

Senator Janet Rice
Chair
The Senate Community Affairs References
Committee

T 08 8999 2669

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Via Email: community.affairs.sen@aph.gov.au

Dear Senator Rice

RE: Inquiry into the assessment and support services for people with Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder

Thank you for your letter of 3 August 2023 to the Northern Territory Department of Health (NT Health).

In response to the request from the Senate Community Affairs Reference Committee inquiry into the assessment and support services for people with Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), NT Health provides the following responses:

- **The policy and scientific basis for including ADHD medications in the regulatory framework and the basis on which the rules were developed** - ADHD medicines that are in Schedule 8 (dexamfetamine, lisdexamfetamine, methylphenidate) are declared restricted schedule 8 medicines under the Medicines, Poisons and Therapeutic Goods Act 2012.

This imposes the requirement for the prescriber to hold an authority from the Chief Health Officer (CHO) as well as generally prohibits the validity of interstate prescriptions being dispensed in the NT. These medicines have been declared as RS8's since 2014 in respect to the stance nationally that only specialists in some fields are appropriate prescribers. This process allows the CHO to approve prescribing for certain conditions and where specific criteria have been met to ensure safe and appropriate management of patients.

- **The process for review or consumer feedback** - the Scheduled Substances Clinical Advisory Committee regularly reviews the current regulatory model and if any changes are required from time to time. This committee includes practitioners working directly with patients and can raise consumer feedback that way. Consumers may contact NT Health at any time to provide feedback around concerns and often call Medicines and Poisons when access has been an issue in the past.
- **Whether you would support a consistent approach between jurisdictions** - NT Health has no major objections to this approach as long as it does not unfairly restrict access to NT patients.
- **The number of prescriptions issued annually for ADHD medications** - annually there are approximately 7500 relevant prescriptions generated in the NT which reflects approximately 3200 patients.

If you would like further clarification on the regulatory framework surrounding the prescribing of ADHD medication and the approach of the NT, please contact
Director, Medicines and Poisons, Clinical Excellence and Patient Safety via email on
or telephone on

Yours sincerely

Professor Marco Briceno
BMBS, MRCS (England), FACRRM, AFACHSM
Chief Executive
19 August 2023