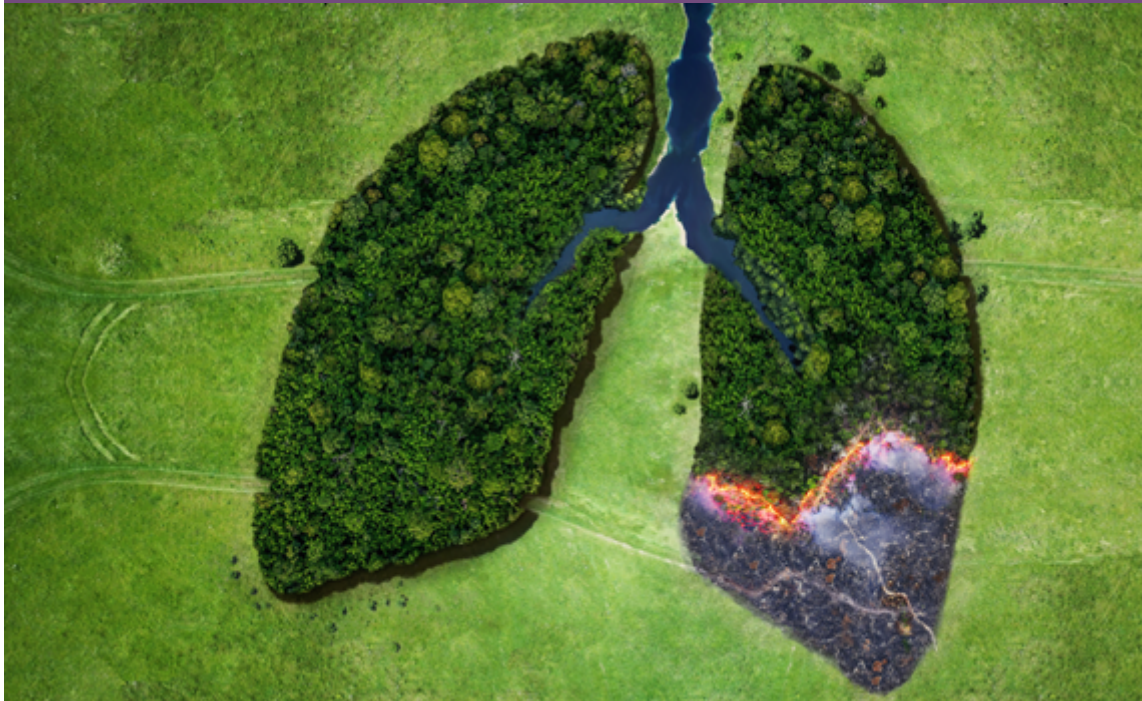


Consumers Shaping Health

CHF
Consumers Health
Forum OF Australia



News and views on health consumer issues - Nov 2021



The healthy argument on climate change

In the debate about climate change, it is often overlooked that the most likely direct effect of climate change-related phenomena will be on our health.

A very topical example of this oversight is the current attention being given to the government support for electric vehicles. Somewhat lost in the focus on economic costs and savings of electric vehicles is the huge potential benefit to our health enabled by the end of the internal combustion engine.

A recent Australian [Conservation Foundation report](#) estimates the many billions in avoided health costs alone that could be saved in future years with widespread introduction of electric vehicles as a result of reduced air pollution, greenhouse gases and noise pollution.

Climate change and the COVID pandemic represent two huge challenges which are prompting health consumers to realise that the best solutions inevitably require concerted, whole-of-community responses.

The Climate and Health Alliance which is celebrating its 10th anniversary (one year late because of COVID) has demonstrated the potential power of the health community and CHF supports this as one of the 70 members of CAHA.

Its [Ten Years of Impact Report](#) shows the impressive range and depth of the campaigns CAHA has spearheaded since its founding by executive director Fiona

Armstrong.

CAHA has sought a stronger response by Australia at the COP26 conference on climate change. In a public letter to the Prime Minister, Scott Morrison, CAHA and signatory members presented a comprehensive policy plan to improve public health.

The letter stated that health impacts of climate change can only be prevented with ambitious efforts to cut our greenhouse gas emissions, reduce our reliance on fossil fuels and support our health system to be resilient and sustainable in the face of worsening climate impacts.

CAHA's mission has been all about marshalling the forces among health advocates to shift governments and their policies.

It has produced 10 ground-breaking reports on the issue of climate change and its dangers, including the framework for a national strategy on climate, health and well-being for Australia

Its aim has been to lead the Australian community in fostering climate health literacy, producing 220 champions to spread knowledge and confidence about advocacy of the need for action on climate change.

CAHA has a theory of change which CHF strongly supports: "If the health sector leads on climate advocacy and solutions, decision-makers and the public will act, because the community cares about health and trusts health voices."

