

Media release | Monday 10 February 2025

# AdPha applauds long overdue investment in women's health

Improving access and lowering costs will support more Australian women to better manage menopause and perimenopause.

Advanced Pharmacy Australia (AdPha) today welcomes the Albanese Labor Government's \$573.3 million funding package to provide women with more choice, lower costs and better health care.

Announced yesterday, the new package of measures incorporates key recommendations from AdPha, shaped by the expertise and insights of its members.

AdPha President Tom Simpson praised the government for listening to patients and healthcare stakeholders, including the valuable contributions of AdPha Women's and Newborn Health Specialty Practice members, to take action on expanding care and access in women's health.

*'AdPha members welcome these long-awaited measures, which will help remove barriers that have prevented women from accessing affordable healthcare for too long.*

*'We have strongly advocated for a comprehensive approach to managing perimenopausal and menopausal symptoms—focusing on awareness, education, and access to affordable, evidence-based treatments.*

*'We are pleased to see many of our recommendations, put forward during the Senate Inquiry and through our submission, reflected in this new package of measures.*

*'A/Prof McGuire from our Women's and Newborn Health Committee specifically mentioned in her evidence that it had been over 20 years since any new medicines for menopause had been listed on the PBS, and these new listings will ensure that menopause hormonal therapies remain both affordable and accessible.*

*'Currently, over 85% of women experiencing bothersome symptoms of menopause or perimenopause are not receiving evidence-based care, despite the availability of both hormonal and non-hormonal therapies. With treatment options declining in recent years, we hope these reforms will reverse that trend.'*

*'It is also great to see new contraceptives listed on the PBS for the first time in over 30 years, reflecting and subsidising contemporary treatment options that are used by many Australian women.'*

*'We thank the government for prioritising women's health and recognising the invaluable role of pharmacists in advocating for and supporting women's healthcare needs.'*

*'As this expands to including the provision of contraceptives and antimicrobials for uncomplicated UTIs at PBS co-payment prices for concession card holders by pharmacists – in direct support of our first recommendation of our [Federal Budget submission](#) – we look forward to enhanced multidisciplinary collaboration between doctors and pharmacists as we achieve patient-centred care.'*

*'As medicines experts across all stages of reproductive health—from pregnancy, labour, and lactation to menopause and beyond—pharmacists are well-positioned to support women through these changes. With these new measures, we can play an even greater role in ensuring women receive safe, appropriate, and efficient care.'*

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### **About Advanced Pharmacy Australia:**

Formerly trading as the Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia, or SHPA, Advanced Pharmacy Australia (AdPha) is the progressive voice of Australian pharmacists and technicians, built on 80 years of hospital innovation that puts people and patients first. AdPha supports all practitioners across hospitals, transitions of care, aged care and general practice to realise their full potential. We are the peak body committed to forging stronger connections in health care by extending advanced pharmacy expertise from hospitals to everywhere medicines are needed.

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