

16 April 2025

Kristin Michaels  
Chief Executive  
Advanced Pharmacy Australia  
PO Box 1774  
COLLINGWOOD VIC 3066

Dear Ms Michaels

Thank you for your letter of 5 March outlining the policy priorities of Advanced Pharmacy Australia (AdPha) for the 2025 federal election. I am pleased to respond on behalf of the ALP.

**Partnered pharmacists medication prescribing collaborative care model**

As you know, Minister Butler commissioned the independent *Unleashing the Potential of our Health Workforce (Scope of Practice) Review* to examine the barriers and opportunities that health practitioners face working to their full scope of practice in primary care. The review found that almost all the nation's health professions face restrictions and barriers in working to their fullest, and that most restrictions are unrelated to their skills, training and experience. The review's final report was released in November 2024 and a returned ALP Government will continue to consult with the health sector as it considers the recommendations and findings of this review, alongside other related reviews.

**Pharmaceutical reform agreements for NSW and ACT**

In March 2024, the Department of Health and Aged Care published the final report of the Pharmaceutical Reform Agreements (PRA) review. This was the first review of PRAs since the first agreement was established with the Victorian Government in 2001. The review examined how existing PRAs are being utilised, potential improvements and how PRAs can be better aligned with the aims of the National Health Reform Agreement (NHRA) and the National Medicines Policy. The review recommended that PRAs be included as a schedule to the next NHRA Addendum.

As part of NHRA negotiations, the Government has discussed key reforms designed to make Australia's public hospital and healthcare system more effective, efficient and equitable to ensure every Australian gets the care they need where and when it is needed. As part of these discussions, all Australian governments are considering how to implement the recommendations of the Mid-Term Review of the NHRA, including those relating to PRAs. A returned ALP Government looks forward to progress on these discussions.

### **Medicine shortages and discontinuations clinical advice service**

Minister Butler has received extensive feedback via consultations conducted over the past 12 months by the Therapeutic Goods Administration on the challenges faced by clinicians, consumers and industry with medicine shortages and discontinuations.

In response to these consultations, the TGA is developing options for better communication channels for current and emerging medicines shortages. These channels will also support any new legislative provisions that might be required to allow the TGA to request detailed supply information regarding any TGA-approved medicine.

I understand that AdPha has been invited, as a key stakeholder group, to participate in the TGA-led Medicines Supply Action Group to share information on shortages and discuss policy responses. A returned ALP Government looks forward to the work of MSAG informing its future action regarding shortages.

Yours sincerely

Paul Erickson  
National Secretary