

Public Hearing: Tuesday 28 February 2023**Witness: Dr Fei Sim FPS, National President, Pharmaceutical Society of Australia****Opening statement**

Thank you, Chair. I would like to acknowledge the traditional owners of the lands on which we meet today and pay my respects to their Elders past and present, and extend that respect to other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who are present today. I am appearing today from the land of the Whadjuk people in Western Australia.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak today.

The Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) is the peak national professional pharmacy organisation representing all of Australia's 36,000 pharmacists working in all sectors and across all locations. PSA is the profession's standards-setting body and the custodian of standards, guidelines and code of ethics which are fundamental to articulating pharmacists' scope of practice and ensuring quality and integrity in the professional practice of pharmacists.

Central to the pharmacy profession's remit is a commitment to person-centred care, evidence-based best practice, collaborative team care arrangements and quality improvement. PSA believes medication safety, quality use of medicines, and timely access to equitable and affordable healthcare interventions are important facets to improving reproductive health care in Australia.

To ensure patients' reproductive health care experience is seamless, timely and contemporary, we must be prepared to operate in different ways to what we have been accustomed to, and work smarter to maximise the respective contributions of the healthcare workforce.

PSA can facilitate development of rigorous and robust standards and guidelines to ensure the expertise of pharmacists can be fully utilised through contemporary and innovative models of reproductive health care. PSA fully supports the approach to ensuring patient safety as a priority, improving timely and affordable access, and strengthening delivery of collaborative health care. Further, pharmacists are well-placed to deliver public health and preventive care messages, contribute to improvements in health literacy and digital literacy, and support and empower patient choice and informed decision-making.

PSA appreciates the opportunity to give evidence today and I welcome any questions from the Committee. Thank you.