



Co-design of an Enhanced Consumer Engagement Process Working Group

Communique – Co-design Workshop #6 – 3 June 2024

The Co-design Working Group (CWG) of the Enhanced Consumer Engagement Process participated in an online workshop on 3 June 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. The independent facilitator is also supporting the CWG to prepare a report of recommendations to be provided to the Minister for Health and Aged Care (the Minister).

What did the Working Group discuss?

Consideration of targeted stakeholder consultation feedback

During the last week of May 2024, the CWG provided targeted stakeholders opportunity to review the key elements of the co-design project outcomes. The stakeholder groups consulted were the HTA Consumer Consultative Committee, the HTA Consumer Reference Group, Medicines Australia Board and work areas within the Department of Health and Aged Care's (the Department) Office of Health Technology Assessment.

The consultation included stakeholders' review of proposed recommendations and their purpose, and implementation actions these may require. The proposed recommendations for targeted consultation had been revised, further to the CWG's consideration of feedback from the March 2024 open consultation.

The independent facilitator provided the CWG with a summary of responses from the targeted consultation, which was generally supportive of the proposed recommendations. Various suggestions from the feedback led to the CWG consensus on the following:

- Enhanced consumer engagement is a tool that will facilitate consumer evidence and experience being integral to health technology assessment (HTA) decision-making processes.
- Timely and equitable access to health technologies remains the “end goal” of enhanced consumer engagement in HTA processes.
- Consideration of priority populations concerning access to information and broadening the diversity of consumers engaged in HTA processes will be incorporated into enhanced engagement processes.
- Work on the co-design project has demonstrated the value of collaboration between stakeholders. It is considered that continued collaboration across stakeholder groups will be critical to planning and implementing actions required from recommendations, should these be supported by the Minister.

The CWG also agreed on a revised vision statement.

Considerations of the final report of recommendations

The independent facilitator guided discussion on a proposed structure and various elements of the report of recommendations to the Minister. The CWG considered and agreed on these aspects of the report.

The CWG provided comment on draft imagery developed to visually support the report. It was agreed that this imagery would assist in communicating the report's key messages in a clear and accessible format.

Next steps

It was agreed that the independent facilitator would develop an updated version of the report and provide for the CWG's final review and comment in mid-June. The independent facilitator will subsequently finalise the report by 30 June 2024.

Meeting close

It was noted that this had been the final meeting of the CWG, with remaining work to be conducted out-of-session. The independent facilitator commended the CWG members on the collaborative approach which they brought to the work during the project.

The Chair and other members thanked the independent facilitator for the professional guidance on the co-design process which has enabled the group to reach consensus on recommendations for the Minister's consideration.