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**CHF** Consumers Health  
Forum OF Australia

# healthUPdate

12 June 2020

From the CEO



## **Dental funding welcome but more needed to end decay**

To hear this week that the Federal Government will renew for another year federal funding for dental health is cheering, yet the belated announcement once again highlights a chronic ache in Australia's approach to oral health.

Just 20 days before the funding agreement was set to expire, Health Minister Greg Hunt has announced that Commonwealth contribution of \$107.8 million will be extended for another year, providing for an estimated 180,000 dental services for adults.

It has been a difficult few months for dental patients and practitioners given the impact of the coronavirus. That essentially shut down all but emergency

dental surgery and then came the looming uncertainty about the future funding. Rather typically of the low-profile which dental services tend to experience, the fact that many thousands of people were prevented from seeing the dentist and the financial impact of this on dentists, was overwhelmed by the focus on the impact of coronavirus on medical and hospital services.

That gums and teeth should be the only parts of the body to miss out on Medicare coverage is at odds with the reality of disabling pain and facial disfigurement that poor dental health can mean for those adults unable to afford health insurance or timely care.

Disturbingly a rising number of Australian teenagers and adults are living with untreated tooth decay --- 32 per cent, which is up from 25 per cent 15 years ago; and 29 per cent live with gum disease, up from 20 per cent, according to research by the Australian Dental Association.

The unmet need for dental care means a third of people eligible for public dental services avoid certain foods or have difficulty chewing, and a quarter of those eligible don't have the teeth needed for their mouth to function properly.

CHF has advocated at federal elections for an end to the discrimination against dental funding. The cost to all Australians of an extension to Medicare funding to cover dental should not be like pulling teeth.

**Leanne Wells**  
Chief Executive Officer



## Coronavirus Resources and information



Use **Healthdirect Australia**, the Australian Government Health advice portal for consumers, for [information on Coronavirus information](#), [symptom checker](#) and helpline: 1800 022 222.

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

Use the [World Health Organisation](#) website to verify accuracy of health advice.

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

### **Department of Health**

Factsheet - [Home Medicines Services information for consumers](#)

[Infection control training](#) - 30-minute online training module for health care workers in all settings. It covers the fundamentals of infection prevention and control for COVID-19. This training is recommended as a useful resource for everyone.

### **Australian Commission of Safety and Quality in Healthcare**

Guide to [infection prevention and control and medicines](#)

Elective surgery [guidelines and Q&A for consumers](#)

### **Guides on Telehealth**

NHMRC Partnership Centre for Health System Sustainability provides easy to [follow guides on telehealth](#) for consumers. See the [telehealth consumer advice](#) and [video guide factsheets](#).

### **NPS MedicineWise**

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

Consultations and surveys

Children's Health Queensland Hospital and Health Service



# What impact is COVID-19 having on your young children?

Help us uncover the emotional effects of COVID-19 so we can provide better support for young children and their families.

If you have children aged 1-5, please visit our website for more information.

» [is.gd/covid19\\_unmasked](https://is.gd/covid19_unmasked)



Developed in collaboration with:



## COVID-19 Unmasked' survey

Infant and child psychologists and psychiatrists from the Queensland Centre for Perinatal and Infant Mental Health, Children's Health Queensland Hospital and Health Service and researchers from several Australian universities, are researching the impact of COVID-19 on young children.

They are needing as many caregivers of children aged 1-5 years as possible throughout Australia to complete an anonymous online survey 4 times over the next year. Each survey only takes about 20 minutes to complete.

Your responses will help collect and develop evidence based resources that will help parents, educators, health services and other professionals respond more effectively when events like this happen.

FIND OUT MORE AND TAKE THE SURVEY

## Survey from the RACGP





The Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) are developing an exciting new resource for GPs and patients called "*First Do No Harm: A guide to choosing wisely in general practice.*"

The project is chaired by Prof Mark Morgan and Dr Michael Tam.

The resource will provide advice on medical interventions:

- where there is little or no evidence of benefit which may cause harm to the patient
- where the patient would be better off without the intervention.

This brief survey will help inform what information is needed for both GPs and patients.

The survey closes **Friday 26 June 2020**

[TAKE THE SURVEY](#)

Emergency medicine consumer survey



**EMER**

Emergency Medicine Events Register

The Australasian College for Emergency Medicine is seeking reports from consumers on their experiences at hospital emergency department services during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The College has an anonymous incident reporting database called Emergency Medicine Events Register (EMER), to ascertain why things go wrong in emergency departments, and will use the information for quality improvement initiatives.



