Australian Government
Department of Health, Disability and Ageing

HTA CCC



Communique

34th meeting of the HTA Consumer Consultative Committee (HTA CCC)

21-22 October 2026

Attendees

Consumer members 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 guest presenters from Genomics Australia.

Outcomes

The HTA Consumer Consultative Committee (HTA CCC) discussed developments across HTA committees, consumer engagement activities and opportunities to strengthen the consideration of consumer perspectives in HTA processes. Members reflected on the value of the HTA CCC as a forum for sharing experiences, building consumer member capability and providing advice on improvements to consumer engagement across the HTA system.

A key focus of the meeting was how consumer input contributes to HTA committee deliberations and recommendations. Members discussed how lived experience can confirm, complement or challenge other evidence, including by providing insights into treatment burden, unmet needs, quality of life and equity. Members emphasised that recommendations reflect consideration of the totality of available evidence and cannot generally be attributed to individual consumer input. The discussion highlighted the importance of explaining more clearly how consumer perspectives are considered in HTA processes.

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Members received updates on work underway to improve the consumer experience of accessing information about, and contributing to, HTA processes. This included development of a consumer-facing information portal, revisions to the PBAC consultation survey, potential improvements to the Medicine Status website and review of some content on the PBS website. Members welcomed the focus on clearer, more accessible information and suggested providing more guidance to help consumers better understand the assessment questions, identify the relevant patient populations and recognise opportunities to contribute, enabling them to provide more informed and relevant input into the HTA process. CEEU also outlined changes to *HTA Engage* (electronic newsletter), including more timely notifications about consultation opportunities and committee activities, and more tailored communications based on consumer interests and needs.

CEEU presented findings from a report examining the feedback consumers and consumer organisations want after contributing to HTA processes. The findings highlighted the importance of acknowledging contributions, providing timely and accessible information about outcomes, and helping consumers understand how their input was considered. Members discussed opportunities to strengthen existing feedback mechanisms through clearer public documents, improved website navigation and more proactive communication, while recognising the need for practical and proportionate approaches.

Building on these findings, CEEU presented a focused approach to measuring consumer engagement and its impact in HTA. The approach includes a set of practical indicators covering participation, consumer experience, accessibility, feedback and the contribution of consumer perspectives to HTA processes. Members emphasised that measures should identify gaps and support meaningful improvements, rather than rely on the volume of inputs received as an indicator of successful engagement. Further work will consider the feasibility and usefulness of the proposed indicators, with the item returning to the next HTA CCC meeting for discussion.

Members also received an update from Genomics Australia on its national policy, program and community engagement activities, including work to improve genomic health literacy. Members highlighted the importance of meaningful and diverse consumer involvement in shaping genomics initiatives.

CEEU provided updates on other consumer engagement activities, including a two-part webinar series on consumer input and consumer evidence, scheduled for 25 November 2026 and February 2027, and development of a practical guide to support consumer participation in PBAC and MSAC processes. Members also discussed the opportunities and challenges associated with artificial intelligence (AI) in HTA consultation processes, including AI-assisted consumer inputs. Further consideration of AI-assisted consumer input will be included at the next meeting.

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