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Bristol Myers Squibb Australia: Patients, Policy and Productivity - Faster Access to Innovation for a Healthier Australia

- *Billions are lost annually in Australian productivity due to treatable poor health outcomes¹*
- *Patients, patient organisations and policy makers to discuss how faster access to medicines can foster a healthier nation to drive a stronger, more sustainable economy*
- *The 4th Shaping Healthcare Together roundtable will demand urgent implementation of HTA reforms so Australians are not left behind in accessing innovative therapies*

Canberra, Australia - Tuesday, 7 October 2025: More than 50 patient and healthcare organisation representatives will gather in Canberra from Tuesday 7 to Thursday 9 October 2025 for the annual **Patient & Parliament Summit**, calling on Parliamentarians to deliver reforms that connect patient outcomes to national productivity.

Supported by Bristol Myers Squibb (BMS) Australia, the 2025 Summit is themed “**Shaping Healthcare Together: Patients, Policy and Productivity**”, and will bring together patients, policymakers, and health leaders to explore how timely access to innovative treatments can improve health outcomes and provide broader societal and economic benefits for Australians. Building upon momentum for healthcare reform and the desire for a more productive Australia, the collective voice of over 50 patient groups and patients in the nation’s capital is particularly critical at this time.

The Summit will discuss how earlier intervention and timely access to medicines can help Australians better manage poor health, stay healthier for longer, and continue contributing to their families, workplaces, and communities. Lost labour force participation from chronic diseases is projected to cost \$67.7 billion by 2030, representing 459,000 lost productive life years.¹

Hayley Andersen, Director, Patient Advocacy & Policy, Bristol-Myers Squibb said: “The Patient & Parliament Summit provides an opportunity to progress the critical healthcare decision-making reform agenda. We must continue working together to achieve genuine reform that delivers timely and equitable access to medicines for all Australians. Reform that supports the patient voice is key to ensuring healthcare decision making reflects real experiences, values and priorities.”

Summit Program Highlights

- **Patient-MP meetings (Wednesday 8 October):** Patients will share their lived experiences with their Federal Member of Parliament to highlight the critical need for reform that delivers faster and fairer access to medicines.
- **Policy Panel and Networking (Wednesday 8 October):** Hosted by the Parliamentary Friends of Medicine featuring - The Hon Mark Butler, MP, Minister for Health and Ageing, Minister for Disability and the National Disability Insurance Scheme; Commissioner Alison Roberts of the Productivity Commission; Richard Vines, the founder of Rare Cancers Australia; and Sophie Scamps MP, the independent Member for Mackellar - focusing on the intersection between access to innovative therapies and a more productive Australia.
- **Shaping Healthcare Together Policy Roundtable (Thursday 9 October):** Leaders of 25 Australian patient organisations and policymakers will explore Health Technology Assessment (HTA) reform priorities, including elements of the stakeholder engagement framework.

James McAdam, Director, Government Affairs, Policy & Advocacy, Bristol Myers Squibb said: “With the 48th parliament focussing on lifting Australia’s productivity, the Patient & Parliament Summit

demonstrates the link between healthier Australians and a more productive country. Underpinning that is the importance of implementing the HTA Review recommendations and delivering faster and fairer access to innovative medicines. Summit patient participants were able to deliver that key message directly to their federal member.”

-ENDS-

About Bristol-Myers Squibb

Bristol Myers Squibb is a global biopharmaceutical company whose mission is to discover, develop and deliver innovative medicines that help patients prevail over serious diseases. For more information about Bristol Myers Squibb, visit us at <https://www.bms.com/au>

If you would like any further information or to arrange an interview, please contact:

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References:

¹ Investing in the prevention of chronic disease to increase productivity in the Australian economy: Submission to the economic reform roundtable (no date) The George Institute for Global Health. Available at: <https://www.georgeinstitute.org/our-impact/policy-statements-and-recommendations/investing-in-the-prevention-of-chronic-disease-to-increase-productivity-in-the-australian-economy> (Accessed: 29 September 2025).