

## **MATOD Summit Communiqué 29 May 2018**

On Wednesday May 23, Harm Reduction Australia (HRA) and ScriptWise hosted a national summit in Canberra to discuss and gain consensus on achievable solutions to improve Medication-Assisted Treatment of Opioid Dependence (MATOD) in Australia.

The summit was informed by a series of state-based MATOD forums facilitated by HRA in Queensland, Victoria and New South Wales in the second half of 2017. These forums identified a range of common themes that were used to shape the four key areas of action considered by the national summit which were:

- Overcoming stigma to address barriers to MATOD access and retention
- Reducing the cost of MATOD for consumers
- Strategies to increase the number of prescribers and pharmacies
- New developments in MATOD – evolving the system (regulations, policies & guidelines)

### **National Summit Outcomes**

Among the almost 50 summit participants and observers, there was strong agreement that there is an urgent need to find a lasting solution to reduce the cost burden of MATOD dispensing fees for consumers.

Reducing the cost of treatment for consumers, while also ensuring appropriate remuneration for pharmacists providing MATOD, were seen as essential to improving access and retention.

There was strong agreement that high-level action was necessary to address the longstanding problem of MATOD dispensing fees which represents an unfair and inequitable situation for MATOD consumers.

Summit participants also agreed on the need for more meaningful consumer engagement and participation in the implementation of MATOD across Australia. Consumer engagement was seen as an essential aspect of high-quality health service provision.

There was also broad agreement that workforce development is a key priority and that training of all relevant health professionals in MATOD must be improved as part of maintaining high quality standards of care into the future.

### **Next steps**

Summit participants resolved to call on Governments to immediately progress options for a workable funding framework for MATOD dispensing costs based on the consideration of relevant reports and evidence that have been before government for some time.

HRA and ScriptWise will also release a detailed report on the summit's outcomes and agreed-on solutions in late June 2018.