

17th April 2025

TO: Members of the Essential Medicines for Children Committee.

RE: Application reference: A.19 Methylphenidate – attention deficit hyperactivity disorder.

Dear Committee Members,

ADHD Australia stands in strong support of the inclusion of Methylphenidate (MPH) on the WHO's Model List of Essential Medicines.

The safety, efficacy, and cost effectiveness of MPH in treating ADHD have been well-established over decades of use. Including MPH on the WHO's Model List of Essential Medication will significantly improve access to this important medication for individuals with ADHD, particularly in developing and underserved regions, where access to diagnosis and treatment can be especially limited.

In Australia, an estimated 1 in 20 individuals are affected by ADHD. ADHD is a neurodevelopmental condition characterized by difficulties with attention, hyperactivity, and impulsivity. It can impact learning, social interactions, and family functioning. Without appropriate diagnosis and treatment, ADHD can have significant adverse impacts on a person's life. These can include academic failure, family stress, mental health difficulties (such as anxiety and depression), relationship problems, substance abuse, and reduced overall quality of life. The good news is that ADHD is highly manageable. Effective management relies on a comprehensive, individualized approach, which may include behavioural interventions, educational support, and medication, including MPH.

ADHD Australia is committed to empowering those affected by ADHD by providing evidence-based information, support for individuals and families, and advocacy for equitable access to treatment and resources. ADHD Australia is the leading national organisation engaging in public awareness, education and advocacy to make Australia a better place for people living with ADHD. Our mission is to achieve positive systemic change for people with ADHD through access to better evidence-based information, resources, services, and community awareness of ADHD. We are passionate advocates for people living with ADHD and strongly believe in the power of inclusivity and equal opportunities for every member of our society.

We therefore strongly urge the committee to include MPH on the WHO's Model List of Essential Medicines. This action will be a crucial step in improving the lives of people with ADHD, both in Australia and around the globe.

Thank you for your consideration in this important matter.

Yours sincerely,



Matthew Tice,
Chair – ADHD Australia,
on behalf of the ADHD Australia Board of Directors

