



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

## HTA CCC Communique – 15 to 16 May 2024 26th Meeting of the HTA CCC

### Attendees

Consumer representatives from the Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee (PBAC) and its subcommittees, the Medical Services Advisory Committee (MSAC) and its subcommittees, the Life Saving Drugs Program (LSDP) Expert Panel and the Medicare Benefits Schedule Review Advisory Committee (MRAC).

Departmental representatives from the Consumer Evidence and Engagement Unit (CEEU).

### Outcomes

The HTA Consumer Consultative Committee (HTA-CCC) welcomed the recent appointment of new Chairs to the principal HTA Committees. It was noted further membership changes are expected to occur across the principal HTA Committees and sub-committees, with the new consumer member(s) to be invited to join the HTA-CCC.

The HTA-CCC formally thanked Henry Ko and Jack Nunn for their significant contribution as consumer members.

The Working Group of the Co-Design of an Enhanced Consumer Engagement Process provided a status update of the project, confirming the original principles continue to anchor the discussions. The principles include Consumer evidence and experience is prioritised and integral in HTA processes; recommendations to enhanced consumer engagement must not delay access to medicines; enhancements may be prioritised to achieve maximum impact through implementation.

The Co-Design Working Group acknowledged the submission from the HTA-CCC as part of the public consultation (1 March – 2 April 2024) and invited the Committee to be part of a targeted consultation to review the draft outcomes.

An interactive session was held to discuss the role of the HTA-CCC to support the National HTA Chairs Committee in providing advice to the Health and Medical Research Office (HMRO). The support would be centred on the strategic priorities for research investment under the HTA stream, which is part of the Preventative and Public Health Research Initiatives funded by the Medical Research Future Fund (MRFF). It was acknowledged the HTA-CCC has diverse knowledge and experience coupled with a strong network that can add value to the delivery of authentic consumer involvement and consumer evidence generation. It was agreed discussions would continue at a future meeting.

During the meeting the Committee discussed the value and the role consumer members on HTA Committee, with the primary role to bring 'consumer' perspectives, other healthcare users and the broader community perspective into the discussions alongside the clinical and economic deliberations. Consumer members are important and active members of each committee that they serve on. They welcome the opportunity to work with co-committee members to understand consumer perspectives, engage in robust discussion and contextualise 'end-user' impacts

beyond the clinical and economic evidence. This includes matters relating to health care accessibility, equity, diversity and cultural considerations, out-of-pocket costs and what may be considered as “quality” life in the setting of a specific health condition.

A feedback session confirmed a revised MSAC consultation survey will be launched at the end of May 2024. The consultation input received via the survey helps MSAC and its sub-committees to better understand how a proposed health service or technology fits in the Australian health care environment. It does this by providing MSAC with an insight into the potential effect of the proposed health service or technology on: the lives of people with the health condition, their carers, family, and friends; clinical practice; and, the Australian health care system.

The HTA-CCC remains committed to delivering opportunities for education and strengthening capabilities related to the consumer in the HTA process. A proposal for delivering ongoing education both to HTA-CCC members and to the general public was discussed and is expected to commence in late 2024.

The CEEU confirmed an oral presentation and a virtual poster to be presented at the upcoming Health Technology Assessment international (HTAi) meeting.

The next CCC meeting is scheduled to be held in October 2024.