

Minutes of the Supplier Advisory Panel Meeting Wednesday 8 June 2026

This meeting was held online from 2.00pm to 3.00pm.

Present:

Members:

Michaela Lion (AbbVie) – Chair
Francis Lawes (Pfizer)
Lindsay Ancelet (GSK)
Matt Needham (Roche)
Angela Pantano (Roche)

Reset Programme staff:

Karl McDiarmid (Programme Director)
Danielle Campbell (Reset Project Manager)
Becky Littlewood (Programme Coordinator)

Pharmac staff attendees:

Ben Campbell-Macdonald (Manager, Pharmaceutical Assessment)
Caro De Luca (Manager Expert Advisory)
Ginette Spence (Senior Project Manager, Medical Devices)
Claire Pouwels (Manager, Pharmaceutical Funding)

Apologies:

Kate King (Medtronic)
Jannel Fisher (Reset Programme Manager)
Kylie Earle (Sanofi)
Liz Naylor (AstraZeneca)

Karakia and welcome

The meeting was opened by the chair.

Minutes of previous meeting

Minutes of the previous minutes were approved.

- Moved by: Michaela
- Seconded by: Matt

Action items

- Action items were noted.

Action item #9 to be kept open for a further week for members to log discussion of process descriptions.

Interest register

- No new interest declarations.

Budget 2026 update

Pharmac updated members on Budget 2026, noting that the additional \$13.5m funding increase has been allocated to the Medicines Budget. Pharmac confirmed that the Medicine Budget cannot be used for improvement programme activities and that work will continue

during 2026/27 to explore funding options for future years. Members acknowledged the hard work undertaken by Pharmac to secure the budget uplift.

Timely Assessment Improvement Programme - year one focus

Pharmac noted that the Timely Assessment Improvement Programme (TAP) will start on 1 July 2026 and represents the next phase of Pharmac's broader improvement work.

Pharmac intends to engage with the Supplier Advisory Panel throughout planning and implementation, including testing proposed deliverables and processes. Members feedback is valued and will be incorporated into the planning and delivery.

Members sought to understand how consumers and clinicians could provide earlier input into the application and assessment process. Pharmac advised that this will be considered as part of the expert advice review planned for year one.

Pharmac noted that the Interim Consumer Transition Committee, and subsequently the new Community and Patient Advisory Committee, alongside SAP, will be utilised to provide input and assist in testing proposed processes.

Members also sought greater clarity around when the historic application backlog is expected to reduce in a more meaningful way, and when the current pilot approach may be rolled out more broadly. Members noted that more timely access to clinical advice is highly valued.

Pharmac acknowledged the significant work undertaken by suppliers to bring new medicines into New Zealand and noted that increased certainty around timeframes is important for suppliers. Pharmac advised it is continuing to work towards the timeframes previously shared with members.

Members asked how medical devices would be incorporated into future processes. Pharmac advised it is working jointly with Health New Zealand to establish priorities and support clearer decision-making.

Pharmac agreed to hold a supplier group meeting in late July or early August. The session would include updates on the improvement work underway and planned for 2026/27, followed by a question and answer session.

Agreed action:

- *Pharmac to arrange a supplier group meeting in late July or early August.*

General business

Reset Programme evaluation

Pharmac discussed the proposed evaluation approach with members to seek feedback on appropriate measures of success for the Reset Programme. Members noted that it was still too early to fully assess programme outcomes but agreed that a combination of quantitative and qualitative measures was appropriate at this stage.

Chair rotation and meeting length

Members and Pharmac discussed adjusting the chair length to quarterly to support greater continuity and reduce administrative burden. Members agreed to this change. Michaela chaired her final session, with Francis confirmed as the next chair.

Members also proposed extending meetings from 60 minutes to 90 minutes to allow more time for discussion. There was broad agreement to trial the extended meeting length.

Agreed action:

- *Pharmac to update all future meetings to a 90-minute duration.*

Close of meeting at 4.00pm.

Next meeting: 8 July 2026.