

ATTACHMENT A

SCHEDULE OF DOCUMENTS - FOI 1905

Document No.	Date	Number of pages	Description	Decision on access ¹	Exemption/s applied
1	August 2020	11	Ministerial Submission	REI	s 22 - part s 33 - part s 47 - part s 47C - part
2	June 2020	10	Ministerial Submission	REI	s 22 - part s 33 - part s 34 - part s 47C - part
3	August 2020	31	Ministerial Submission	REI	s 22 - part s 33 - part s 34 - part s 47 - part s 47C - part s 47G - part

¹ REI = Release with exemptions applied and irrelevant material removed.



To: Minister Hunt

Subject: COVID-19 VACCINE SCIENCE AND INDUSTRY TECHNICAL ADVISORY GROUP ADVICE
FROM 16 AUGUST 2020 INCLUDING LETTER OF INTENT

Critical Date: 18 August 2020, in order for the letter of intent to be signed before the possible announcement on 19 August.

Recommendations:

<p>1. Note the advice provided by the COVID-19 Vaccines and Treatments for Australia – Science and Industry Technical Advisory Group (Advisory Group) at their meeting of 16 August 2020 (<u>Attachment A</u>).</p> <p>2. Note that a letter of intent (<u>Attachment B</u>) will be provided to you for countersignature once it has been signed by AstraZeneca.</p> <p>3. s 47C [Redacted] (<u>Attachment C</u>).</p>	<p>1. Noted / Please discuss</p> <p>2. Signed / Not signed</p> <p>3. Signed / Not signed</p>
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Signature: Date: / /

Comments:

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Contact Officer:	Nick Henderson	Taskforce Lead, COVID-19 Vaccine Taskforce, Health Economics and Research Division	Ph: (02) 6289 3917 s 22
Clearance Officer:	Lisa Schofield	First Assistant Secretary, Health Economics and Research Division	Ph: (02) 6289 7480 s 22

Issues:

- The Chair of the Group (Advisory Group) has written to you (Attachment A) summarising the discussions at its first meeting, held on 16 August 2020.
- At this meeting, the Advisory Group unanimously recommended that the Government sign a letter of intent with AstraZeneca. The Advisory Group noted that while there were still questions on AZD1222 to be resolved as clinical trials progress, including in relation eventual effectiveness as well as storage requirements, it was nonetheless this was the leading candidate and it was timely to make an investment.

3. A draft letter of intent, to be provided to AstraZeneca for their signature, is at Attachment B. The letter outlines the intent of both parties to explore purchasing and contractual arrangements regarding the candidate, including collaboration with an Australian manufacturer, s 47C

s 22

6. The Department is liaising with your office on an announcement strategy for the letter of intent, the Advisory Group, and the Vaccine Strategy.

Background:

The AZD1222 vaccine, formerly known as the candidate ChAdOx1 nCoV-19 vaccine, is a viral vector vaccine candidate being developed by a University of Oxford consortia. The University of Oxford has partnered with AstraZeneca to manufacture AZD1222. Should it prove safe and effective, it will be one of the first vaccines available for population wide vaccination. While AstraZeneca's total manufacturing capacity currently stands at two billion doses, there is already significant global demand, with a number of countries and organisations investing in AZD1222 including the UK and US Governments, the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness (CEPI) and Gavi the Vaccine Alliance. Further information on the vaccine is provided as part of MS20-000930.

Attachments:

- A: s 33
- B: s 47
- C: s 47C

s 22

Consultations:

Commercial Law Section, Department of Health; KWM (external legal advisors to the COVID-19 Vaccine Strategy Taskforce).

OFFICIAL: SENSITIVE

PDR No:	MS20-000936
Subject:	s 33, 47, 47C
Division	Health Economics and Research
MO Action Date	18/08/20

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Minister **Greg Hunt**

PDR Number **MS20-000936**

Subject **s 47C**

Drafting Officer **s 22**

Contact Officer Nick Henderson
(02)6289 3917
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(02) 6289 7480
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Division/Branch Health Economics and Research

Adviser/DLO Comments:

Return to
Dept for:

Redraft

NFA

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To: Minister Hunt
Subject: Expression of Interest – Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance (Gavi) COVAX Facility
Critical date: s47C

Recommendation/s:

1. s47C	1. Agreed/Not agreed/Please discuss
2. s47C	2. Signed/Changes required
3. s47C	3. Agreed/Not agreed/Please discuss
4. Note that joining the Gavi COVAX facility will ensure that Australia has priority access to any successful COVID-19 vaccine to cover 20 per cent of the population.	4. Noted
5. Note that the Department will provide you with further advice regarding whether Australia should enter into a binding agreement with the Gavi COVAX facility.	5. Noted

Signature Date: / /

Media Release required?

Comments:

Contact Officer:	Lisa Schofield	First Assistant Secretary Health Economics and Research Division	Ph: (02) 6289 7480 Mobile: s22
Clearance Officer:	Tania Rishniw	Deputy Secretary, Health Systems Policy & Primary Care Group	Ph: (02) 6289 1235 Mobile: s22

Issues:
1. s33

An overview of the facility is at Attachment A. Joining the facility will provide Australia with a guarantee of sufficient doses to immunise 20 per cent of the population with successful COVID-19 vaccine candidate(s) procured from the facility (if and when a successful vaccine is developed).

2. Following the expression of interest, Australia will be invited to join discussions about the structure of the facility. s33

3. The final cost of participating will be dependent on the type of technology used and the number of doses required per person. s33

4. Countries are able to join the facility as either an individual country or as a group of countries. Early discussions have commenced with s33

Group buy in to the facility will ensure increased overall buy in, which would enhance the overall buying power of the facility. s

3
3

5. Submitting an expression of interest to the facility is consistent with strategies detailed in the s34

and does not create any financial obligations or commitments at this time.

