



Co-design of an Enhanced Consumer Engagement Process Working Group

Communique – Co-design Workshop #3 – 22 February 2024

The Co-design Working Group (CWG) of the Enhanced Consumer Engagement Process participated in an online workshop on 22 February 2024. The workshop was run by independent facilitators from the Methods and Implementation Support for Clinical and Health (MISCH) Research Hub, Nossal Institute for Global Health, The University of Melbourne, who have been engaged to develop and implement the project.

What did the Working Group discuss?

Chair's update

The Chair attended and presented at an event hosted by Medicines Australia on the topic of the HTA Policy and Methods Review (HTA Review) Options Paper, on 6 February 2024. The presentation highlighted the differences between the co-design and HTA Review work. It also identified where the two projects aligned in proposed options of support and enhancements of consumer engagement in HTA processes. The upcoming consultation on the co-design work planned for March 2024 was also highlighted in the presentation.

The Chair noted the CWG submission to Consultation 2 of the HTA Review. CWG members have provided their feedback to the draft submission, which will now be finalised and provided to the HTA Review secretariat. The Chair noted that the consumer sector is highly engaged in the current reform projects underway in HTA. There is opportunity to harness that engagement in the co-design consultation activity.

The Chair attended a HTA Consumer Reference Group (CRG) meeting on 20 February 2024. The CRG consists of representatives of consumer organisations who are frequently engaged with HTA processes and meets regularly with the Chair of the HTA Consumer Consultative Committee to advise on consumer-related matters. The CRG developed the consumer-led co-design proposal and expressed great interest in the project's status and plans for consultation. The CRG noted its support of the work and agreed that broad promotion of the consultation across the consumer sector will be needed.

Review of documents for the co-design consultation

The facilitator led discussion on the draft proposed recommendations for enhancing consumer engagement, which the CWG had developed. The CWG acknowledged that while the purpose and scope of its work focuses on consumer enhancement in HTA relevant to the Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee (PBAC) processes, the CWG has considered

that many of the proposed recommendations would be relevant and transferrable to other HTA committees and processes.

CWG discussion included finalising wording to ensure the proposed recommendations conveyed their intended meaning and that terminology had been used consistently. Implementation considerations were similarly discussed and finalised for the consultation. The CWG recognised that consultation feedback would be important in ensuring that proposed recommendations are clearly described, that intended objectives would be achieved, and any unintended outcomes considered.

The CWG reviewed the proposed online consultation survey questions to confirm that these will facilitate the feedback required to inform the finalisation of the co-design recommendations. It was agreed to include additional demographic questions to enable insight into whether the consultation engages priority populations and people living in regional/remote areas. It was also agreed to include additional consultation participation options i.e. complete the online survey and/or upload a written submission.

Finalisation of consultation plans

The CWG discussed the details of the consultation logistics and communication strategy. Members identified their stakeholder networks to which they would raise awareness of the co-design work and promote participation in the consultation. It was agreed that several communication materials would be developed by the CEEU, as the Secretariat of the CWG, to support the consultation's promotion.

Next steps in preparing for the consultation include the facilitator finalising the consultation document and survey, to reflect the changes agreed by the CWG during the meeting. The CEEU will prepare the Department's Co-design webpage for [publication of the consultation details](#), which will open on 1 March 2024 and close at 11.59pm (AEDT) on 2 April 2024.

Meeting close

Following the close of the consultation, the facilitator will analyse feedback from the survey for presentation to the CWG at its next online workshop, to be held on 9 April 2024. These findings will be considered by the CWG to inform the finalisation of the co-design recommendations.