



To: Minister Hunt
Subject: Expression of Interest – Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance (Gavi) COVAX Facility
Critical date: s47C

Recommendation/s:

- | | |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| 1. s47C | 1. Agreed/Not agreed/Please discuss |
| 2. s47C | 2. Signed/Changes required |
| 3. s47C | 3. Agreed/Not agreed/Please discuss |
| 4. Note that joining the Gavi COVAX facility will ensure that Australia has priority access to any successful COVID-19 vaccine to cover 20 per cent of the population. | 4. Noted |
| 5. Note that the Department will provide you with further advice regarding whether Australia should enter into a binding agreement with the Gavi COVAX facility. | 5. Noted |

Signature **Date:** / /

Media Release required?

Comments:

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Issues:

1. s33

An overview of the facility is at Attachment A. Joining the facility will provide Australia with a guarantee of sufficient doses to immunise 20 per cent of the population with successful COVID-19 vaccine candidate(s) procured from the facility (if and when a successful vaccine is developed).

2. Following the expression of interest, Australia will be invited to join discussions about the structure of the facility. s33

3. The final cost of participating will be dependent on the type of technology used and the number of doses required per person. s33

4. Countries are able to join the facility as either an individual country or as a group of countries. Early discussions have commenced with s33

Group buy in to the facility will ensure increased overall buy in, which would enhance the overall buying power of the facility. s33

5. Submitting an expression of interest to the facility is consistent with strategies detailed in the s34

and does not create any financial obligations or commitments at this time.

6. s47C

Background:

Global efforts to control the spread of COVID-19 have been unsuccessful; to date more than 9 million cases and 470,000 deaths have been reported worldwide. Academic and commercial research to develop a COVID-19 vaccine is progressing rapidly with more than 130 vaccine candidates progressing world-wide, with 10 entering phase I or II human trials.

Once a safe and effective vaccine or vaccines are developed there will be global competition from high and middle income countries to ensure early access for their populations. Already countries, both as individuals and groups, are entering into advance purchasing agreements with vaccine manufacturers to ensure allocations.

On 24 April 2020, the World Health Organisation (WHO) launched the Access to COVID-19 Tools (ACT) Accelerator, a global collaboration to support development, production and access to COVID-19 diagnostics, therapeutics and vaccines. Gavi has been working with the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI), WHO and other partners through the Vaccine Partnership to facilitate COVID-19 vaccine development and access through the COVAX facility.

The COVAX facility provides governments with the opportunity to benefit from a large portfolio of COVID-19 vaccine candidates and manufacturers across the world. Governments that participate in the COVAX facility will have the opportunity to receive doses to vaccinate up to 20 per cent of their population as a part of an initial allocation. Following this allocation a decision will be made about whether to extend the facility. At this time participating countries can choose to extend their agreement or withdraw from the facility.

In addition to individual country allocations 10 per cent of manufactured doses will be retained by the COVAX facility to address sporadic outbreaks and for humanitarian use.

Attachments:

Attachment A –s47C

Attachment B –s47C, s33

Sensitivities: It is unknown when, if ever, a safe and effective vaccine for COVID-19 will be developed. The mainstream media continues to report on vaccine developments and public expectations of early access to any vaccine will be high.

Consultations: The Department has consulted with: the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet, including the National COVID-19 Coordination Commission; the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade; the Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources.

