

# Consumers Shaping Health

**CHF**  
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Forum OF Australia



News and views on health consumer issues - September 2021

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Consumers Health  
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Youth Health Forum

**SUMMIT**

15 Sept 2021

## Youth Health Summit a timely forum

The impact of the COVID pandemic has hit many young people in a way that can present more intrusive and challenging harms than the virus itself.

It is notable that this knock-on effect of the pandemic has prompted some in government to cite it as a reason for moderating the lockdowns in severely affected States.

The current plight in mental health follows years of rising demand and insufficient responses from state and federal governments to calls for strengthened services and supports, particularly for young people.

The repercussions of lockdowns on mental health have only magnified the problems experienced across the community — from negative strains on young children and the elderly to the drain on already scarce mental health services.

With COVID and mental health issues confronting so many and particularly young people, the Youth Health Forum National Summit on 15 September is shaping as a timely virtual event for the airing of fresh perspectives and solutions.

Youth Voices Reshaping Health is the title for the Summit and given the current transforming forces the pandemic is exerting on the health system, there is much scope for dynamic thinking to develop more youth-oriented health services.

As Youth Health Forum's Roxanne MacDonald tweeted, youth mental health is not just about COVID and it's not just mental health system change that is needed. Supporting young people means advocating for more compassionate systems across education, housing, disability support, employment and Jobseeker.

What are policy makers missing? That will be one topic discussed by a panel of youth leaders including Caitlin Figueiredo, Co-Chair, Australian Youth Affairs Coalition, Franklin Hooper, UNICEF Australia's Young Ambassador; and Samuel Hockey, Lived Experience Researcher. Georgia Gardner, YHF Young Leader will chair the discussion.

There will be input in some sessions from [leading mental and public health advocates](#) including Professor Pat McGorry and Dr Sandro Demaio.

But it is young people who will facilitate the Summit program and the outcomes, bringing a strong youth perspective just when it is really needed.

To sign up for the Summit, [click here to register](#).

#YHFSummit #adolescenthealth #youngadvocates

## Leanne Wells

Chief Executive Officer



YHF Summit



## WEBINAR: Digital inclusion: Equity in health & wellbeing

Hear from the Good Things Foundation on digital inclusion to support better health.

Digital inclusion means ensuring people can use the internet and technology to improve their daily lives. Never has it been more important that everyone has the skills and technology to safely access reliable and trustworthy health information, resources and services.

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 the programs in Australia and the UK that work to close the digital divide.

**Join us on Thurs 09 Sept at 12:00 midday (AEST) for this webinar**

FIND OUT MORE



## Migrants with strong connections overseas have a different view of COVID

Hamza lives in an extended family household on Queensland's Gold Coast. Through his experience in advocating for family members with health conditions, he has led and facilitated a national network of consumers and carers from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds.

Hamza's mother works as a Muslim chaplain providing gender sensitive spiritual care and chaplaincy support in places of worship, local schools and home visits in the community.

Initially, says Hamza, his mother was hesitant about having the vaccine, but then she changed her mind.

WATCH AND SHARE



## Opportunity to lead consultation with your community

Do you have connections to a community and would like to lead a Kitchen Table Discussion for the Review of the National Digital Health Strategy?

The Australian Digital Health Agency wants to ensure consumer views are reflected in the Review. As a collaborative effort CHF will be undertaking a series of 15 Kitchen Table Discussions across the country to hear from consumers when s at this critical point in time.

We are looking for people who would like to host a Kitchen Table discussion that will contribute grassroots consumer views to the Review which will be released in 2022.

FIND OUT MORE



## Youth Health Forum National Summit

We're having a summit for young health advocates

The Youth Health Forum is hosting a major, online event on 15 September 2021.

Youth health consumers aged 18 to 30 are coming together from across the country to discuss the big issues for young people's health.

The Summit will be an event for young health advocates, health and youth organisations, researchers, students, healthcare providers and policy makers can come together to develop co-designed solutions.

### [View the program](#)

There will be opportunities to meet and collaborate with organisations from around Australia who want to work with young people to make their health services better. We're looking forward to seeing you on Wed 15 Sept 2021.

This is a must attend for anyone who is interested in working with young people on health issues, and for health advocates of all ages!

### [Register now](#)

Anyone can attend this open registration event so secure your registration now as early bird prices end soon!

### [Join the Youth Health Forum](#)

Can't wait until September to have your say? Join the Youth Health forum today - [find out more](#) or [apply here](#)

[YHF SUMMIT WEBSITE](#)



[Take a Step](#)

Our friends at headspace have launched a new campaign to support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people with their social and emotional wellbeing.

Check out the dedicated landing page, where you'll find articles, videos fact sheets and interactive activities to support the social and emotional wellbeing of Aboriginal and / or Torres Strait Islander young people

[FIND OUT MORE](#)

## Vaccination indemnity scheme

From 6 September Australians who suffer injury and loss of income due to their COVID-19 vaccine will be able to register their intent to claim under a Scheme which will cover the costs of injuries above \$5,000 due to a proven adverse reaction to a COVID-19 vaccination. Claims will be assessed by independent experts, and compensation paid based on the recommendations.

This will provide an alternative, administrative option to seek compensation, rather than a complex and costly court process. Australians who receive a COVID-19 vaccination and have an adverse event are encouraged to report it to their doctor who can provide the information to the Therapeutic Goods Administration to ensure such events are included in its reporting.

- For more details on COVID-19 programs go to [Be Health Aware](#).



## National Medicines Policy review

The National Medicines Policy (NMP) review committee is now welcoming submissions to support the review of the NMP. Professor Michael Kidd AM will chair the review committee and Jan Donovan, CHF Board Director, is consumer adviser.

