

10 December 2021

WAITING IN THE WINGS

The PBAC is sitting today to discuss a wide variety of new drugs. Their recommendation of these drugs to the PBS will determine whether or not these drugs receive funding. This will determine whether they are affordable to the average consumer, as many new drugs are prohibitively expensive due to the cost of developing them.

One of the drugs under discussion is Trikafta, the best performing cystic fibrosis (CF) modulator on the market and a widely touted CF 'miracle drug'. Trikafta is not an end to all our problems but it is a massive step forward in CF symptom management. It simply cannot be overstated how important it is that Australia receives fast and equitable access to Trikafta.

So far the indications are positive. CFA has spoken extensively with Jo Watson, the head of the PBAC, and some of our conversations with Jo are even available [HERE](#) on Consumer Connect. She is a veteran advocate herself who understands our community's need for the life-saving benefits of Trikafta. She has assured us that the Consumer Comments submitted for Trikafta on previous PBAC cycles will also be taken into account this time. She has also assured us that the PBAC have taken note of the outcry from CFA and the CF Community on the issue of Trikafta.

The meeting this December will be what is known as an 'Intracycle Meeting'. This means that it is a closed-door event and we will not know the outcome of the decision until around the third week of January. CFA will be keeping its ear close to the ground for any news and doing our best to keep the pressure on for Trikafta. You can help us today by getting the word out for Trikafta and supporting our online campaigns.

It is hard to be kept waiting in the wings. Trikafta means so much to so many families and individuals living with CF. But we have been here before, in the fight for Orkambi and Kalydeco and many others. We know that we can win sticking together and never letting up.

Best Regards

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Robyn Peck". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Robyn Peck
CEO
Cystic Fibrosis Australia