Leanne Wells

Chief Executive Officer



News and updates

Digital inclusion and transformation – a critical priority for Australian charities

"We know the charities sector has been advancing its use of technology, but in some ways the bigger question is what we want charities to be doing in relation to the strategic adaption and adoption of technology," writes David Crosbie, CEO of the Community Council of Australia (CCA)

"The digital divide in Australia means around 10 per cent of us or 2.5 million people are highly digitally excluded, and many more do not have the resources or skills to effectively navigate their way in a digital marketplace or even on the myGov website."

"Digital transformation has to be on the agenda of every charity as an integral part of improving the way charities serve their communities and achieve their mission.' says Crosbie, and shares the [Digital Transformation Hub](#) as a useful resource form not-for-profits to turn to for help in navigating their digital challenges.

[READ MORE](#)



Vale Lynda Condon (1957-2021)

We were deeply saddened to hear of the passing of Lynda Condon recently. Lynda was a passionate consumer advocate, and the co-facilitator of the CHF Safety and Quality Special Interest Group. She was always kind and equally fierce in her determination and knowledge about consumer rights in health care. She contributed to many CHF initiatives, leading the group with dedication and vision. The following obituary was provided by her family:

[READ MORE](#)



Youth Health Forum National Summit

We held the Australian young health consumer's national summit in September 2021.

The Youth Health Forum National Summit brought together passionate young people, thought leaders and policy-makers to discuss the health issues that affect people under 30

Croakey News Media Conference Service [prepared this Report](#), if you missed the Summit or want a reminder about some of the most important discussions.

The Summit Call to Action has been finalised and we are excited to show [you how it looks](#). We identified 5 key values during the discussions on the day.

We will be advocating for these over the coming months and will be contacting ministers and shadow ministers to present this call to action to them.

[READ MORE](#)



[MedicineWise app](#)

It's hard to remember and correctly take medicines with doses that change from day to day, or that only need to be taken infrequently. NPS MedicineWise has identified this as an important reason why people may not be getting the most out of their medicines. It's also why MedicineWise app - a free app funded by the Department of Health to help people keep track of their medicines – was recently upgraded to include a new 'dose-tracker' functionality. For more details see:

Get the MedicineWise app from the App store or Google play

FIND OUT MORE

Consumer consultation invitation

WE are conducting a consumer consultation with the Australian Commission for Safety and Quality in Health Care (ACSQHC) to get consumer input into designing a new web interface for displaying health care data in a way that works for consumers.

As consumers, you are invited to apply to participate in this project by testing a draft version of the web interface, completing a brief questionnaire asking about your perspective on aspects of the site and then participating in a focus group discussion.

Expressions of interest for close on Mon 15 Nov 2021. A further consultation close on Mon 10 Jan 2021

FIND OUT MORE

Submissions

This month we worked on submissions for five national strategies

October has seen the culmination of many significant pieces of work for CHF including the [National Digital Health Strategy](#), the [National Medicines Policy Review](#) the National Obesity Strategy and the 10 year Primary Health Care Plan

The Government's draft 10 Year Primary Health Care Plan is very welcome and CHF endorsed the main reforms proposed, with a move to a hybrid system and funding that includes voluntary patient registration, collaborative commissioning and social prescribing for whole of person wellbeing.

Our response focused on areas for improvement, such as integrating primary health with specialist and hospital care, link workers and navigators to help people access services and address social determinants of health, expanding primary health to include dental care, and investing in consumer leaders. A position paper detailing CHF's response will be available on the CHF website soon. Watch the webinar replay: [A primer on Primary Health Care reform](#)

We also added the consumer voice to consultations to the Australian Medical Research and Innovation Strategy (Strategy) for the [Medical Research Future Fund \(MRFF\)](#).

SEE OUR SUBMISSIONS

Conferences and webinars



WEBINAR ON Cord Blood Banking

Recent years have seen the emergence of [stem cell cord-blood banking](#). What is it about this potent technology that has "struck a cord"?

Speakers include: A/Prof Ngaire Elwood Director of BMDI Cord Blood Bank and Head of the Cord Blood Stem Cell Research Group at the Murdoch Childrens' Research Institute and Jack Nunn Director of Science For All and PhD candidate at Latrobe University will start the discussion with a 10 minute presentation

Thurs 9th Dec - Noon to 12:45 pm

[REGISTER](#)

The 3rd Asia-Pacific Congress 2021

The 3rd Asia-Pacific Congress 2021 on 16-17 Nov is an opportunity to address the post-COVID recovery of health systems and will look at how we can collaborate in building back better using insight, compassion and co-creation.

CHF CEO Leanne Wells, will be among speakers invited from major healthcare institutions, the World Health Organisation and regional health patient and industry organisations to share their knowledge and lived experience.

