



PBS DATA DISTRIBUTION – SOFTWARE VENDOR WORKING GROUP

MEETING NOTES – 28 SEPTEMBER 2020

DATE AND TIME	Monday, 28 September 2020 at 10:00AM – 12:00PM
VENUE	Microsoft Teams Call

KEY POINTS DISCUSSED

AGENDA NO.	KEY POINTS DISCUSSED
1	<p>Welcome & Background – see slide 3</p> <p>Participants were welcomed, and provided a brief background of the PBS Data Distribution project.</p>
2	<p>Overview of the PBS Data Distribution Project – see slides 4-10</p> <p>Participants were provided with an overview of the PBS Data Distribution project, including the current status, progress so far, and planned outcomes.</p> <p>Questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A software vendor representative asked what the timeframe is for getting rid of the xml v3 data. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The Department explained that no timeframe has been set at this stage, and that these timeframes will be established through the design process (alpha/beta phase), and through ongoing engagement with software vendors. Software vendors will be provided notice of the timeframes once they have been determined.. • MSIA asked who had been targeted for participation in this group, as they were concerned that some relevant stakeholders may be missed. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The Department explained that this specific group (the Software Vendor Working Group) is made up of the software vendors who have self-selected to participate in the discovery and alpha process, but that a number of other stakeholders had been identified in a broader communication and engagement plan for the project, such as Services Australia and other agencies. These other stakeholders are being communicated with separately, but Services Australia will also be an observer to this engagement with Software Vendors as well.
3	<p>Software Vendor Working Group Introduction – see slides 11-14</p> <p>The purpose, scope, and logistics of the Software Vendor Working Group were explained to the participants.</p>
4	<p>Activity – Key Pain Points for Software Vendors – see slides 15-21</p> <p>Previously identified pain points for software vendors with the existing PBS data distribution process were discussed among the group and validated.</p> <p>There was significant discussion around the timing of the monthly release, and the various layers of checks and quality assurance that vendors perform before being able to release the</p>

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	<p>data to their customers. Vendors noted that it would still be very difficult for their clients to cope with changes to the PBS schedule late in the month prior to the effective date. Vendors acknowledged that they would need to think about how the new data distribution arrangements could support them to more easily implement late changes, to avoid or minimise the calls to their support areas.</p> <p>Key issues related to the current timing of release were identified as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creation of data file • Checking of data file before release • Need to check the entire file every time • Need to be able to find the changes easily. <p>It was identified that multiple software vendors would support the idea of a dispensing/pricing calculator (potentially as open source code) which could be used for testing purposes, however they would not use it in their live systems.</p> <p>There was discussion around the possibility of adding state-based data (such as identification of s8 medicines) to the PBS data. It was agreed that the level of complexity that this would add, particularly as the Department does not own this data, would likely make it not worthwhile. The scheduling of medicines is not a Commonwealth or PBS matter.</p> <p>Questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A software vendor representative asked what the Department’s plans for SQLite are. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The Department explained that it is looking to discontinue SQLite in favour of an API, which will deliver data in a relational format which is likely to be quite similar to what is currently delivered in SQLite, and that those who are currently using SQLite will likely find the transition to the API easier than most. • A software vendor representative asked whether the ARTG data can be shown in the PBS data. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The Department explained that the two sets of data currently don’t interact well, but that there are ongoing projects in the Department attempting to align data between TGA, ARTG, PBS and SNOMED.
5	<p>Homework – see slides 22-23</p> <p>The optional homework request was explained to participants.</p> <p>There was discussion about the feasibility and effectiveness of vendors providing their data models, and the Department reiterated that this was an optional task with the aim of building a better product for vendors.</p> <p>It was agreed that participants would contact the Department via email if they wished to provide their data model, or may alternatively talk through the design of their data model on an individual call.</p> <p>Vendors can send their data models to PBSdatapoint@health.gov.au, or email to set up a time to discuss their current data models, or with any further questions on the project at this stage.</p>

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6	<p>Next Steps – see slides 24-25</p> <p>The planned next steps were explained to participants.</p>
7	<p>Other Business and Close</p> <p>The meeting was closed.</p>