



The Role of an MSAC Advisory Panel

MSAC engages an independent contractor to conduct much of the evidence-based assessment of applications. This involves the development of an evaluation protocol, conducting a systematic literature review, and assessing the available evidence on the safety, efficacy and cost effectiveness of the technology/procedure.

The role of the Advisory Panel is to ensure that the research questions and consideration of the evidence reflects Australian clinical practice. The Advisory Panel meets with the contractor early in the process to provide guidance in determining the specific research questions, scoping the task and providing valuable clinical and consumer perspectives on the technology/procedure being considered.

Subsequent meetings are then held as necessary. This may not be until the contractor has completed a draft assessment report for the Advisory Panel's consideration. Development of the draft report takes approximately 4-6 months, depending on the complexity of the application.

The usual time commitment required of members is attendance at the initial half day meeting, generally held in Sydney or Melbourne, and participation in three to four teleconferences of 1-1½ hours duration.

MSAC will consider a draft assessment that will generally include conclusions about the strength of evidence. MSAC will then make a recommendation to Minister.

The Department of Health and Ageing meets all travel and attendance expenses for meetings and teleconferences as well as sitting fees as determined by the Remuneration Tribunal for Professional Committees in the Health Portfolio.