including alternate dial‑in number, if required) the day prior to the session.

Stakeholders are encouraged to register for the session that most represents their area of interest, rather than registering for multiple sessions.

If you are unavailable to attend your preferred session at the allotted time, then you are encouraged to either attend another session or the broad stakeholder forum.

**Open Stakeholder forum – registration details**

Professor Michael Kidd AM, Deputy Chief Medical Officer and Principal Medical Advisor will facilitate an open stakeholder forum via Webex on 12 September 2022 between 3:00–5:00 pm.

To register interest, please email NMP@health.gov.au with the subject “EOI Open Forum” and provide your full name, organisation (if applicable) and nominated email address. You will then be sent a meeting invitation with the Webex details (with alternate dial‑in number, if required).

# Section 1. Privacy information

**Privacy and your personal information**

The Australian Government Department of Health and Aged Care (Department) is bound by the *Privacy Act 1988*and the Australian Privacy Principles (APPs).

Your personal information is protected by law, including the *Privacy Act 1988*(Privacy Act) and the Australian Privacy Principles, and is being collected by the Department, via Citizen Space, for the purposes of conducting a consultation process in relation to the NMP Review.

The Department will collect your personal information at the time that you provide a submission, unless you choose to make a submission anonymously, and you are not reasonably identifiable from the information provided in your submission.

While the Department encourages respondents to self-identify in their submission, there is no requirement to do so. If you choose to make an anonymous submission, the Department will be unable to attribute views to you in the Report or follow-up with you on any issues raised.

Each submission and comment, except where supplied in confidence, will be considered for publication on the Department’s website, and if published, remain indefinitely as a public document. If you consent, the information in your submission (other than a respondent’s personal contact information) may be published on the Department’s website. Submissions that are published on the Department’s website can be assessed by the general public, including people overseas. Ordinarily, where the Department discloses personal information to an overseas recipient, Australian Privacy Principle (APP) 8.1 requires the Department to take reasonable steps to ensure that the overseas recipient does not breach the APPs. However, if you consent to the publication of your submission, APP 8.1 will not apply to this disclosure and the Department will not be accountable under the Privacy Act for any subsequent use or disclosure by an overseas recipient of the personal information contained in your submission, and you will not be able to seek redress under the Privacy Act.

Further, if you consent, the Department may, at its discretion, publish part or all of the information provided in your submission in the Review’s Stakeholder Consultation Report (Report). If information from your submission is published, the Department may identify you and/or your organisation as the author of the submission, if you consent to being identified. Please note that your email address will not be published, and responses may be moderated to remove content that is inappropriate/offensive or contains sensitive information.

If you wish your submission or part of your submission to be kept confidential, you must notify the Department. You should not include information in your submission about another individual who is identified or is reasonably identifiable. If you need to include information about another individual in your submission, you will need to inform that individual of the contents of this notice and obtain their consent to the Department collecting their personal information.

The Australian Government may, at its discretion, share the Report or its findings with interested parties. The Department may disclose your responses to sub-contractors. Commonwealth contractors will be bound by the *Privacy Act 1988*.

The Commonwealth Freedom of Information Act 1982 (FOI Act) gives individuals a legally enforceable right to request access to documents held by government departments. This includes documents provided in response to the consultation process in support of the NMP Review. The FOI Act is available here: <https://www.legislation.gov.au/Details/C2020C00366>

The Department has an APP privacy policy which you can read at <https://www.health.gov.au/resources/publications/privacy-policy>

You can obtain a copy of the APP privacy policy by contacting the Department using the contact details set out at the end of this notice. The APP privacy policy contains information about:

* how you may access the personal information the Department holds about you and how you can seek correction of it;
* how you may complain about a breach of the APPs;
* a registered APP code that binds the Department; and
* how the Department will deal with complaints.

You can contact the Department regarding its privacy policy by telephone on (02) 6289 1555 or freecall 1800 020 103 or by using the online enquiries form at <https://www.health.gov.au/about-us/contact-us#general-enquiries>.

## Question 1.1

Do you consent to the Department collecting the information requested in Citizen Space about you, including any sensitive information, for the purposes of this consultation?

* Yes, I consent
* No, I do not consent

## Question 1.2

If you consent, the Department may, at its discretion, publish part or all of the information or all of the information provided in your submission on the Department’s website and in the Review’s Stakeholder Consultation Report (Report). If information from your submission is published, the Department may identify you and/or your organisation as the author of the submission, if you consent to being identified. Please note that your email address will not be published, and responses may be moderated to remove content that is inappropriate/offensive or contains sensitive information. Do you consent?

