



## **ACTIONS SPEAK LOUDER THAN WORDS NATIONAL MEDICINES POLICY REVIEW CALLS FOR TRANSPARENCY BUT DOES NOT PROVIDE IT**

*Better Access Australia (BAA) has established a [webpage](#) with links to publicly available submissions made to the National Medicines Policy review.*

*The [webpage](#) is in response to confirmation the Department of Health will not make the submissions publicly available.*

*In a review process that asks the community to comment on whether accountability and transparency should be a pillar of any future medicines access policy, the Department of Health has determined that submissions will not be released.*

*Instead, a list of those who submitted will be included in the final report with interested readers free to search for contributions on individual organisations or patient websites.*

*Where is the transparency or best practice consultation in this approach?*

*BAA has established the [webpage #voicesthatcannotbeheard](#) to provide a single point of access to these submissions with the help of the community that has written them.*

*“For those who have submitted to parliamentary inquiries on the health, disability and even national security sector, the expectation of being able to see the multiple perspectives contributing to policy and regulatory development in 2021 is a given,” said BAA chair Felicity McNeill PSM.*

*“When one of the key platforms being explored in a policy review is accountability and transparency, the need to lead by example is paramount.*

*“We applaud the transparency of the Department in releasing submissions to the draft terms of reference for the Opioid Dependence Treatment Program post market review. It shows openness and genuine engagement with the community on public health programs administered for the community by the Department.*

*“It follows in the footsteps of the TGA, who lead the way in transparency and robust engagement with the community in the Department of Health.*

*“To not see that same commitment to transparency and access in the formative policy development for medicines access in Australia is incredibly disappointing.*

*“Given the truncated timeframes for this review, it makes it almost impossible for those engaging in the next stages of consultation to reflect upon the sage input of others before reconsidering their own priorities.*

“Whether you are a patient, a provider, a clinician a researcher, a medical student, an organisation or industry group, we are all contributors to one health system and one medicines access policy.

“We invite individuals, not for profits, industry groups, suppliers, clinician and medical research groups who made a submission to either send us their submission for uploading on our website or a hyperlink to their own site so everyone can have a ‘[one-stop shop](#)’ of timely and easy access to the information they need to form a view on the future of Australia’s national medicines policy.

“Knowledge is empowerment. Health literacy is a priority for everyone. Better Access Australia just want to give everyone the same access to information and the therefore the same access to contribute and learn from each other’s perspectives in shaping the future of Australia’s NMP.

To have your submission or hyperlink loaded on our single touchpoint NMP webpage, please email Tim Davies at [tdavies@betteraccessaustralia.org.au](mailto:tdavies@betteraccessaustralia.org.au) using the subject heading “Our NMP Submission”

For more information, visit [www.betteraccessaustralia.org.au](http://www.betteraccessaustralia.org.au)