



Quality Use of Diagnostics, Therapeutics and Pathology Program

The redesign of the existing Quality Use of Diagnostics, Therapeutics and Pathology (QUDTP) Program, includes an additional \$3.9 million to deliver targeted, responsive and efficient activities that ensure public confidence and knowledge about using medicines and diagnostics test safely and effectively.

The designed QUDTP Program will reduce duplication and maximise the impact of Quality Use of Medicine (QUM) funding. The Department of Health currently funds two organisations, the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care (ACSQHC) and NPS MedicineWise (NPS), to deliver similar and overlapping outcomes.

From 1 January 2023, NPS MedicineWise (NPS) will no longer receive a non-competitive grant to undertake QUDTP initiatives.

Redesigned Program

These changes will enhance the ability of the ACSQHC to co-ordinate and drive quality and safety improvements related to use of medicines and diagnostics across the Australian health system.

ACSQHC is responsible for leading quality and safety in healthcare and has substantial content knowledge. By consolidating QUM activities within the ACSQHC, this reform will leverage its expertise and system-wide reach, including existing inter-jurisdictional clinical committees.

The Department of Health will also promote the delivery of targeted quality use of medicines and diagnostic educational activities, for both health professionals and consumers, to support the optimal use of therapeutics and diagnostics. This will be done by way of a series of competitive grants and procurement processes.

This means that education providers such as Medical Colleges, Consumer Groups, NGOs, universities and professional organisations will be able to apply for new grants to support activities that will improve medicine use. NPS will also be welcome to participate.

These new grant opportunities will leverage the significant growth of educational services that are available for health professionals. Today, the accreditation requirements for health professionals mean that there are more educational service providers, including medical colleges and professional associations, with the capacity to deliver the QUM grant activities. The number of consumer and community organisations, and their capacity to drive improvements to consumer literacy, has also grown.

The redesigned QUDTP Program means the grant opportunities are to be opened up to a wider group of service providers, many with a direct relationship to the target groups to which the grant program is seeking to deliver benefits. Opening up the grant to competitive processes will assist in promoting innovation and value for money. Over \$10m annually will be made available for Health Professional Educational grants.

The redesigned QUDTP Program also addresses the need for more targeted medicines information and health literacy initiatives, as identified by:

- the Review of the National Medicines Policy (NMP) consultation process; and
- the House of Representatives Inquiry into approval processes for new drugs and novel medical technologies in Australia (the Zimmerman Inquiry).

Over \$2m annually will be made available through grants to support health literacy, improving quality use of medicines and diagnostics.

Health professionals and consumers will continue to benefit from up-to-date education and information on the optimal and safe use of medicines.

The Department acknowledges the significant contribution by NPS to the QUM. The current grant to NPS expires in June 2022, and a further 6 months of grant funding is being made available to enable NPS to continue to deliver important QUM activities whilst supporting the transition of activities to the ACSQHC and to the new grant and procurement initiatives, so as to ensure minimum disruption in services.

Over the following months, the Department intends to engage with relevant stakeholders regarding the opportunities presented within the redesigned program.