



23 December 2020

MEDIA RELEASE

ON THE AGENDA – AT LAST

Trikafta, the 3rd generation cystic fibrosis (CF) multi-drug, has been listed on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee (PBAC) March 2021 Agenda.

Trikafta is a one of a kind CF drug that combines elexacaftor, tezacaftor and ivacaftor into a treatment of unprecedented efficiency and impact.

90% of Australians with CF will benefit from Trikafta and trial patients showed a decline or halt in lung damage, reduced exacerbations, hospitalisations and antibiotic use.

Nutrition, BMI and mental health outcomes were all positively affected. Incidents of CF-related diabetes were suppressed and less frequent overall.

On 23rd April 2021 the CF Community will know its fate.

Do they get access to a drug that will add decades of life? To be denied this is to sentence them to continue their arduous treatment regime of three hours of physio and up to 80 pills a day with a life expectancy of less than 50 years.

The clinical trial data has been outstanding, and CFA believes that when put through the rigorous PBAC process, Trikafta will stand out as a winner. Even so, this does not mean people with CF will get access.

CFA is appealing to Vertex Pharmaceuticals to provide all eligible people with Compassionate Access immediately following a PBAC positive recommendation.

“Over the next five years it is estimated that Trikafta will generate US\$6.6 billion for Vertex. This is outstanding shareholder value and we believe a few months’ supply of Trikafta for 1200 Australians is reasonable and maybe it will speed up commercial negotiations,” said Nettie Burke, CEO of CFA.

“We are asking all parties not to confuse what a life is worth with what a life costs,” she added.

If you would like to talk to an inspiring member of our community, someone who has real life experience of Trikafta or has a compelling story to tell, please contact nettieb@cfa.org.au at CFA.

CFA has created a Trikafta Portal for the media and community [HERE](#). About Cystic Fibrosis: [CLICK HERE](#).

#ENDS#

For Further Information:

Nettie Burke CEO, Cystic Fibrosis Australia

MOBILE 0404034294

EMAIL nettieb@cfa.org.au