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## Procedure guidance for medicines funded through the LSDP

Rare Voices Australia (RVA) welcomes the '[Procedure guidance](#) for medicines funded through the Life Saving Drugs Program (LSDP) - Version 1.0,' which has been published on the Department of Health website. RVA has been a strong advocate for reform of the LSDP and a key participant (alongside the Department of Health and industry representatives) in the development of this procedural reform detail. The Procedure Guidance covers many aspects of the LSDP including the consideration of new medicines and medicine reviews. We congratulate all involved in its development.

For many years, RVA had been a vocal critic of the LSDP's consideration of new medicines with the process often breaking down, delayed and a lack of transparency and accountability – a 'black hole'. RVA welcomes these procedural reforms which should lead to a much improved process and a stronger system that better responds to the needs of the rare disease community.

The Procedure Guidance outlines a much clearer pathway for the consideration of new medicines, increased transparency and the accountability of formal timelines. There are increased opportunities for stakeholder involvement (patients/clinicians) at key stages of the process.

One of Government's reforms included existing medicines reviews. The Procedure Guidance provides more detail on this. RVA welcomes the involvement of the expert representative patient and clinician perspectives to this review process.

RVA was pleased to play such an active key stakeholder role in these consultations with key Department of Health personnel and the Rare Disease Industry Working Group. It is clear from this document that much of what RVA advocated for has been heard and included. RVA will continue to be consulted on this vital program in the future. Please note this document is Version 1.0 and subject to revision by the (yet to be announced) Expert Panel. RVA looks forward to the announcement of the LSDP Expert Panel in the coming weeks.



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