



Committee Secretariat
Red Tape Committee
Department of the Senate
PO Box 6100
Canberra ACT 2600

10 January 2017

Dear Secretary

Select Committee on Red Tape Inquiry into the effect of red tape on health services

Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission to the committee's inquiry into the effect of red tape on health services. This is an area that has experienced substantial change over the past five years. As an innovative pharmaceutical company that invests in clinical trials and provides medicines to Australians including through the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS), Roche supports streamlining and harmonising processes that will provide faster access to new medicines.

Two areas that would benefit from red tape reduction are clinical trials and the health technology assessment (HTA) process. Please see attached Roche's policy positions on clinical trials and HTA. These positions address Term of Reference (b) "any specific areas of red tape that are particularly burdensome, complex, redundant or duplicated across jurisdictions". Many of these issues have been considered by previous government reviews and Senate inquiries, including the Community Affairs References Committee and the Select Committee into Funding for Research into Cancers with Low Survival Rates. However, issues remain.

Clinical trials policy

There is a significant need for greater harmonisation and streamlining of processes for clinical trials to facilitate further investment and early patient access in Australia. Particularly challenging are the ethics and governance approval systems that are fragmented and variable between the States and Territories. This can limit Australia's competitiveness with other high-quality locations for research.

HTA processes

There are opportunities to reduce the number of submissions and resubmissions to the Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee (PBAC) for reimbursement of new medicines, which can delay patient access to new treatments. Whilst there have been commitments and progress made by the Government and Department of Health to streamline the process and implement different pathways for submissions, it is imperative that the system is made fit-for-purpose.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you would like to discuss further.



Yours sincerely

David Pullar
Head of Government Affairs and Public Policy