



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

HTA CCC Communique – 23 to 24 October 2024 27th 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, the Medicare Benefits Schedule Review Advisory Committee (MRAC) and the Medical Devices and Human Tissue Advisory Committee (MDHTAC).

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

Outcomes

The HTA Consumer Consultative Committee (HTA-CCC) formally welcomed new members Jan Mumford and Kris Pierce to the committee.

A presentation on conflicts of interest requirements of HTA committee and subcommittee members was provided, clarifying members' declaration obligations in their roles on these committees.

The HTA-CCC Medicare Benefits Schedule (MBS) Review Advisory Committee ([MRAC](#)) consumer members presented an overview of the role and scope of this committee. It was acknowledged the work that is undertaken by MRAC is relevant to HTA committee decision-making.

The committee reflected on the recently published [Enhance HTA report](#) (September 2024), developed from the Co-Design of an Enhanced Consumer Engagement Process. The HTA-CCC considered which of the report's recommendations may be priorities to progress in the short term, from the perspectives of a HTA consumer member and as a member of the consumer sector. It was noted that consultations conducted during the [HTA Policy and Methods Review](#) and the Co-Design of an Enhanced Consumer Engagement Process had yielded a high volume of consumer submissions, indicative of the consumer sector's engagement and understanding of this important aspect of public health.

The Assistant Secretary, Office of Health Technology Assessment Branch, provided the HTA-CCC with insights into the Branch's current activities. The Assistant Secretary noted the continuous evolution of consumer engagement and encouraged the HTA-CCC in their work of enhancing the representation of consumer needs and perspectives within their respective HTA committees and subcommittees.

An interactive session was held to discuss considerations for adopting appropriate and meaningful language to reflect consumer engagement. Consideration was given to the various terms applied to consumer engagement, such as consumer comments, consumer experience, consumer input and consumer evidence. It was agreed there was need to provide clarity and consistency on the use of such terminology and that further work would follow on this matter.

A workshop considered the development of measures and metrics related to consumer engagement in HTA processes. It was agreed that the CEEU will lead further development of this work with the HTA-CCC, followed by broader consultation with HTA committees and the consumer sector.

The HTA-CCC reviewed planned enhancements to the CEEU's e-newsletter, [HTA Engage](#). Additionally, consideration was given to a proposal of self-identification for individual consumers and consumer organisations, via *HTA Engage* subscriptions, to improve broad and targeted notifications on HTA-related consultations and activities, to support meaningful HTA consumer engagement.

The Co-Deputy Chair, MSAC, provided an overview of Technical Guidance 28 and Technical Guidance 29 within the [MSAC Guidelines](#). These respectively provide guidance on consideration of evidence for the 'value of knowing' test information and its impact on non-healthy outcomes, and evidence for social, ethical, legal and organisational impacts associated with implementation of the test. The two Technical Guidance items were discussed, including consideration of the context of genetic testing.

The CEEU provided an update on its activities, including a proposed consumer webinar to be held on 10 December 2024. The purpose of the webinar is to provide an opportunity to acknowledge some of the many highlights of the consumer sector activities during 2024 and look towards enhancing consumer engagement in HTA during 2025. The HTA-CCC considered proposed workshop and webinar topics that may be held in 2025 for the HTA-CCC and consumer sector.

The next HTA-CCC meeting is scheduled to be held in February 2025.