6. s47C

Background:

Global efforts to control the spread of COVID-19 have been unsuccessful; to date more than 9 million cases and 470,000 deaths have been reported worldwide. Academic and commercial research to develop a COVID-19 vaccine is progressing rapidly with more than 130 vaccine candidates progressing world-wide, with 10 entering phase I or II human trials.

Once a safe and effective vaccine or vaccines are developed there will be global competition from high and middle income countries to ensure early access for their populations. Already countries, both as individuals and groups, are entering into advance purchasing agreements with vaccine manufacturers to ensure allocations.

On 24 April 2020, the World Health Organisation (WHO) launched the Access to COVID-19 Tools (ACT) Accelerator, a global collaboration to support development, production and access to COVID-19 diagnostics, therapeutics and vaccines. Gavi has been working with the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI), WHO and other partners through the Vaccine Partnership to facilitate COVID-19 vaccine development and access through the COVAX facility.

The COVAX facility provides governments with the opportunity to benefit from a large portfolio of COVID-19 vaccine candidates and manufacturers across the world. Governments that participate in the COVAX facility will have the opportunity to receive doses to vaccinate up to 20 per cent of their population as a part of an initial allocation. Following this allocation a decision will be made about whether to extend the facility. At this time participating countries can choose to extend their agreement or withdraw from the facility.

In addition to individual country allocations 10 per cent of manufactured doses will be retained by the COVAX facility to address sporadic outbreaks and for humanitarian use.

Attachments:

Attachment A –s47C

Attachment B –s47C, s33

Sensitivities: It is unknown when, if ever, a safe and effective vaccine for COVID-19 will be developed. The mainstream media continues to report on vaccine developments and public expectations of early access to any vaccine will be high.

Consultations: The Department has consulted with: the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet, including the National COVID-19 Coordination Commission; the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade; the Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources.

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PDR No:	MS20-900207
Subject:	Expression of Interest - Gavi COVAX Facility
Division	Health Economics and Research
MO Action Date	29 June 2020
Has Budget Branch been consulted if there are financial implications? Choose an item	

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The Hon Greg Hunt MP
Minister for Health
Minister Assisting the Prime Minister for the
Public Service and Cabinet

s33, s47C

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To: Minister Hunt

Subject: Confirmation of Intent to Participate in the COVAX Facility

Critical date: s47C

Recommendations:			
1.	s47C		1. Agreed/Not agreed/Please discuss
2.	s33		2. Agreed/Not agreed/Please discuss
3.	s47C		3. Signed/Not signed/Please discuss
4.	Note that we will need to execute Commitment Agreements s 33, s47		4. Noted
Your Department will provide further advice closer to these dates.			
Signature		Date: / /	
Media Release required? YES/ NO			
Comments:			
Contact Officer:	Lisa Schofield	First Assistant Secretary, Health Economics and Research Division	Ph: (02) 6289 7480 Mobile: s22
Clearance Officer:	Caroline Edwards	Associate Secretary	Ph: (02) 6289 9100 Mobile: s22

Issues:

1. s34

and

it is written into the Government's COVID-19 Vaccine and Treatment Strategy. s33

2. Your Department and the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) have been undertaking active consultation with Gavi s33, s47C

s detailed in the COVID-19 Vaccine and Treatment Strategy.

3. s47C

s33

Background: An overview of the COVAX Facility appears at the start of its latest Terms and Conditions (see att. B). s47G

DFAT lead on the AMC mechanism and on 26 August the Australian Government pledged AU\$80,000,000 to this mechanism. Att. A confirms our intention to participate s33 which will obtain doses for use in Australia. s33

The COVAX Facility is an integral part of Australia's COVID-19 Vaccine and Treatment Strategy and s34 We consider the self-financing mechanism a vital insurance policy to guarantee that Australia still obtains doses of a future COVID-19 vaccine even if our advanced purchase agreements with vaccine developers do not come to fruition. We have been working with Gavi and the Friends of the Facility (a group of likeminded countries led by Singapore and Switzerland) particularly our equivalents in New Zealand's Ministry of Health and Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade to shape the Facility and are now comfortable the terms as they stand in the updated Terms and Conditions are satisfactory for Australia's needs. s33

Gavi has now made it clear that: s33, 47

(see p. 15 of att. B).

s47C

Gavi is also now also giving participating countries the ability to indicate in their letters of intent, the number of doses to be procured through the Facility expressed as an absolute number of doses corresponding to the percentage of the Participant's Population that the Participant seeks to cover assuming a 2-dose regimen. This percentage must be from 10% to 50% of the population (see pp. 8-9 of att. B). s 33, s47

Attachments:

Attachment A: s33

Attachment B: s47

Attachment C: s47

s47, s33

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Sensitivities: There is a high degree of media and public scrutiny on any developments towards a vaccine.

Consultations: Your Department has consulted extensively with DFAT to shape how COVAX Facility functions.

Communication Activities: Your Department will continue to produce weekly talking points for your Office that include the COVAX Facility and Australia's relationship with it.

PDR No:	MS20-900300
Subject:	Confirmation of Intent to Participate in the COVAX Facility
Division	Health Economics and Research
MO Action Date	30 August 2020
Has Budget Branch been consulted if there are financial implications? Choose an item	

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The Hon Greg Hunt MP
Minister for Health
Minister Assisting the Prime Minister for the
Public Service and Cabinet

s33, s47

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