The survey will ask consumers/patients to report their experiences when they or someone they know, were in the emergency department.

[TAKE THE SURVEY](#)

## Health Issues Centre COVID Forum



### **Will the road to recovery be paved with casualties?**

**Health Issues Centre** are holding the third in a series of Online Consumer Forums on COVID-19.

The event will be held via Zoom to give consumer organisations and consumers an opportunity to engage and provide feedback on the issue of how to manage the twin challenges of economic and Covid-19 recovery as restrictions ease.

Join us to discuss how we should balance the twin challenges of economic and COVID-19 infection recovery, with guest experts on behavioural change and health economics.

**June, 16 2020, 11am - 12.30 pm AEST**

[REGISTER NOW](#)





## Lived Experience Australia

Lived Experience Australia is the representational organisation for mental health consumers and carers. We know that mental illness can bring loneliness, family disconnection, and difficulties getting through, but at the moment things are particularly difficult as we are required to change the way we go about many of our usual activities and contact with others.

As such, Lived Experience Australia is bringing our mental health community together in a sense of belonging, to learn and share ideas and offer support to each other during this time by facilitating fortnightly zoom webinars, at least until the end of June. Each webinar is recorded for later viewing.

These are run on a Wednesday of each fortnight, at 2.00pm EST.

[REGISTER OR VIEW PAST WEBINARS](#)



## Fact sheets for consumers, carers and clinicians

The Commission has developed a series of fact sheets to provide tips for consumers, carers and clinicians choosing a digital mental health service. These fact sheets are based on the research and consultation the Commission has undertaken during the development of the NSQDMH Standards.

[MORE INFORMATION](#)

Australia's Health Panel





**Australia's Health Panel** allows consumers to comment on health policy and issues, and offer feedback on trends and discussions.

Join Australia's Health Panel and **have your say** on today's issues in health care. Please share details about Australia's Health Panel with your members.

JOIN AUSTRALIA'S HEALTH PANEL

## Australia's Health Panel Survey Reports



### What Australia's Health Panel said about Telehealth

During March 2020, Australia's Health Panel (AHP) asked panellists about their views and perceptions on the use of telehealth in Australia.

[READ THE REPORT](#)



### What Australia's Health Panel said about After Hours Primary Care

For the February 2020 Australia's Health Panel survey, we asked our panellists about their experience with and opinions on after-hours primary health care.

[READ THE REPORT](#)

## Media releases

### [Ainslie Cahill AM recognised for her health consumer advocacy](#)

*We congratulate Ainslie Cahill on being made a Member of the Order of Australia (AM) for her great work in promoting the interests of health consumers. .... [MEDIA RELEASE: 9 JUNE 2020](#)*

### [NPS MedicineWise and CHF partnership reinforces the primacy of consumers in healthcare](#)



A new Working Together agreement between the Consumers Health Forum of Australia (CHF) and NPS MedicineWise has been launched setting out how they will partner and build on their collaboration to ensure consumers are at the. .... [MEDIA RELEASE: 27 MAY 2020](#)

## [Patients feeling better with Telehealth](#)

The introduction of the expanded Telehealth Medicare benefit has drawn strong support from respondents to an Australia's Health Panel survey,/span> ..... [MEDIA RELEASE: 26 MAY 2020](#)

## Editorial



### COVID webinar underlined Nothing About Us Without Us

Australia's leading health officials provided both caution and encouragement for consumers when they spoke on CHF's Not Going Viral webinar this week.

[READ MORE](#)

## All Media Releases and Blogposts

## CHF Journal - Health Voices



### How COVID-19 spurs the case for health prevention

Issue 26 | May 2020

The post-pandemic era offers fresh impetus to support healthier living.

In the May 2020 edition of *Health Voices*, leading health leaders and consumers reflect on how the pro-wellness policies are paying off in the fight against the virus.

[HEALTH VOICES is the Journal of the Consumers Health Forum of Australia](#)

[HEALTH VOICES](#)

## Webinar replays



### Not going viral

Hear the discussion with the doctors at the centre of the national effort: Deputy Chief Medical Officers, Professor Michael Kidd & Dr Nick Coatsworth .....

RECORDED: 26 MAY 2020

[WATCH THE REPLAY](#)



### The National Health Information Strategy

What impact could events like COVID-19 have on Australia's future health information strategy?

Hear ABC Coronacast's Dr Norman Swan and others talk on this, and more .....

