



Rebekha Sharkie MP

Federal Member for Mayo

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Hon Mark Butler MP
Minister for Health and Aged Care
PO Box 6022
House of Representatives
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

BY EMAIL: Minister.Butler@health.gov.au

PHARMACEUTICAL BENEFIT SCHEME LISTING OF TRIKAFTA

Dear Minister Butler, *Mark*

I am writing to you regarding access to Trikafta for young Australians with Cystic Fibrosis (CF).

Trikafta has been listed on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) from April 2022 for Australians with CF aged 12 years or older who have at least one F508del mutation in the CF transmembrane conductance regulator (CFTR) gene. However, while the Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee (PBAC) recommended listing for children aged 6 to 11 years with CF and the relevant mutation in November 2022, over 500 Australian children remain waiting to access this critical medication through the PBS – medication which is reportedly available to children in more than 20 other countries.

I have been informed that following negotiations between the Department of Health and pharmaceutical company Vertex, the recommendation may now be subject to a further review by the PBAC.

Trikafta's significant and life changing outcomes, including reduced hospitalisations, transplants and improved health, should immediately be made accessible for these younger Australians living with CF, as recommended by the PBAC. I urge you to encourage the PBAC and your Department to work with Vertex to make Trikafta accessible to these children.

I would be pleased to meet to discuss this urgent matter and look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely,

REBEKHA SHARKIE MP
Federal Member for Mayo

8 March 2023