

Embargoed until 00.01 AEDT on Tuesday 17 October

Bristol Myers Squibb Australia Presents the Patient and Parliament Summit: *Medicines for All - Unlocking Universal Patient Access*

Patients, Patient Organisations, and Policy makers discuss the importance of timely patient access to medicines in Australia

Melbourne, Australia - Tuesday, 17 October: — Bristol Myers Squibb Australia is pleased to announce the second annual BMS Patient and Parliament Summit, taking place on 17 and 18 October 2023. Building upon the success of last year's event, the Summit will convene key stakeholders, policymakers, and thought leaders to address the critical issue of universal patient access to life-changing medicines.

The Summit's theme, "Medicines for All", underscores our commitment to ensuring that every Australian has equitable access to innovative healthcare solutions. This initiative couldn't be timelier, as it dovetails with the current Australian health technology (HTA) assessment review. The Summit seeks to highlight the vital role patients can play in shaping our nation's health landscape with respect to access to medicines.

The summit consists of four key components:

- **A Seminar** - focused on the key challenges relating to early access to medicines and the hope for reform through the Health Technology Assessment (HTA) Review process. In attendance will be the Shadow Minister for Health and Aged Care, Senator the Hon Anne Ruston, Dr. Nick Coatsworth, former Deputy Chief Health Minister, Richard Vines, Founder and Chair of Rare Cancers Australia and Liz DeSomer, the Chief Executive Officer of Medicines Australia;
- **Friends of Medicine Luncheon** hosted by the Parliamentary Friends of Medicine and the Patient Voice Initiative to discuss the importance of the patient voice in the Australian health system;
- **Patient meetings with MPs and Senators** in which patients will share their lived experiences with their Federal Member of Parliament to highlight how timely access to innovative medicines has impacted their lives; and
- **Shaping Healthcare Together annual roundtable**, where we will discuss key issues related to consumer/patient engagement and the HTA review with the leaders of 20 Australian patient organisations.

The Patient & Parliament Summit provides a unique combination of information and insight exchange together with the opportunity to connect patients directly with parliamentarians.

Hayley Andersen, Head of Advocacy & Policy, Bristol-Myers Squibb said: "Truly effective reform of our healthcare system requires the active involvement and insights of those it serves - the patients. By facilitating direct discourse between patients and policy makers, we can ensure that healthcare policies are not only evidence based but also reflective of the diverse needs and experiences of Australian patients. We hope to promote transparency, accountability and responsiveness in health care decision making to unlock universal patient access in the future"

Universal medicines access to innovative medicines requires collaboration and the identification of shared goals. The Patient and Parliament Summit convenes stakeholders, policymakers, and thought leaders to discuss system reform opportunities aimed at enhancing patient access to medicines and patient values being better recognised by decision makers.

About Bristol-Myers Squibb

Bristol Myers Squibb is a global biopharmaceutical company whose mission is to discover, develop and deliver innovative medicines that help patients prevail over serious diseases. For more information about Bristol Myers Squibb, visit us at <https://www.bms.com/au>

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