



**The Hon Mark Butler MP**  
**Minister for Health and Aged Care**

Ref No: MC22-023002

Rita Kessler  
President  
International Society of Drug Bulletins  
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Dear Ms Kessler

Thank you for your correspondence on behalf of the International Society of Drug Bulletins (ISDB) regarding the funding of NPS MedicineWise and Australian Prescriber. I apologise for the delay in responding.

The Australian Government acknowledges the importance of Quality Use of Medicines (QUM) as a pillar of our National Medicines Policy and the role Australian Prescriber has in supporting critical QUM outcomes for Australians and the broader international community.

The Government delivered on its commitment to undertake the rapid review of the 2022-23 Budget Measure 'Guaranteeing Medicare and Access to Medicines – Improving Access to Medical Equipment, Treatment and Diagnostics', which altered the way the Government is delivering the Quality Use of Diagnostics, Therapeutics and Pathology Program.

The conclusions of the independent report were considered, and the Government is proceeding with the measure. From 1 January 2023, stewardship functions of the QUM will be delivered by the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care. The remaining activities, including Australian Prescriber, will continue through contestable funding arrangements.

The Department of Health and Aged Care is currently reviewing the requirements to support the ongoing publication of the Australian Prescriber journal, with announcements to be made on this in due course. This will ensure Australian Prescriber continues to be delivered as a national, independent, and peer-reviewed journal providing critical commentary on therapeutics and diagnostics. The Government is committed to safeguarding Australian Prescriber's editorial independence, quality standards, and role as a trusted information source.

The Government remains committed to continuing to provide a world-leading therapeutic and diagnostic journal that meets the needs of health professionals, encouraging best practice and evidence-based knowledge source.

Thank you for writing on this matter.

Yours sincerely



Mark Butler

23/01/2023

cc: Associate Professor Barbara Mintzes, General Secretary, ISDB  
Dr Luis Carlos Saiz, Treasurer, ISDB  
Associate Professor Nuria Homedes, ISDB  
Dr Roberta Joppi, ISDB