



**MEDIA RELEASE**  
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## **MTAA WELCOMES CONSULTATION ON PROSTHESES LIST REFORM**

The Medical Technology Association of Australia (MTAA) has welcomed the Department of Health's announcement to seek stakeholder feedback about options for reform of the Prostheses List, following a soon to be released consultation paper, expected in late December 2020.

MTAA has long supported positive reform to the Prostheses List that guarantees surgeon choice and patient access to the best available prostheses.

MTAA CEO, Ian Burgess, said the MedTech industry joins with other industry groups in welcoming the opportunity to engage in a productive and collaborative consultation process.

"This consultation is an important first step in the process to carefully consider positive reforms to the Prostheses List that genuinely reflect the considered feedback of all stakeholders, and the most timely way to implement them," Mr Burgess said.

"It's vital that any reforms put forward by the Government do not remove the protections the Prostheses List provides for surgeon choice and patient access, or result in further out-of-pocket costs."

Ahead of the consultation process, the Department of Health this week released two reports: [Options for a Revised Framework for Setting and Reviewing Benefits for the Prostheses List](#) and the [Review of the General Miscellaneous Category of the Prostheses List](#).

The reports acknowledged the significant risk of unintended consequences that could arise because of poorly planned Prostheses List reform including limits to patient access and choice, and the increased risk of cost shifting onto patients. Neither report was able to reach a definitive conclusion about the future direction of the Prostheses List.

Mr Burgess said MTAA looks forward to further engaging with the Commonwealth through the consultation process to ensure Australians continue to receive the benefits of modern, innovative and reliable medical technology and improved health outcomes that underpins the value of private health.

**ENDS**

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## **Did you know?**

1. The medical technology industry currently employs more than 19,000 people.
2. During COVID-19 the Government asked MedTech to supply 7,500 ventilators, and over 10 million COVID-19 test kits; the MedTech supply chain worked, and equipment was delivered
3. The industry is highly skilled with over 52% of employees having a tertiary qualification, and 25% having a postgraduate qualification.
4. More than half of Australian medical device companies have grown from start-ups. 40% of all medical device businesses have been established since 2000.
5. In 2013-14, Australia exported medical devices to 167 different countries around the world for a total value of \$2.1 billion.
6. Medical technology (7.76%) is second only to Civil Engineering (8.5%) and pharmaceuticals in third (6.3%) when it comes to filing patents for innovative technology.
7. MTAA's 2017 agreement with Health Minister, the Hon Greg Hunt MP has saved Aussie families \$1.1 billion – health insurers make this in profit every three months

## **About MTAA**

The Medical Technology Association of Australia (MTAA) is the national association representing companies in the medical technology industry. MTAA aims to ensure the benefits of modern, innovative and reliable medical technology are delivered effectively to provide better health outcomes to the Australian community.

MTAA represents manufacturers and suppliers of medical technology used in the diagnosis, prevention, treatment and management of disease and disability. The range of medical technology is diverse with products ranging from familiar items such as syringes and wound dressings, through to high-technology implanted devices such as pacemakers, defibrillators, hip and other orthopaedic implants. Products also include hospital and diagnostic imaging equipment such as ultrasounds and magnetic resonance imaging machines.

MTAA members distribute the majority of the non-pharmaceutical products used in the diagnosis and treatment of disease and disability in Australia. Our member companies also play a vital role in providing healthcare professionals with essential education and training to ensure safe and effective use of medical technology.