RECORDED: 24 APR 2020

[WATCH THE REPLAY](#)



### COVID-19 Telehealth in Primary Care

Want to know more about telehealth in the age of COVID-19? This CHF-hosted webinar features representatives nominated by some of Australia's key healthcare peaks. ....

RECORDED: 8 MAY 2020

[WATCH THE REPLAY](#)

## Conferences and workshops

**CHF**  
Consumers Health Forum of Australia  
Consumers shaping health

**Consumers as leaders in Healthcare**

**CHF | SUMMIT 2021**  
**Shifting Gears**  
Sydney 18-19 March 2021

## Summit - Shifting gears

### Share the lessons learned from COVID-19 at Shifting Gears

Abstract submissions are **now open** for the [CHF Summit: Shifting Gears](#). Submissions can be for oral, workshop or poster presentations.

The COVID-19 pandemic has disrupted the way we live, work and access healthcare. We invite you to submit your abstract about Consumer involvement in times of rapid change, reflecting on your or your organisation's experience in the COVID-19 pandemic or other similar situations.

- What have you learned during that it can share with others?
- What new parts of our healthcare systems have developed that should be retained and expanded?
- What have we learned about equity and inclusion in a time of crisis?

We also invite you to propose topics across our four streams:

- **Consumers as researchers:** Partnering for new knowledge and translation
- **Consumer-based Health Care:** Integrating consumer and community values in health care and decision-making
- **Consumer Leadership:** Collaborative partnerships in individual health care, services and system
- **Consumer Enablement:** Creating supportive environments

See more about [topics for submissions](#). Abstract submissions close on 7 September 2020.

The CHF Summit offers the opportunity for both organisations and consumers to come together to explore, discuss and grow the concept and practice of consumer-centred care, and be at the forefront of system change. We look forward to seeing you in March 2021.

## CHF SUMMIT 2021

We want to hear from you



**COVID SPACE – a place for sharing stories**

What's happening in your home and community to beat COVID-19?

Share your story - tell us on **COVID SPACE**

We want to hear about the smart moves and fresh steps in your community to counter the virus.

Email the Communications Team on [Communications@chf.org.au](mailto:Communications@chf.org.au) or share your story with us on [Facebook](#)

EMAIL THE COMMUNICATIONS TEAM

## Consumer Representatives Program

### Consumer Representative Appointments



### Congratulations to:

**Yvonne Parnell**, nominated to the WA DoH - National Goals of Care Collaborative Steering Committee.

### Consumer Representative Reports

CHF expects and appreciates reports from CHF nominated consumer representatives. These reports help keep CHF informed of consumer representative work.

Consumer representative reports can be made online, via email, mail or phone. CHF thanks the following consumer representatives for keeping us up to date on their work.

**Denise Sheard**, DoH - Stoma Product Assessment Panel (SPAP)

## Consumer Representative Vacancies

CHF nominates consumer representatives to high level committees and those related to funded priority areas. Calls for nominations are made via *healthUPdate* and the CHF website. Not all opportunities are advertised due to time limitations or because CHF decides to target invitations due to the specific work or strategic nature of the work involved.

More information about all the opportunities below can be found on our Consumer opportunities webpage.

If you have any questions, please contact the person listed or alternatively, our Consumer and Member Relationship Coordinator, **Ghislaine Martin**, on on 02 6273 5444 or email [g.martin@chf.org.au](mailto:g.martin@chf.org.au).

*CHF is not currently running EOIs for committee work that requires a CHF consumer representative nomination.*

SEE ALL OUR CONSUMER REP VACANCIES

Full details of committee vacancies are only accessible on our website by our members and consumer representatives. If you do not have access and would like to apply, please contact Ghislaine Martin on 02 6273 5444 or [g.martin@chf.org.au](mailto:g.martin@chf.org.au).

BECOME A MEMBER

## Other Consumer Representative Vacancies

This section is for consumer representative opportunities that CHF does not provide nominations for. Members can work directly with other stakeholders to nominate consumer representatives to committees that are of interest to them.

CHF checks that consumer participation is supported with coverage of travel costs and sitting fees, however CHF does not prescribe an amount for sitting fees as committee requirements vary.

## Consumer Advisory Group



## *The Royal Australasian College of Physicians (RACP)*

The Royal Australasian College of Physicians (RACP) connects, represents and trains physicians and trainee physicians across Australia and New Zealand.

