



## Pushing poor medicine choices to save money with no transparency

Better Access Australia supports [Consumers Health Forum of Australia \(CHF\)](#) work to improve consumer health literacy and transparency of government decisions.

[NPS MedicineWise](#) has combined with some patient and other groups to recommend 70yr old methotrexate instead of the appropriate use of biologicals.

The only purpose is to achieve government savings of over \$50M - this is a FACT.

Groups funded \$8.8M to reduce cost of PBS by stopping use of medicines that have transformed treatment of arthritis. [Greg Hunt](#) announced with pride the new listing to ankylosing spondylitis 2wks ago..... perhaps he should have read this press release.

We support clinically appropriate prescribing of medicines. Yet these medicines are 50% cheaper than when 1st listed. Time for earlier intervention to stop burden of disease, not higher use of treatment that cause significant side effects in up to 65% of patients.

If you advocate for a particular health outcome be honest about why so consumers can make informed choice...Mind the Gap in transparency.

### Improving Access to Medicines — strengthening the quality use of healthcare services

Expense (\$m)	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
Department of Health	..	2.6	-5.3	-17.0	-30.3
Department of Veterans' Affairs	-	..	-0.1	-0.2	-0.3
National Blood Authority	-	-2.2	-5.5	-17.3	-17.8
Total — Expense	..	0.4	-10.9	-34.6	-48.4
<i>Related revenue (\$m)</i>					
<i>National Blood Authority</i>	-	-0.8	-2.0	-6.4	-6.6

The Government will deliver targeted education activities for prescribers to reduce unnecessary or inappropriate use of biological disease-modifying anti-rheumatic drugs (bDMARDs) and to support the appropriate use of blood and blood products.

The Government estimates that improved use of medicines and blood products will lead to a reduction in costs of \$77.6 million over five years from 2017-18.

The savings from this measure will be redirected by the Government to fund health policy priorities.