

9 September 2025

PHARMAC
PO Box 10254
The Terrace
Wellington 6143

Sent via email to: consult@pharmac.govt.nz

Dear Sir/Madam,

Re: Proposal to decline inactive funding applications

The Pharmacy Guild of New Zealand (Inc.) (the Guild) is a national membership organisation and the largest representative of community pharmacy owners in New Zealand. We provide leadership on all issues affecting the sector and advocate for the business and professional interests of community pharmacy.

This submission focuses on Guild members' concerns around general economics, funding, access, and supply issues. Guild submissions should not be taken as any endorsement of, or any attempt to comment on, issues on medicine safety, efficacy, or appropriateness for individual patients.

The Pharmacy Guild supports Pharmac's intention to bring clarity to the status of inactive applications. However, we emphasise that any process changes must uphold patient access, provide adequate notice, and recognise the critical role of community pharmacy in the healthcare continuum.

We agree that closing inactive applications can make the process more manageable and transparent, signalling which medicines are being actively pursued by Pharmac. Community pharmacies need a predictable funding environment and removing obsolete or stalled applications helps reduce clinical uncertainty and administrative burden.

That said, the removal of inactive applications must not come at the expense of equity. Past reviews have shown the importance of embedding equity and community voice, including pharmacy perspectives, into all stages of decision-making, particularly where declining applications may affect access in rural or underserved areas. The Guild is always willing to contribute insights from the pharmacies that directly serve these populations.

If you have any questions about our response, please contact our Senior Advisory Pharmacists, Martin Lewis (martin@pgnz.org.nz, 04 802 8218) or Cathy Martin (cathy@pgnz.org.nz, 04 802 8214).

Yours sincerely,



Nicole Rickman
General Manager – Membership and Professional Services