In support of strong evidence of the benefits of consumer engagement the RACP has established a Consumer Advisory Group to represent broad community views in the work of the College. The Group provides strategic advice on the integration of patient centred care in the College's professional standards and education approaches and supports the integration of the consumer voice and priorities into policy and advocacy activities.

RACP is seeking a consumer member with a disability background and/or sector experience.

To apply, please complete the expression of interest form with attachments and submit via email to the Senior Executive Officer, **Jae Redden** on [jae.redden@racp.edu.au](mailto:jae.redden@racp.edu.au).

*Expressions of interest close at 12:00 midday (AEST) on Tuesday 16 June 2020*

MORE INFORMATION

## **Focus Group Consultation**

### *The George Institute*

The George Institute for Global Health is a leading independent global medical research institute which aims to improve the health of people worldwide by preventing and treating non-communicable diseases and injury.

The Institute is seeking consumer participation for an upcoming Focus Group Consultation. They are seeking to understand the consumer perspective on a new national register for people interested in participating in research studies. Members of focus group discussion will be invited to give responses on:

- the overall concept; perceived risks and benefits
- recommendations for engaging with the community

This is not ongoing work and a one off meeting only, sitting fees will not apply to this work.

Expressions of interest should be provided with current curriculum vitae to Ms Angela Hehir [Angela Hehir](#), Project Manager at the George Institute on [ahehir@georgeinstitute.org.au](mailto:ahehir@georgeinstitute.org.au).

*Expressions of interest close at 12:00pm AEST on Friday 19 June 2020*

MORE INFORMATION

## **National Framework for Medical Internship Review Reference Group**

### *The Australian Medical Council (AMC)*

AMC is completing a comprehensive review of all the elements of the National Framework for Medical Internship in 2019/2020. It is seeking expressions of interest to join the Reference Group that will be consulted with regarding key concepts and content throughout the course of the review.

The Reference Group will meet four or five times with a mix of in person meetings and videoconferencing. The first meeting will be scheduled in July.

For more information, contact [Sarah Vaughan](#), Manager, National Framework for Medical Internship Review, phone: 02 6270 9727 or email: [sarah.vaughan@amc.org.au](mailto:sarah.vaughan@amc.org.au)

*Expressions of interest close on Friday 26 June 2020*

MORE INFORMATION

## **Consumer Engagement Committee**

### *The Royal Flying Doctor Service Victoria (RFDS)*

The Royal Flying Doctor Service Victoria (RFDS) works in partnership with a number of community health organisations across Victoria to improve the health and well-being of rural communities.

The Royal Flying Doctor Service Victoria (RFDS) is looking for consumer representation for the Consumer Engagement Committee (CEC).

Contact [Frances James](#) at [fran.james@rfdsvic.com.au](mailto:fran.james@rfdsvic.com.au) should you have any queries.

*Expressions of interest close 5:00pm Friday 26 June 2020 (AEST).*

MORE INFORMATION

## Progress Reports Sub Committee

### *The Australian Medical Council (AMC)*

The AMC Specialist Education Accreditation Committee manages the assessment and accreditation of specialist medical programs. Accredited providers submit regular progress reports addressing the accreditation standards, covering significant developments in their specialist medical programs, annual standard data and their response to any accreditation conditions.

The Progress Reports Sub Committee assists the Specialist Education Accreditation Committee in monitoring accredited programs, and members are drawn from a variety of backgrounds and is currently seeking a health consumer member.

Members of AMC committees are appointed for four year terms. The Sub Committee meets two to three times per year. Meetings are a mix of face to face and videoconference.

Contact **Karen Rocca**, Manager, Accreditation Projects and Process Development, at email [specaccred@amc.org.au](mailto:specaccred@amc.org.au) or phone: 02 6270 9760 with any questions.

*Expressions of interest required by Monday 29 June 2020.*

MORE INFORMATION

## Consumer Advisory Group to the SCEI Diploma of Nursing Industry Advisory Committee

### *Southern Cross Education Institute*

The Southern Cross Education Institute (SCEI) provides vocational and educational training delivering nationally recognised qualifications across Australia to local and international students.

The SCEI has established a Consumer Advisory Group to advise the SCEI Diploma of Nursing Industry Advisory Committee on consumer views in order to include the consumer perspective in their training delivery, planning and policy development.

Contact **Yuka Nishihara** at the Southern Cross Education Institute on [yuka.nishihara@scei.edu.au](mailto:yuka.nishihara@scei.edu.au) should you have any queries.

*Expressions of interest close at 12:00 midnight AEST on Sunday 5 June 2020.*

MORE INFORMATION



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