

CHF welcomes PBS listing of Visanne but calls for broader action on women's health

Tuesday 3 December 2024

The Consumers Health Forum of Australia (CHF) warmly welcomes the Federal Government's decision to list *Visanne* on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS), making it the first endometriosis treatment to receive subsidisation in over 30 years.

Health Minister Mark Butler's announcement signifies an important step forward in improving access to vital healthcare for those living with this often-debilitating condition.

"Endometriosis affects one in nine Australian women and can have a profound impact on their quality of life," said CHF CEO Dr. Elizabeth Deveny. "This decision will bring much-needed relief to thousands of Australians who have struggled with the financial burden of managing their condition. It's a victory for all those who have long advocated for equitable access to endometriosis treatment."

However, Dr. Deveny emphasised that the PBS listing of Visanne is just the beginning of what must be a comprehensive approach to addressing women's health challenges.

"This announcement underscores the critical need for greater investment in women's health, particularly in improving early diagnosis and management of not only endometriosis but also other conditions disproportionately affecting women," Dr. Deveny said. "Conditions like polycystic ovary syndrome (PCOS), fibroids, and pelvic pain syndromes often go undiagnosed for years, with devastating impacts on women's physical and mental health."

CHF also calls on the Federal Government to outline a clear plan for educating consumers and communities about this new PBS listing.

"Making Visanne more affordable is a major step forward, but how will the Government ensure those who are eligible are aware of this subsidy? We need to see a robust outreach strategy that includes culturally appropriate engagement, targeted

communication to rural and regional communities, and a campaign that addresses the stigma surrounding women's health issues," Dr. Deveny added.

The CHF stands ready to work with the governments, healthcare providers, and community organisations to champion further reforms in women's health.

All Australians should have access to affordable, high-quality care for their essential needs.

Media contact

Benjamin Graham

Public Affairs Manager – CHF

0461 545 392

Benjamin.graham@chf.org.au