* Yes, I consent
* No, I do not consent

## Question 1.3

Please read and agree to the below declarations.

By making a submission, I acknowledge that:

* I understand that the giving of my consent is entirely voluntary.
* I am over the age of 18 years.
* I understand the purpose of the collection, use, publication, or disclosure of my submission
* Where relevant, I have obtained the consent of any individuals whose personal information is included in my submission, and consent to the Department collecting this information for the purposes outlined in this notice.
* I understand that, where I have provided consent to my submission being published, the Department has complete discretion as to whether my submission, in full or part, will be published.
* I have read, understood and consent to the above statements.

# Section 2. Introduction

## Question 2.1

What is your name?

## Question 2.2

What is your email address? If you enter your email address then you will automatically receive an acknowledgement email when you submit your response.

## Question 2.3

Are you responding as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?

* Individual
* Organisation

## Question 2.4

What is the name of your company and/or organisation? (If applicable)

## Question 2.5

Which of the following groups best represents you/your organisation’s interest? If you/your organisation belong to more than one, please select the most accurate.

* Medical professionals
* Pharmacists
* Nurses
* Medicines industry
* Medical technologies and/or medical devices industry
* Consumer, including carer or consumer representative
* Academic
* Medical research, including clinical trials
* Policy and program delivery
* Other

## Question 2.6

May we contact you to ask you for more information, or to seek feedback on how the consultation was undertaken?

* Yes
* No

# Section 3. Vision, aim, scope, principles and enablers

The Policy’s vision, aim, scope, principles and enablers can be found on pages 2-7.

## Question 3.1 – Vision

The Policy’s vision is to ‘achieve the best health, social and economic outcomes for all Australians through a highly supportive medicines policy environment.’

This vision will be achieved through an effective partnership environment. The vision can be found on page 2.

Using the scale below, please indicate your level of agreement with the Policy’s vision.

* Strongly agree
* Agree
* Neither agree nor disagree
* Disagree
* Strongly disagree

You can explain your selection or provide comments in the text box below if you wish.

## Question 3.2 – Aim

The aim of the Policy has been updated to simplify the language and provide clarity to reflect stakeholder suggestions. The Policy’s aim is to ensure:

* Equitable, timely and affordable access to high-quality and safe medicines and medicines-related services for all Australians.
* Medicines are used optimally with a focus on person-centred care.
* Support for a positive and sustainable environment to drive innovation and research, including translational research, and the development of medicines and medicines-related services.

The updated aim can be found on page 2.

Using the scale below, please indicate your level of agreement with the Policy’s aim.

* Strongly agree
* Agree
* Neither agree nor disagree
* Disagree
* Strongly disagree

You can explain your selection or provide comments in the text box below if you wish.

## Question 3.3 – Scope

The scope of the NMP has been broadened to include reference to medical devices used in the delivery of medicines and medicines-related services, and the reference to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander traditional medicines has been strengthened.

The revised draft NMP refers to:

‘medicine’ as covering a broad range of products that are used to prevent, treat, monitor or cure a disease or health condition. This encompasses prescription medicines, including biologic and non-biologic medicines, gene therapies, cell and tissue engineered medicines and vaccines, non-prescription products, complementary medicines, and traditional medicines, including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander traditional medicines. Devices used to administer and monitor the response to medicines are also included.

The term ‘medicines-related services’ include services and programs that support the quality use of medicines and medicines safety. Examples include medication review services and diagnostic services, including for personalised medicines.

This broad scope ensures the policy can adapt and respond to new and emerging treatment options. It also recognises that the definitions of medicines may vary across Commonwealth, state and territory legislation and regulation. The Policy’s principles and Pillars are applicable to all the above products and their clinical use. The Policy’s scope can be found on page 2.

Using the scale below, please indicate your level of agreement with the Policy’s scope.

* Strongly agree
* Agree
* Neither agree nor disagree
* Disagree
* Strongly disagree

You can explain your selection or provide comments in the text box below if you wish.

## Question 3.4 – Principles

The principles have been refined to include greater detail on what the principles mean in action. Notable changes include:

* The principle of equity is now ‘equity and access’.
* Partnership-based and shared responsibility are now one principle.

