

Collective statement from consumer and patient representative groups on Pharmac's proposal to decline some medicine funding applications on the Options for Investment list.

We, the undersigned patient representative groups, have come together to formally and collectively express our opposition to Pharmac's proposal to decline some medicine funding applications on the Options for Investment list (OFI). We are united in our view that the current lack of transparency around the ranking of medicines on the OFI list is unacceptable and must be addressed.

We acknowledge and support the stated goals of the proposal to bring greater clarity and transparency to how Pharmac manages medicines funding applications on the OFI list. However, we strongly disagree that removing the bottom 10 to 20 percent of the lowest ranked medicines from the OFI list is the right way to achieve these goals. The fundamental issue lies not in the length of the OFI list, but in the lack of transparency and consistency in the assessment and ranking processes that underpin it, alongside the insufficient investment in medicines.

As a collective, we believe broader and deeper reform is urgently needed, incorporating early and meaningful co-design with consumers and patients. New Zealand should not have to maintain a waiting list for essential medicines. We urge Pharmac to prioritise meaningful reform of the health technology assessment process, clear the existing application backlog, and actively advocate for a significantly higher medicines budget to meet the needs of all New Zealanders.



