

Office of the Director-General

Senator Janet Rice
PO Box 6100,
Parliament House Canberra
ACT 2600

Via email: community.affairs.sen@aph.gov.au
CC: STEPHEN-SMITH@act.gov.au

Dear Senator Rice

Inquiry into the assessment and support services for people with ADHD

Thank you for your email of 3 August 2023, seeking advice in relation to prescribing of ADHD medication.

The [ACT Controlled Medicine Prescribing Standards](#) define the conditions and criteria under which a doctor may prescribe a controlled medicine, including psychostimulants for ADHD. Treatment of ADHD in the ACT can only be initiated by a paediatrician (for people aged 4 to 18 years), psychiatrist or neurologist. However, once the treatment has been initiated, a general practitioner can continue treatment with documented support from an appropriate specialist. The duration of a Chief Health Officer (CHO) approval for a doctor to prescribe medications to treat ADHD varies depending on patient age, the initiating prescriber and if the ongoing prescriber is a specialist or general practitioner. This timeframe varies from two to three years.

In the ACT, the current number of patients accessing ADHD medication is 6,271.

The ACT would support a Nationally and/or jurisdictionally consistent approach to prescribing of these medications.

Yours sincerely

Catherine Rule
Director-General

11 August 2023