Using the scale below, please indicate your level of agreement with each of the Policy’s Principles and their descriptions. These can be found on pages 6-7.

|  | Strongly agree | Agree | Neither agree nor disagree | Disagree | Strongly disagree |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Person-centred |  |  |  |  |  |
| Equity and access |  |  |  |  |  |
| Partnership-based and shared responsibility |  |  |  |  |  |
| Accountability and transparency  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Innovation |  |  |  |  |  |
| Evidence-based |  |  |  |  |  |
| Sustainability  |  |  |  |  |  |

You can provide further comments in the text box below if you wish.

## Question 3.5 – Enablers

The NMP influences, and is also influenced by, related policies, programs, and initiatives of the wider health system. The list of enablers were supported by stakeholders and have been updated to reflect feedback, including further clarity under the description of the enabler. The updated enablers can be found on page 7.

Using the scale below, please indicate your level of agreement with the inclusion of each of the Policy’s enablers and their descriptions.

|  | Strongly agree | Agree | Neither agree nor disagree | Disagree | Strongly disagree |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Health literacy |  |  |  |  |  |
| Leadership and culture |  |  |  |  |  |
| Health workforce |  |  |  |  |  |
| Research |  |  |  |  |  |
| Data and information |  |  |  |  |  |
| Technology |  |  |  |  |  |
| Resources  |  |  |  |  |  |

You can provide further comments in the text box below if you wish.

# Section 4. Central Pillars

The Policy includes four Central Pillars. Stakeholder feedback on the initial consultation draft 2022 NMP indicated overall support for these Pillars while also indicating the need for further clarity and detail under the Pillar’s description. The Committee has updated the four Central Pillars based on stakeholder feedback. The updated Central Pillars can be found on pages 8-15.

## Question 4.1. Pillar 1 – Timely, equitable and reliable access to medicines and medicines-related services, at a cost that individuals and the community can afford.

Using the scale below, please indicate your level of agreement with Pillar 1, including its intended outcome and description.
Strongly agree

* Agree
* Neither agree nor disagree
* Disagree
* Strongly disagree

If you should wish to provide additional comments, please use the free text boxes below.

## Question 4.2. Pillar 2 – Medicines meet the required standards of quality, safety and efficacy.

Using the scale below, please indicate your level of agreement with Pillar 2, including its intended outcome and description.
Strongly agree

* Agree
* Neither agree nor disagree
* Disagree
* Strongly disagree

If you should wish to provide additional comments, please use the free text boxes below. Please select the relevant sections of the Pillar below should you wish to provide additional comments.

## Question 4.3. Pillar 3 – Quality use of medicines and medicines safety

Using the scale below, please indicate your level of agreement with Pillar 3, including its intended outcome and description.
Strongly agree

* Agree
* Neither agree nor disagree
* Disagree
* Strongly disagree

If you should wish to provide additional comments, please use the free text boxes below. Please select the relevant sections of the Pillar below should you wish to provide additional comments.

## Question 4.4. Pillar 4 – Responsive, innovative and sustainable medicines industry and research sectors with the capability, capacity and expertise to respond to current and future health needs.

Using the scale below, please indicate your level of agreement with Pillar 4, including its intended outcome and description.
Strongly agree

* Agree
* Neither agree nor disagree
* Disagree
* Strongly disagree

If you should wish to provide additional comments, please use the free text boxes below. Please select the relevant sections of the Pillar below should you wish to provide additional comments.

# Section 5. Partnerships – achieving the NMP’s vision and aim

The Committee identified that a strong partnership approach is key to the implementation of the NMP. Guided by stakeholder feedback, the Committee have updated existing sections and included a new section in the revised draft NMP about the partnership approach.

Partnership is articulated in the revised draft NMP in several ways, including:

* Recognition of the centrality of individuals, carers, families and communities, including the relationships between the NMP partners. This can be found on page 3, *Achieving the vision and aim through partnerships.*
* Broad responsibilities and functions of partners to progress the intended outcomes of the Central Pillars. The list of partners and their responsibilities and functions can be found on pages 16-21.
* Consistent reference to the need for partners to communicate the alignment of their programs, initiatives or activities with the NMP, including how they have put the principles into action. This responds to stakeholder feedback for greater clarity about the connection between the NMP itself and the implementation mechanisms for translating it into practice. This is especially important under the Governance Framework, Implementation and Evaluation sections which can be found on pages 22-23.