[SEE MORE](#)



Young people looking forward to the vaccine and life back to normal

Emily Cole is a Young Leader with the Youth Health Forum and a health advocate for young people, having worked with Headspace's Youth National Reference Group, Orygen's National Youth Advisory Council and her own local council in Broome, helping to set up training for Peer Support Workers and other projects. In August, Emily took part in a COVID vaccine confidence program to circulate real Australian's stories about vaccination.

[SEE THE VIDEO](#)

Welcome to new member

Health CAN SA

Health Consumer Advocacy Network



Health Consumer Advocacy Network SA

Welcome to new member, Health Consumers Advocacy Network of South Australia (or Health CAN SA - the Network). This is a group established after the South Australian government ceased funding statewide health consumer partnerships in 2019. As a result, the Health Consumers Alliance of South Australia (HCASA) ended its 20-year existence. Health CAN SA was established by a group of health consumers who believe the people who pay for and use health services in SA should be able to inform and influence how those services are designed and delivered.

The Convenor of Health CAN SA is Allison Willis, at awillis@healthconsumercolab.com.au

Welcome to new member



Help with research - take a 5 minute survey

Are you someone that has a heart condition? Has your heart health been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic? Has the pandemic and the social restrictions and guidelines made it more difficult to see your doctor?

Researchers from The University of Sydney are conducting a 5-minute survey for people with heart condition(s). Three \$50-giftcards will be given away. Please click the following weblink to find out more about the study

[FOR MORE](#)

The InFORMed Project - Redesigning Consent to Research: CONSUMER SURVEY

Help improve research information

[CT:IQ](#) (Clinical Trials: Impact & Quality,) is a group of people with a common aim to get Australia thinking smarter about the design and conduct of clinical trials and research studies.

“[The InFORMed Project](#)” aims to simplify consumers' experience of agreeing to participate in research.

The basis for ethical research practice is having participants provide informed consent before they take part. Potential participants are given written information about the research and a consent form to sign, this is called a Participant Information and Consent Form (PICF) which is often quite complex, long and can be difficult for people to understand.

You invited to complete this [5 minute survey](#), which closes on 15th November 2021.

If you have any questions contact CT:IQ Project Manager, **Sonia Harvey** , Senior **Policy Officer** on email soniaharvey@ctiq.com.au

[COMPLETE THE SURVEY](#)

Australia's Health Panel



What is Australia's Health Panel?

Australia's Health Panel is an interactive platform dedicated to collecting the views of Australians about the state of the nation's healthcare system. This information is used to inform our advocacy.

Find out more about what you said - on loneliness, the vaccine rollout, the preventative health strategy and health literacy - [See the results](#) or [Join the Panel](#)

[MORE ABOUT AUSTRALIA'S HEALTH PANEL](#)

[COVID-19 vaccine rollout](#)



Information from the Australian Department of Health

Use the Department of Health's [Eligibility Checker](#) to find out when and where to get your COVID-19 vaccine.

The COVID-19 [restriction checker](#) from *healthdirect* is a search tool to help you find the restrictions in your state or territory as advice changes about COVID-19.

Local outbreaks of COVID-19 and the delta variant

Advice from ATAGI about the [use of the AstraZeneca vaccine](#) during an outbreak.

COVID-19 news and media updates [from the Dept of Health](#)

Find the [answers to your questions](#) from medical experts.

Use the Department of Health page on [COVID-19 vaccinations](#) to access priority resources including videos and social media campaigns.

You can visit [healthdirect](#) or see your doctor for medical advice.

[FOR MORE](#)

Get involved



Consumer representative program

Consumer representatives are nominated for national committees to ensure that the views and interests of health consumers are represented at the national level. CHF

supports consumer representatives by providing resources in a number of ways. Find out how to become a [Consumer Rep](#)

CONSUMER REPRESENTATIVE PROGRAM

Special Interest Groups

Special Interest Groups (SIGs) are a way for members and the broader consumer community to be involved in our advocacy work and in shaping policy.

Special Interest Groups to focus on Primary Health Care, Research & Data, Digital Health, Safety & Quality and Rural & Remote. SIGs help us to features even more consumer insight and perspective reflective of our Australian community. Find out more about CHF [Special Interest Groups](#).

Opportunities to join SIGs are advertised in newsletters and on our website.

FIND OUT ABOUT SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

Participate in research



Join Us - call for research stories

Join Us connects researchers with people who are willing to be involved in research, and helps researchers prevent, treat and find cures for disease.

It's quick and simple – you sign up, provide a few details that are held in a secure database and when a relevant study comes up, you are asked if you'd like to take part. By joining us you could help change a life. Together we can change millions of lives.

