



Health Technology Assessment (HTA) Consumer Consultative Committee (CCC)

HTA CCC Communique – Thursday 17 February 2023 23rd meeting of the HTA CCC

Attendees

Consumer representatives from the Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee and its subcommittee, the Drug Utilisation Sub Committee, the Medical Services Advisory Committee (MSAC) and its subcommittees, and the Prostheses List Advisory Committee.

Department of Health and Aged Care (department) representatives from the Consumer Evidence and Engagement Unit (CEEU) and the Office of Health Technology Assessment (OHTA) HTA Support Unit.

Outcomes

The Chair provided an overview of activities since the last HTA CCC meeting on 17 November 2022. These included 14 consumer, committee, industry, and departmental meetings from December 2022 to February 2023.

The Chair provided a progress report on the HTA Policy and Methods Review. It was expected the Terms of Reference (ToR) would be finalised at the end of February 2023. The Chair advised that a work plan with supporting papers is currently in development, and that the next consultation period for the HTA Review and request for submissions is expected to occur following the confirmation of the ToR by Government.

Members were also advised that at the last HTA Reference Committee meeting, held on 13 February 2023, a briefing was provided to the HTA Reference Committee by the Chair and the CEEU. The Reference Committee was advised of the work of the HTA CCC as well as the CEEU's 'Conversations for Change' consultation activities. The meeting agendas and communiques for the HTA Policy and Methods Review are available on the department's website.

The Chair advised that the updated ToR for the HTA CCC have been approved and published on the HTA website and the Chair and Deputy Chair positions will be open for nominations for the next term. A process will be commenced before the next HTA CCC meeting.

Members also discussed environmental protection matters. The Chair advised the current Government has committed to Climate Health as a National Health Priority. The department has been directed to develop Australia's first National Health and Climate Strategy. This Strategy is to identify priority areas for action, two of these specific actions being to mitigate climate impacts on the health system, and to ensure that all Australians continue to access good quality health care. Members noted the inclusion of environmental issues in the MSAC Guidelines but felt that further work was needed to be progressed in this area.

Members were also provided with an overview of the OHTA's priorities for 2023 by Natasha Ploenges, Assistant Secretary, OHTA. Ms Ploenges also spoke on the engagement with the National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation and HTA committee membership processes.

The CEEU Lead provided an update on the Unit's workplan for 2023. These included developing the HTA 'Toolbox' resources, completing the evaluation report for the 'Conversations for Change' symposium, and work associated with the preparation for the Health Technology Assessment International (HTAi) annual meeting in June 2023.

CEEU staff also provided an update to members on the 'Conversations for Change' consultation. This included providing an outline of activities conducted from November 2022, including meetings with Medicines Australia, the consumer consultation group, the CCC (November 2022) and the consumer virtual conversations, and health professional virtual conversations (February 2023).

Members were advised that a report was being developed on the 'Conversations for Change' activities. The report would be succinct and provide a summary of responses with key themes and challenges. This report is proposed to be presented at the HTAi annual meeting in June 2023, which HTA CCC members will be attending as consumer delegates to the meeting, sponsored by the department.