



Review of the Efficient Funding of Chemotherapy Funding Arrangements – consultation on the interim report

On the 5th September 2022 the Australian Department of Health and Aged Care released the interim report of the Review of the Efficient Funding of Chemotherapy (EFC) Funding Arrangements (the Review) and the opportunity to provide feedback. The initial consultation period ran from May to July 2021. In both instances, Cancer Council provided a submission in collaboration with the Clinical Oncology Society of Australia, the Medical Oncology Group of Australia and the Australasian Leukaemia and Lymphoma Group. The Review aimed to look at the impact and continuing suitability of current EFC arrangements and associated practices within the supply chain to ensure continuing access to these medicines.

Cancer Council's submission to the interim report acknowledged where information provided to initial consultation in 2021 had been incorporated, and where issues remained unaddressed. Most of our initial feedback was reflected within the interim report, and we expect much of what was not addressed, which sits outside of the direct scope of the EFC program, will likely be captured within a proposed supplementary report. A supplementary report is being compiled by the Review Team on issues raised as part of the consultation process which sit outside the EFC program's scope of funding for chemotherapy and other medicines used for the treatment of cancer that are administered through infusion or injection.

The interim report's content and recommendations are technical in nature. Recommendations within the interim report are framed as short-term, medium-term, long-term and system change, recognising the need for legislative change and a sensible approach to achieving sustainable and long-term improvements. This also enables incremental steps to progress towards a cancer medicines funding system which incorporates both the funding of cancer medicines, and funding to support all aspects of cancer medicines delivery with the aim to reduce costs to the patient and the health system, and reduce delays in access, particularly for people living in rural and remote areas. Cancer Council supports this approach.

Our submission included a focus on:

- Change of the program's name to recognise that the program funds systemic anti-cancer therapies other than chemotherapy and beyond only intravenous administration.
- Recognising and funding other functions of the process required for the quality delivery of cancer medicines. This could particularly support smaller pharmacies and regional and rurally located services.
- Improvement to the alignment between funding arrangements and how anti-cancer medicines are purchased, reimbursed and dispensed.

Information about the progress of the consultation, can be found on the consultation's [webpage](#).