



**Vertex NZ Statement – 29 January 2021**

Vertex understands how important it is to CF patients, their families and physicians to be able to benefit from innovations in treatment as quickly as possible. The patients we serve are at the centre of everything we do, and we have been relentless in our pursuit of a cure for Cystic Fibrosis for more than 20 years.

Our mission is to secure the broadest access supported by the scientific evidence available, to ensure the greatest value can be delivered to patients and healthcare systems.

We recognize the frustrations of those that are still waiting and while there are set processes that must be followed, we are open to discussing creative and innovative ways for people living with CF to access our treatments in New Zealand, as was the case for Kalydeco.

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The process of registration and funding of medicines in New Zealand is complex with a number of pathways available to companies for registration, each with differing review timelines. The applications are always complicated and time consuming, requiring extensive data and clinical trial information and it is important that our application is thorough.

Vertex has agreed to participate in a multi-stakeholder meeting facilitated by Cystic Fibrosis New Zealand in March, along with government stakeholders, as well as the cystic fibrosis clinical and patient community to identify a path forward. We very much look forward to being a part of this discussion.

We have had productive discussions with both Medsafe and Pharmac to date and look forward to continuing these at the stakeholder meeting and as our submissions progress.

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Vertex has an experienced team based in Australia that is driving forward our plans in New Zealand. Our team frequently engages with experts in NZ to support our efforts.

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## **About Vertex**

Vertex is a global biotechnology company that invests in scientific innovation to create transformative medicines for people with serious diseases. The company has multiple approved medicines that treat the underlying cause of cystic fibrosis (CF) — a rare, life-threatening genetic disease — and has several ongoing clinical and research programs in CF. Beyond CF, Vertex has a robust pipeline of investigational small molecule medicines in other serious diseases where it has deep insight into causal human biology, including pain, alpha-1 antitrypsin deficiency, and APOL1-mediated kidney disease. In addition, Vertex has a rapidly expanding pipeline of genetic and cell therapies for diseases such as sickle cell disease, beta thalassemia, Duchenne muscular dystrophy and type 1 diabetes mellitus.

Founded in 1989 in Cambridge, Mass., Vertex's global headquarters is now located in Boston's Innovation District and its international headquarters is in London, UK. Additionally, the company has research and development sites and commercial offices in North America, Europe, Australia and Latin America. Vertex is consistently recognized as one of the industry's top places to work, including 10 consecutive years on Science magazine's Top Employers list and top five on the 2019 Best Employers for Diversity list by Forbes.