



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

## HTA CCC Communique – Thursday 17th February 2022 19th meeting of the HTA CCC, held via videoconference

### Attendees

Consumer representatives from the Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee (PBAC) and its subcommittee, the Drug Utilisation Sub Committee, the Medical Services Advisory Committee (MSAC) and its subcommittees, and the Prostheses List Advisory Committee (PLAC).

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

### Outcomes

The Chair (Jo Watson) provided an overview of her activities since the last HTA CCC meeting on 18 November 2021. These activities included meetings with the National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation, Cystic Fibrosis Australia and Breast Cancer Network Australia.

The Chair also noted upcoming work plan activities, including consumer consultations relating to the 2022–2027 Strategic Agreement between the Australian Government and Medicines Australia.

The CEEU Lead gave an update on the consultation process for MSAC and its PICO Advisory Subcommittee, which is coordinated by the CEEU. The CEEU will continue working towards improving this process with stakeholders including professional colleges, societies and consumer groups.

The Lead also advised that the OHTA Consultation Hub (a web platform enabling any interested person to find, share and participate in HTA consultations) was successfully launched on 1 December 2021 and has been used for the March 2022 PBAC consultation. For this PBAC consultation, a question was added to the consultation survey form, seeking suggestions on ways the survey can potentially be improved for future consultation rounds. Out of the 833 completed surveys returned, 258 included a response to this question:

- 100 responses included suggestions on ways to improve both the consultation survey and/or HTA processes. Suggestions on ways to improve the survey included enabling respondents to download a hard copy of the survey, providing access to the survey in different languages and providing more information on the type of files that can be uploaded. The CEEU will work through these suggestions and make changes for the July 2022 PBAC consultation
- 26 responses provided feedback that the survey form is good, easy to use, is a nice interface and other feedback of a similar theme
- 2 responses provided feedback that the new form is more complicated than before and needs to be simplified
- 130 responses indicated there were no suggestions.

The CEEU commenced distributing 'CEEU News' emails in December 2021 to inform stakeholders of developments in the HTA consumer engagement space, and these will continue to be distributed in 2022.

The Chair advised that the Report and Recommendations from the House of Representatives inquiry into approval processes for new drugs and novel medical technologies is being reviewed by the Department. Members provided comments on the report's recommendations and noted the strong acknowledgement of the importance of patient engagement throughout the document.

The CEEU Lead noted that, as part of the Strategic Agreement, the Government has committed to working with consumers and patients to develop options to elevate the patient and consumer voice in HTA processes supporting the PBAC, as well as other areas across the Office of HTA.

In the first year of the Agreement (2022–23 Financial Year), the Government will work with consumers, medicines industry, clinicians, and other health professionals to develop Enhanced Consumer Engagement concepts and explore strategies for improvements to the current processes.

Planning is underway on this project and further communications on activities to kickstart this project are planned in the weeks ahead.

The Final draft of the 2021 Consumer Symposium Evaluation and Report was also provided to CCC members and will be made available to the Office of HTA in the next month.

The CCC's Terms of Reference are being updated and will be discussed at the next CCC meeting scheduled for May 2022.