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## **Review of the Quality Use of Medicines Program delivered by the National Prescribing Service AMA submission to the Department of Health**

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The AMA welcomes the opportunity to lodge a submission to the review of the activities of NPS MedicineWise.

The AMA strongly supports the activities of NPS MedicineWise to provide independent, accurate, balanced, and evidence-based information on the quality use of medicines.

The AMA believes NPS MedicineWise has delivered these activities to a high standard, and in a consultative, collaborative and professional manner.

The work of NPS MedicineWise not only supports patient safety by improving the quality use of medicines but it also reduces unnecessary prescribing and therefore costs to the community.

NPS MedicineWise plays an essential role in providing a source of evidence-based information about medicines and prescribing which is independent of pharmaceutical companies and relevant to the Australian context.

Feedback from AMA members about the work of NPS MedicineWise in providing up-to-date information about medicines for health professionals and patients is very positive.

General practitioner members advise that the NPS MedicineWise website provides relevant, immediate information and its phone line is very responsive to GP queries, with staff following up promptly if a question requires more in depth research.

Visits to individual GP practices are also welcomed; packaged, practical information about current and relevant prescribing issues is extremely useful, in particular the opportunity for GPs to discuss prescribing matters with another health professional who does not have a conflict of interest.

The AMA praises the role of NPS MedicineWise in driving the adoption and implementation of the *Choosing Wisely* initiative in Australia, which is an illustrative example of an effective program to drive cultural change in both medical practitioners and patients, and which leads to better quality care and savings for individuals and the health care system as a whole.

The AMA recommends funding for NPS MedicineWise programs and activities should be increased, recognising the longer-term savings arising from this work.

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