



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

HTA CCC Communique – Thursday 17 November 2022
22nd meeting of the HTA CCC, held via hybrid attendance

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 representatives from the Consumer Evidence and Engagement Unit (CEEU) and the Office of Health Technology Assessment (OHTA).

Guests

Independent consumer facilitator.

Outcomes

The Chair (Jo Watson) provided an overview of her activities since the last HTA CCC meeting on 18 August 2022 which included the Australian Patient Alliance Parliamentary Event held on the 15 September 2022 and the Rare Voices Summit on the 11 November 2022.

The Chair gave an update on the National Medicines Policy (NMP) Review noting that the finalisation of the NMP was extended after the new Government was in place. The consultation on this closed on 27 September 2022 and the Chair of the NMP Review Expert Advisory Committee, Professor Michael Kidd AM, is preparing a final report for the Minister.

In the CEEU update, the CEEU Lead advised of meetings with the Therapeutic Goods Administration and the Medicines Australia Consumer Advocacy Working Group regarding consumer engagement processes.

The CEEU Lead provided a brief overview of internal process improvement projects. This included the establishment of an e-newsletter called 'HTA Engage'. Individuals can subscribe to this via the HTA website or via the OHTA Consultation Hub.

Members were also informed that a small working group within OHTA had been established to assist with the refresh of the MSAC website. The focus of this refresh was on simplifying navigation and usability of the MSAC website.

The 'Conversations for Change' consultation was also discussed. The Lead reminded the committee that the purpose of the consultation is to inform the CEEU's work and help with beginning the process of developing new initiatives/making further improvements to current processes.

The CEEU presented feedback received so far and reflections from the 'Conversations for Change' Consumer Symposium, held on 18 and 19 October 2022. Initial feedback from attendees indicates the event was well received, the program content provided opportunity to

improve/expand attendees' understanding of HTA processes and the range and experience of speakers was appreciated.

Preliminary key themes emerging from the consultation's online survey and related Symposium workshop activity responses were presented.

A 'Conversations for Change' consultation workshop was held with members and facilitated by an independent consumer advocate, to enable further reflection on the consultation responses. Key points from the workshop discussion were:

- Diversity and inclusion: engage with greater diversity within the consumer population; expand the diversity within the CCC membership; expand inclusivity of HTA process access and education to diverse consumer population groups.
- Further guidance for consumers on the HTA process and support via a 'HTA Navigator'.
- Provide guidance on consumer/industry involvement to clarify conflict of interest boundaries.
- Consider how societal values and environmental issues could be further reflected in HTA considerations.
- Feedback loop for consumers on their input into committee considerations.
- Submissions from consumer organisations should demonstrate that they are representing the views of their membership i.e. include the methodology of comments gathered/data collection.
- Have a brainstorming/experience-sharing session at each CCC Meeting to build collective capability.

The next CCC meeting is scheduled for February 2023.