



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

## HTA CCC Communique – 24 and 25 February 2026

### 31<sup>st</sup> 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).

Guest presentations were provided by representatives from Health Technology Assessment international (HTAi) and the National Health and Medical Research Council / Medical Research Future Fund (NHMRC/MRFF) Consumer Advisory Group.

#### Outcomes

The HTA Consumer Consultative Committee (HTA CCC) received updates on activities and items of note from the Chair, HTA CCC members and the CEEU. These included representation at various local and international consumer and industry stakeholder events, developments across HTA committees, and consumer member mentorship. Members noted the increasing complexity of submissions and emphasised the importance of maintaining transparency in HTA processes. They also agreed that there are opportunities to take practical steps within existing processes to strengthen consumer engagement while the recommendations of the [HTA Review](#) are being considered.

A key focus of the meeting was the development of the *Framework for Consumer Engagement in Health Technology Assessment*. This work follows the Minister for Health and Ageing and Minister for Disability and the National Disability Insurance Scheme's [announcement](#) on 3 September 2025 to develop a stakeholder engagement framework to strengthen involvement of patients, consumers and their representative organisations in HTA processes. The framework builds on significant work undertaken through previous reform processes, including [Enhance HTA](#), and brings together these earlier co-designed recommendations into a set of guiding principles to support consistent and meaningful consumer engagement.

HTA CCC members provided guidance to the CEEU on the development of the framework, including its intended audience, how it should be structured and how it should be communicated to stakeholders. Members emphasised that the framework should provide high-level guidance for consumer participation across HTA processes, be accessible to a broad range of stakeholders, and clearly demonstrate how it builds on and aligns with existing policies and HTA reform work. The HTA CCC also highlighted the importance of ensuring the framework is clear, concise and practical, and supported by visual materials and companion resources to help stakeholders understand all opportunities for consumer engagement in HTA.

An out-of-session HTA CCC meeting will be held in March 2026 to review the revised draft framework. A webinar for consumers and consumer organisations is planned for 12:00pm (AEST) on Wednesday, 22 April 2026 to present the framework, explain its purpose, and outline the work undertaken to date. This will provide an opportunity to understand the framework's structure and how it will support future consumer engagement activities in HTA.

Following the webinar, stakeholders will be invited to participate in a four-week feedback period to review the draft framework and provide comments. During this period, the CEEU and the HTA CCC Chair will remain available to provide briefings and respond to stakeholder queries as required.

The Department intends to finalise the framework by mid-2026.