

8 February 2021

## NUMBERS .... JUST TWO DAYS TO GO



Health Economics is a fascinating field. Studies into the opportunity cost of various illnesses for the population at large often carry amazing insight and lead us to startling conclusions. Often it is in the interest of the taxpayer's own pocketbook to fund public access to lifesaving medicine, not just in the interests of their conscience.

This is because improved health makes people free to do what they want with their lives and often this means huge benefits for their community and our nation. In that sense, Health Economics is about unlocking potential.

At the same time, it is impossible to avoid the discomfort of attaching numbers to everything. The 'bottom line' can be a persuasive argument, especially for legislators, but it is never comfortable to be talking about lives and dollars in even vaguely interchangeable terms.

The Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee (PBAC) is currently evaluating Trikafta for people over the age of 12 years with at least one copy of the cystic fibrosis (CF) F508del gene. They are looking at the medical science, the clinical trials and the research feedback, and they will also look at 'the numbers'.

Trikafta is an amazing second corrector. Its effects include improvements in FEV<sub>1</sub>, reduced in pulmonary exacerbations, increased in BMI, reduced in hospitalisations, and improvements in patient-reported outcomes.

The costs are high but so are the potential hours of recovered work and productivity that could be unleashed in our already vibrant community. More study, more work and most importantly more time with family and friends.

The PBAC Consumer Portal [HERE](#) closes on Wednesday, 10th February 2021 ... just two days to go. All the Trikafta arguments can be found on the CFA website with links to Fast Facts and key messages [HERE](#).

It is important to show the PBAC just who those 'numbers' are referring to. It will be important to put our names and our faces to those dollars and cents. The facts are on our side, yes, but so is the incalculable value of human life.

Raise your voice today for Trikafta and don't let them make you a number.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Nettie Burke". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed contact information.

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