

Summary of Pharmaceutical Benefits processing, year ending 30 June 2010

Government Pharmaceutical Benefits expenditure on accrual accounting basis for the year ending 30 June 2010 totalled \$8,391.7 million, compared with \$7,679.3 million for the previous year. This is a 9.3 per cent increase. The remainder of this summary refers to Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) Section 85 data reported on cash accounting basis.

Total PBS prescription volumes increased by 1.1 per cent to a total of 183.9 million, compared to 181.8 million for the previous year. The growth in government expenditure compared with a smaller rise in prescription volume reflects the continuing trend of doctors prescribing newer and more expensive drugs.

Government expenditure amounted to 83.6 per cent of the total cost of PBS prescriptions. The remainder was patient contributions that amounted to \$1,384.2 million, up from \$1,308.8 million in the previous twelve-month period.

The majority of government expenditure on PBS prescriptions was directed towards concessional cardholders (\$5,480.1 million, 77.9% of the total). This is compared to concessional expenditure of \$5,125.6 million in the previous period (77.9% of the total).

The average dispensed price per prescription of PBS medicines increased to \$45.77 for the year ending June 2010 (\$43.38 for the year ending June 2009). The average government cost of these scripts was \$38.24 for the same period (\$36.17 to June 2009).

The three drugs with the highest cost to government were *Atorvastatin* (\$597.8 million), *Rosuvastatin* (\$276.0 million) and *Clopidogrel* (\$190.6 million). PBS drugs most frequently prescribed are *Atorvastatin*, followed by *Esomeprazole Magnesium Trihydrate* and *Simvastatin*. See Table 9(b) for details.