



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

## HTA CCC Communique – Thursday 18th November 2021 18th meeting of the HTA CCC, held via videoconference

### Attendees

Consumer representatives from the Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee and its subcommittee, the Drug Utilisation Sub-Committee, the Medical Services Advisory Committee (MSAC) and its subcommittees, the Prostheses List Advisory Committee, in addition to the consumer representative from the Therapeutic Goods Administration Advisory Committee on Medical Devices.

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

### Outcomes

The Chair (Jo Watson) provided an overview of her activities since the last HTA CCC meeting on 17 September 2021. These activities included presentations at the Cystic Fibrosis Australia Webinar, the National Sickle Cell Conference, the CCC Making Connections Consumer Symposium and the Spinal Muscular Atrophy Australia Webinar.

The Chair gave an update on the 2022–2027 Strategic Agreements between the Australian Government and Medicines Australia, and the Generic and Biosimilar Medicines Association. Members noted that key elements of the agreement with Medicines Australia include:

- Funding for new medicines
- A medicines supply security guarantee
- Establishment of a HTA methods review
- Work on an enhanced consumer engagement framework.

The Chair further noted the House of Representatives inquiry into approval processes for new drugs and novel medical technologies in Australia report is expected to be tabled in Parliament shortly and provided an update regarding consultation opportunities for the Review of the National Medicines Policy (NMP).

The CEEU Lead gave an update about CEEU activities since the last CCC meeting in September 2021. This included coordination of targeted consultation for the new tranche of applications expected to be considered at the December 2021 MSAC PICO Advisory Sub-Committee meeting, and evaluation of the *Making Connections* Consumer Symposium held on 23 September 2021.

A sample of Symposium attendees completed an event evaluation survey by telephone, while 17 people completed the online event evaluation survey.

Feedback provided was largely positive – participants said they would attend future events, several attendees reported that the lunch-time networking rooms were a positive way of

connecting with others in the sector, while other attendees commented that a broader range of consumers and consumer groups could have been invited.

This inaugural Symposium gave valuable learnings on the internal resources required to hold an event of this scale in addition to managing existing business-as-usual activities of the CEEU.

The CEEU provided the below statistics for the Symposium.

- There were 99 online registrations, which included 55 consumers and staff affiliated with a wide range of national consumer organisations, 16 CCC members and Federal Department of Health staff, along with 28 speakers.
- The most watched pre-recorded video on the Symposium website was an Overview of the Department of Health.
- In total, there were 348 user logins with the peak occurring on the event day, the 23 September. There were 55–60 consistent users throughout the event day, from the welcoming address to the conversations and reflection session held at the end of the Symposium.

A report evaluating the Symposium is in preparation - to be distributed to members for the next HTA CCC meeting.