



to protect and promote

**OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER
FOR THE PROMOTION OF RIGHTS OF
PERSONS WITH MENTAL DISORDERS**

21st April 2025

Essential Medicines List Secretariat (World Health Organisation)

Email: emlsecretariat@who.int

Dear Ms. Muscat,

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

On behalf of the Office of the Commissioner for Mental Health, an office which I hold by virtue of article 5 of the Mental Health Act (Cap. 525), I am writing to convey my full support for the inclusion of Methylphenidate on the list of essential medication for children. This office is, among other duties, also responsible for the promotion and safeguarding of the rights of persons suffering from mental disorders and their carers and comes into direct contact with the hardship resulting from not having this medication included on the list of essential medication for children. Children's delayed treatment or lack thereof together with possible financial difficulties in securing this medication from other sources can, not only create health inequities, but also create more serious mental health problems later in life. Access to the right medication helps ensure that children with mental health difficulties remain in the community and continue to lead a life that is as normal as possible rather than decompensating and ending up hospitalised during their formative period of their life. Easily avoidable hospitalisation can not only be traumatic to these children, but it can cause educational delays and mar the life enjoyment children should be having during such formative period in their lives.

I trust that you will consider our position even though being submitted beyond deadline.

Yours sincerely,

Dr. Denis Vella Baldacchino

Commissioner for Mental Health

CC Ms. Pamela Muscat, President ADHD Malta