

Recommendations

Recommendation 1

2.19 The committee recommends that the Australian Government reconsider its commitment to the Pharmacy Rules and investigate options to enhance competition in the delivery of pharmaceuticals listed on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme, with priority given to consumers rather than pharmacy owners.

Recommendation 2

2.26 The committee recommends that the Australian Government investigate options to align the payment of Goods and Services Tax with business practices, to enable small businesses to better manage cash flow issues.

Recommendation 3

2.28 The committee recommends that the Australian Government:

- **investigate the extent to which community pharmacies are exposed to unnecessary costs as a result of government policies in relation to the supply of pharmaceutical benefits; and**
- **implement measures to ensure that community pharmacies are not inadvertently exposed to costs arising from wholesalers' compliance with regulatory requirements.**

Recommendation 4

2.46 The committee recommends that the Australian Government develop a centralised electronic system for the PBS Safety Net, similar to the Medicare Safety Net.

Recommendation 5

2.47 The committee recommends that the Department of Health consider the proposal for two new digital portals to track the prescribing and dispensing of medicines; and to trade, track and supply pharmaceuticals on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme and the Repatriation Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme.

Recommendation 6

2.58 The committee recommends that the Australian Government, through the Council of Australian Governments:

- **investigate and consider options for progressing uniform medicines legislation; and**
- **review restrictions on ownership of pharmacies and whether they serve the interests of the public rather than established owners.**