



Co-design of an Enhanced Consumer Engagement Process Working Group

Communique – Co-design Workshop #5 – 7 May 2024

The Co-design Working Group (CWG) of the Enhanced Consumer Engagement Process participated in an online workshop on 7 May 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 advised that she met with the HTA Policy and Methods Review (HTA Review) Reference Committee on 11 April 2024. The Chair provided the Reference Committee an update on feedback from the March 2024 consultation on the proposed recommendations for the co-design project. The 19 draft recommendations were reviewed in more detail and with consideration to potential alignment with elements of the Options Paper from Consultation 2 of the HTA Review. The Chair noted the Reference Committee's ongoing interest and support of the co-design work.

Consideration of an initial draft report of the project

The facilitator guided the CWG in discussion on an initial draft of the report. This had been developed by the facilitator, further to the March 2024 consultation feedback and as discussed at the CWG meeting held on the 9 April 2024. The CWG had provided comment on the draft report prior to the meeting.

The discussion included the following elements of the draft report:

Vision

The CWG agreed that the co-design principles must be reflected in the vision statement:

- Consumer evidence and experience is prioritised and integral in health technology assessment (HTA) processes.
- Recommendations to enhance consumer engagement must not delay access to medicines.
- Enhancements may be prioritised to achieve maximum impact through implementation.

Themes

The CWG discussed the key themes and related descriptors suggested in the draft report, arising from the proposed recommendations and consultation feedback. Alternate words for

themes were agreed by the CWG to reflect consumer empowerment, the integration of consumer evidence within HTA decision-making and the shared responsibility of all stakeholders in enhancing consumer engagement across the health technology pathway.

Recommendations

The CWG considered the recommendations in relation to the revised themes. The discussion led to consensus on how the recommendations aligned within the key themes.

It was acknowledged that the recommendations varied from broad concepts to granular descriptions. The CWG agreed that more detailed recommendations might be consolidated into some of the broader recommendations, while still capturing the purpose and intended outcomes. These refinements will be incorporated into the next draft version of the report, along with resolution of specific details of some recommendations as discussed by the CWG.

Implementation considerations

Proposed enablers to progress implementation of the co-design project's recommendations were discussed. The CWG agreed with 3 proposed implementation enablers as critical to support future work which may arise from the recommendations.

It was noted that the final report should also include priorities for implementation and mechanisms to monitor the progression of and outcomes from the enhancements.

The CWG noted that all elements of the report are intended as proposals, for the consideration of the Minister for Health and Aged Care.

Next steps

It was agreed that the facilitator would update the vision, themes, recommendations and draft report contents to reflect the meeting's discussion and circulate to the CWG for their input. These elements will be prepared for further targeted consultation with stakeholder groups, as proposed by the CWG, in late May.

Meeting close

The CWG will next meet on 3 June 2024 to consider feedback from the targeted consultation and continue to progress the finalisation of the report.