Published in 2000, Australia's National Medicines Policy (NMP) provides the policy framework for the delivery of four objectives. The four central objectives include:

- timely access to the medicines that Australians need, at a cost individuals and the community can afford;
- medicines meeting appropriate standards of quality, safety and efficacy;
- quality use of medicines
- maintaining a responsible and viable medicines industry

A stakeholder consultation process involving a call for public submissions will support the review. The review's Terms of Reference are available [here](#) and a discussion paper has been prepared to provide context for the review.

The review's findings will contribute to ensuring Australia's NMP remains fit for purpose and relevant to the medicines landscape, now and into the future.

The call for submissions will close at 23:30 AEST on **Friday 8 October 2021**.

CHF will be putting in a submission. We aim to have a draft out by 27 September and will be running a feedback session with consumers on Wednesday 29 September at 11am-1pm.

Register your interest in attending this session with Dr Penelope Bergen by email [P.Bergen@chf.org.au](mailto:P.Bergen@chf.org.au)

## 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.

## Videos

- [Top three questions](#) with Dr Lucas de Toca - ATAGI consideration for 12+ eligibility, how to talk to your children about COVID-19 and is it necessary to vaccinate children?

FOR MORE

## Events

### De-Mystifying Consumer and Community Involvement in Research - webinar series from the White Coats Foundation

The webinar series is an opportunity for stakeholders with an interest in or focus on consumer and community involvement in research to ask questions, share experiences, listen and learn from others who are effectively involving consumers in research. In bringing key stakeholders together we hope to raise awareness; foster improved understanding; help reduce duplication of effort, encourage collaboration, and identify any gaps in progress on current efforts to involve consumers

What is consumer and community involvement in research? Who are consumers? How can consumers use their knowledge, experience and insights to improve research, clinical care and outcomes for patients? White Coats Foundation takes a deep dive into “de-mystifying” consumer and community involvement in research via a two-part webinar series that aims to explore these issues and more

Webinar 1 -The Presentations - Wed 15 Sept

Webinar 2 - The Discussion- Wed 22 Sept

FOR MORE



## Anti-poverty week 17 - 23 October

Poverty affects far too many Australian children and families, diminishing their lives now and in the future.

As one of the wealthiest countries in the world, it's just not right that 1 in 6 of our children grow up in poverty. In 2021 we are again supporting the [Raise the Rate for Good](#) and [Everybody's Home](#) campaigns. Here's some actions you can take: [Sign the petition](#) which calls on the PM to support more social housing for women and children fleeing violence and host your own activity. See the [2021 website](#) for more or contact Toni Wren at [ed@antipovertyweek.org.au](mailto:ed@antipovertyweek.org.au)

FOR MORE

## Welcome to CHF new member



### Member profile: Lived Experience Australia

Lived Experience Australia (LEA) aims to transform mental health service through advocacy, policy development and [resources](#) for consumers, carers and family members.

LEA encourages strong partnerships between families and clinicians for better outcomes.

LEA's big issues are:

- mental health reform,
- monitoring reform processes in private health insurance,
- the Medicare item number review, and
- improved mental health care provided by private hospitals and community organisations.

LEA advocates for people with psychosocial disability, working with the NDIA and government. It is concerned for people not accepted as NDIS participants who lose their supports to function in the community.



LEA has connections with over 2,000 consumers, families, and carers, the 'Friends of LEA', who help inform its advocacy for positive change.

[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



### Monash University's Cancer Research Program

# (CRP) CONSUMER ADVISORY GROUP - RECRUITMENT

Monash University's Cancer Research Program (CRP) is seeking passionate individuals to join their Consumer Advisory Group (CAG) who wish to make informed contributions to the improvement of the quality of care for patients with cancer.

If this is you, and you have had an experience with cancer as a patient and/or carer, then we would like to hear from you!

To apply for this role please fill in an [Expression of Interest form](#). For further information please visit the Program's website.

FOR MORE



## 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

### [Migrants with strong connections overseas have a different view of COVID -](#)

*Hamza lives in an extended family household on Queensland's Gold Coast. Through his experience in advocating for family members with health conditions, he has led*

..... [BLOG POST: 03 SEPT 2021](#)

[Young people influencing change: It does happen](#) - *We are increasingly seeing a huge cross-over between lack of climate action and health outcomes, says Neil Pharaoh, and that's an issue he hopes.....* [BLOG POST: 26 AUG 2021](#)

[Brad a vaccine advocate with a community message](#) - *Brad Rossiter OAM is a consumer champion whose life and health experience puts him in an influential position to advocate for COVID-19 vaccinations. ....* [BLOG POST: 13 AUG 2021](#)

[Health Tracker provides a path to better lives](#) - *A new report released shows just how much we, as consumers, can enhance our health by improving our diet and physical exercise. .* ..... [BLOG POST: 13 AUG 2021](#)

[Our health system is nearly world-beating](#) - *The latest report from the Commonwealth Fund of New York finds that Australia's health system ranks near the top, but with two exceptions .* ..... [BLOG POST: 12 AUG 2021](#)

[Youth Health Summit: ideas for a brighter future](#) - *Now, perhaps more than ever, young people have reason to think deeply and darkly about the future.. .* ..... [BLOG POST: 12 AUG 2021](#)

READ ALL MEDIA RELEASES & OPINION

## CHF Talks webinar series

### Living Evidence and Consumers

In this panel discussion, presenters who have been working on the [National COVID-19 Clinical Evidence Taskforce](#) will share insights about the work they do.

[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](#)

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Consumers Health Forum



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