The revised draft NMP also includes consistent references on the need for the Policy’s partners to communicate alignment of their programs, initiatives or activities with the NMP, including how they have put the principles into action.

This section will seek feedback on three areas:

1. Key responsible partners and whether all relevant partner groups have been identified.
2. Updated responsibilities and functions of the identified partners.
3. The governance framework, including implementation and evaluation.

## Question 5.1. Figure 1 – Centrality of individuals, carers, families and communities, and the relationships between the NMP partners

Figure 1 demonstrates how the NMP influences the relationships between identified key partners and individuals, carers, families and communities.

Using the free text box below, please indicate if there are any partners missing from Figure 1 on page 3.

## Question 5.2. Pillar 1 – Timely, equitable and reliable access to medicines and medicines-related services, at a cost that individuals and the community can afford.

Using the scale below, please indicate your level of agreement with the partnership approach, including the key responsible partners. The key responsible partners for Pillar 1 can be found on pages 16-17.
Strongly agree

* Agree
* Neither agree nor disagree
* Disagree
* Strongly disagree

You can provide further comments in the text box below if you wish.

## Question 5.3. Pillar 2 – Medicines meet the required standards of quality, safety and efficacy.

Using the scale below, please indicate your level of agreement with the partnership approach, including the key responsible partners. The key responsible partners for Pillar 2 can be found on pages 17-18.
Strongly agree

* Agree
* Neither agree nor disagree
* Disagree
* Strongly disagree

You can provide further comments in the text box below if you wish.

## Question 5.4. Pillar 3 – Quality use of medicines and medicines safety

Using the scale below, please indicate your level of agreement with the partnership approach, including the key responsible partners. The key responsible partners for Pillar 3 can be found on pages 18-19.
Strongly agree

* Agree
* Neither agree nor disagree
* Disagree
* Strongly disagree

You can provide further comments in the text box below if you wish.

## Question 5.5. Pillar 4 – Responsive, innovative and sustainable medicines industry and research sectors with the capability, capacity and expertise to respond to current and future health needs

Using the scale below, please indicate your level of agreement with the partnership approach, including the key responsible partners. The key responsible partners for Pillar 4 can be found on pages 20-21.
Strongly agree

* Agree
* Neither agree nor disagree
* Disagree
* Strongly disagree

You can provide further comments in the text box below if you wish.

# Question 5.6. Governance Framework

The revised draft NMP maintains a description of a governance approach that embraces partnership. It has been updated to be described as a framework to better reflect a governance approach that is focused on co-ordination and shared problem solving and accountability, rather than being prescriptive about specific structures. It also recognises that each partner is responsible and accountable for achieving the NMP’s aim and intended outcomes. The Policy’s governance framework can be found on page 22.

Using the scale below, please indicate your level of agreement with the Policy’s governance.

* Strongly agree
* Agree
* Neither agree nor disagree
* Disagree
* Strongly disagree

You can provide comments in the text box below if you wish.

# Question 5.7. Implementation

The revised draft NMP remains consistent with the idea that the NMP functions as a co-ordinating framework that sets out the Pillars and intended outcomes for all partners to work towards. As no single partner is solely responsible for achieving the Policy’s aim, its implementation is a collective responsibility that should be documented appropriately at the program level by each partner. This could include better alignment between policy, legislation and regulatory frameworks across different levels of government.

The Policy’s implementation is outlined on page 22.

Using the scale below, please indicate your level of agreement with the Policy’s implementation.

* Strongly agree
* Agree
* Neither agree nor disagree
* Disagree
* Strongly disagree

You can provide comments in the text box below if you wish.

# Question 5.8. Evaluation

The revised draft NMP describes beneath each Pillar the intended outcomes that the partners should collectively strive to achieve. The Committee updated the evaluation section to reiterate the importance of a partnership approach to evaluation and the need to better align policies, strategies, programs, and initiatives that underpin the NMP. The Policy’s evaluation, including guidance for components of an evaluation strategy aligned to the NMP, is outlined on page 22.

Using the scale below, please indicate your level of agreement with the Policy’s evaluation.

* Strongly agree
* Agree
* Neither agree nor disagree
* Disagree
* Strongly disagree

You can explain your selection or provide comments in the text box below if you wish.

# Section 6. General Comments

Please provide any additional comments you may have on the revised consultation draft 2022 NMP.