JOIN US REGISTER

Media releases and editorial

[Taking journalism seriously – media in the age of COVID](#)

The global COVID-19 pandemic took place in the context of another crisis – the upheaval of the news media landscape, writes Kerry McCallum, ...
11 Nov 2021 — Blog

[Vale Lynda Condon \(1957-2021\)](#)

We were deeply saddened to hear of the passing recently of Lynda Condon, consumer advocate, kind and fierce in her determination...

3 Nov 2021 — Blog

[A consumer perspective on the intersection of healthcare and data](#)

If anything positive has come out of COVID-19 it is increased trust and respect in the community for science and the vital importance of ...

1 Nov 2021 — Blog

['Living with COVID' means living with caution](#)

We welcome the Federal Government's additional support for community-based care for COVID cases but urges Australians to take care ...

1 Nov 2021 — Media release

[Urgent action needed to unmask cosmetic 'surgery'](#)

The latest expose of the controversial practices of one of Australia's most widely known cosmetic "surgeons" highlights the need ..

26 Oct 2021 — Media release

[Why we need more than a summit to fix health insurance](#)

Calls by two leading health industry organisations for a summit to discuss private health insurance reform ...

20 Oct 2021 — Media release

[Federal Government urged to tackle mental health and wellbeing crisis by investing in social prescribing](#)

The Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP), Consumer Health Forum of Australia (CHF) and Mental Health Australia are urging the government to implement a national social prescribing scheme to tackle ..

.20 Oct 2021 — Media release

[Youth health leaders call for action on the "missing middle"](#)

Young leaders have released a Call to Action to promote a much stronger role ...

20 Oct 2021 — Media release

[Health Literacy gives us the right reading on health](#)

It's Health Literacy Month and Australia's experience with COVID-19 has shown us just how important health literacy

14 Oct 2021 — Blog

[READ ALL MEDIA RELEASES & OPINION](#)

CHFTalks webinar series

Covering COVID: media in the age of the pandemic

How well has the media handled the demands of reporting on and analyzing the biggest pandemic in a century? What have we learnt?

Hear from researchers, and journalists, including Professor Kerry McCallum, Dr Norman Swan and Dr Sanjaya Senanayake in a discussion about trust in the news, how COVID has impacted health literacy and how the Australian media landscape is holding up.

[WATCH THE REPLAY](#)

A primer on Primary Health Care reform

Ever wondered what's wrong with the Australian Health Care system? If it were up to you - what what YOU do to fix it.

Learn about Primary Health Care reform in this webinar with GP and PHN Board member, Dr Michael Wright, Pharmacist and Senior Lecturer at Curtin, Dr Fei Sim and CEO, National Rural Health Alliance and Leanne Wells CEO, Consumers Health Forum

[WATCH THE REPLAY](#)

Join Us – health consumers as partners in research

Health and medical research has never been more important in Australia. Whether that be research into COVID-19, research that uncovers life-saving treatments for common chronic conditions or studies shedding light on serious rare diseases.

Most Australians say they would be willing to participate in health and medical research, but very few are ever invited.

In this webinar researchers discuss their projects in healthy food shopping and air quality during the 2020 bushfire season and consumers talk about their role

[WATCH THE REPLAY](#)

Digital inclusion: Equity in health & wellbeing

In this webinar we hear from digital inclusion specialists, the Good Things Foundation, to discuss the critical role of digital inclusion in ensuring better health and wellbeing. We'll hear about the groups that are at greatest risk of exclusion in Australia, and of broadening health inequities, and about programs that work to close the digital divide.

[WATCH THE REPLAY](#)

[CHF YouTube channel](#)

Resources and Information

Turn to the website of the [Department of Health](#) to find the most recent, verified information, posted daily.

Use [healthdirect Australia](#), the Australian Government Health advice portal for consumers, for [information on COVID-19](#), the [symptom checker](#) and helpline: 1800 022 222.

Healthdirect provides free, approved medical advice and has delivered information to Australians on COVID-19 since the beginning of the pandemic. Tools and information

on COVID-19 can be accessed from the [COVID-19 section](#) of the *healthdirect* website.

NPS MedicineWise

A new [information hub from NPS MedicineWise](#) will help you be medicine wise during COVID-19

Be Health Aware - [CHF portal for health resources](#)

The **Australian Commission of Safety and Quality** has published a [FAQ page](#) on the **safe use of masks** for consumers and a [factsheet you can download](#).

Become a member



As a member of CHF you will be kept up to date on key health reform issues through our publications and member alerts. CHF membership enables you to influence the national health agenda by contributing to CHF surveys and polls, consultations and campaigns. Members can draw on CHF position statements, media releases and policy submissions to inform your work and advocacy.

[JOIN US - Become a member](#)

[Consumers Health Forum](#)

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[Unsubscribe](#)

