



National Medicines Policy – consultation on the revised draft

On the 17 August 2022 the Commonwealth Government Department of Health and Aged Care released the revised draft of the National Medicines Policy (NMP). This is the second iteration of the draft NMP. The consultation on the first draft concluded in March 2022 to which Cancer Council also made a submission. In both instances, Cancer Council developed its submission in collaboration with the Clinical Oncology Society of Australia, the Medical Oncology Group of Australia and the Cancer Nurses Society of Australia.

Cancer Council's submission supported the inclusion of a vision and strengthened recognition of partnerships as an essential element to the NMP's success into the revised draft. Also, the NMP now appropriately calls out specifically underserved populations rather than grouping them all as 'other populations.' Our submission also highlighted issues that remained unaddressed from our submission to the first draft. These related to the need to include clear time bound policy goals or policy achievements to strengthen the NMP and support achievement of its aim; strengthen the wording and language used in the pillars and principles, clarity on governance of the NMP and; the development of a transparent implementation plan with strategies which include facilitating stakeholder partnerships and collaborations, with the introduction of national legislation and regulatory frameworks to hold all partners accountable for their role in ensuring the NMP achieves its intended outcomes.

Information about the progress of the consultation, can be found on the consultation's [webpage](#).