

## **Access to medicines outside of public funding**

### **Roche Australia (Pharmaceuticals) Policy Position**

#### **Summary**

- Roche's aim is for every person who needs our medicines to be able to benefit from them.
- The Federal and State Governments have primary responsibility for Australia's universal healthcare system, which provides subsidised access to many medicines via the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) and public hospitals.
- Roche acknowledges that the absence of public funding for a prescribed medicine may represent a significant financial burden and difficult choice for patients.
- In situations where there is no public funding, Roche may be able to assist patients with alternative mechanisms of access to medicines, such as providing subsidies.

#### **Roche position**

Access to quality healthcare is a shared responsibility, requiring all stakeholders to work together. At Roche, we believe our primary contribution is to innovate healthcare by delivering medicines that significantly improve people's lives. Our aim is for every person who needs our medicines to be able to access them and receive their full benefit.

Roche believes that the most effective, safe, equitable and sustainable means of access to medicines is via the Federal Government's established regulatory and reimbursement pathways, the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) and Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS). The Federal Government has primary responsibility for Australia's universal healthcare system, which provides subsidised access to many medicines via the PBS, with patients making a co-payment. There are additional safety nets to support the elderly and protect against financial hardship. The State Governments have responsibility for funding medicines within public hospitals.

Roche recognises that patients sometimes need access to medicines outside of the established access pathways, such as for life-threatening diseases with limited approved options or for approved medicines not listed on the PBS or available via public hospitals. We realise that the absence of public funding for a prescribed medicine may represent a significant financial burden and difficult choice for many patients and their families.

In situations where there is no public funding, Roche may be able to assist patients with alternative mechanisms of access to medicines, such as providing subsidies. All requests for access in these circumstances must come to Roche via a patient's treating healthcare professional.

## **Further reference**

Roche Position on Pre-Approval Access to Investigational Medicinal Products (Global policy)

*This position paper was adopted by the Roche Australia (Pharmaceuticals) Leadership Team on 26 October 2016 and entered into force the same day.*