

# healthUPdate

13 May 2021 | Issue 8

## From the CEO



Photo by Michael (michaeljowen) Unsplash

### **The Budget contest between physical and fiscal**

The Federal Budget this week has once again witnessed the contest in the health arena between fiscal demands and physical needs.

Fortunately for the health side of the ledger, of interest to most people, is that health spending in pressing areas of need — aged care and mental health — has gone up substantially.

The COVID pandemic experience has to an extent deflated debt and deficit angst as the realisation hits that budget stringency does not guarantee a long life.

On ABC Radio News, interviewer Glen Bartholomew asked me about the huge and rising cost of NDIS and Aged Care now set to outstrip the cost of Medicare.

These are of course huge commitments but equally, I said, if COVID has taught us one thing it is if we don't have our health, and that includes people who need access to services like disability services, our economy falters. Health is an investment. Aged care and residential facilities is expensive. It is an investment, and we will need to continue to ensure quality as well as access and places.

This Budget is framed for continued recovery from the COVID pandemic with an eye to the next election.

Even with the substantial spending increases on aged care and mental health, the Government plans only partly meet the recommendations of two government inquiries to transform these areas and ensure 21st century care.

Essential spending continues for the COVID response — vaccine rollout, on-shore manufacture of mRNA technology and continuation of important services such as telehealth.

Primary care and prevention are the downsides — these get only modest attention. Major reform is left wanting and needs to be the 'next big thing to maintain a world leading health system.

Better health care, prevention and more attention to transparency and accountability in high cost-risk areas like aged care would themselves generate economic benefits for society.

Implementation needs to ensure we get best value health care for our money. Involving consumers in co-design helps assure this.

Read the transcript of [the ABC interview here](#).

**Leanne Wells**  
Chief Executive Officer



## Federal Budget 2021-21 analysis



### Major reform is left wanting and needs to be the 'next big thing' to maintain a world leading health system

Since the Federal Budget 2021-22 was handed down by the Treasurer, Josh Frydenburg on Tuesday 11 May 2021, we have been working hard to bring you the latest information and expert commentary on how the Budget responds to the needs of health consumers.

Our Federal Budget analysis [is available here](#). It's a outline of the important health priorities for Australia:

- The headliners: aged care, mental health, digital health, women's health and COVID
- Stakeholder views
- Primary care
- Prevention
- Rural health
- Private health insurance.

We've created a short summary video overview [you can view here](#).

Our media release on the Budget is here: [Budget's modest response to aged care and mental health inquiries](#)

Further to this, leaders from the Youth Health Forum also provided commentary in a media release: [Budget moves for youth health welcome as a first step](#)

There will be follow-up webinar to discuss the briefing with national health policy leaders to provide further analysis of the measures, and reactions from other organisations and health policy experts. This will be scheduled soon.

Contact Policy Director, Jo Root on email: [J.Root@chf.org.au](mailto:J.Root@chf.org.au) with any questions and feedback.

FOR MORE



## Youth Health Forum is looking for new members!

We are excited to announce that the [Youth Health Forum](#) has opened up with a new application round and we are inviting young health advocates to join us.

If you are, or know any young people (aged 18 to 30) who are passionate about health, the consumer experience and youth issues, ask them to consider the Youth Health Forum as an opportunity to grow - and sign up today.

To sign up fill [out this form](#) and we will be in touch with you shortly.

This is a great opportunity for young health consumers to develop your advocacy skills and have your voices heard.

FOR MORE



**DEMYSTIFYING**  
THE NATIONAL CLINICAL TRIALS  
GOVERNANCE FRAMEWORK  
FOR  
**HEALTH CONSUMERS**

A Free Webinar  
1.30–2.30PM AEST  
25 May 2021

AUSTRALIAN COMMISSION  
ON SAFETY AND QUALITY IN HEALTH CARE

ACCESSCR

## Consumer webinar on the National Clinical Trials Governance Framework now open for registrations

The *Australian Commission for Safety and Quality in Healthcare* is presenting a webinar on the National Clinical Trials Governance Framework and the status of the pilot, particularly directed to a health consumer audience.

**When:** 1:30 pm - 2:30 pm (AEST)

**Date:** 25 May 2021

Anyone is welcome to attend to learn more and ask questions about how clinical trials will be embedded into the workings of hospitals and clinics currently accredited under the National Clinical Quality Standards and how the Framework integrates with the Partnering with Consumers Standard.

FOR MORE

## Cancer Australia invites you to participate in the National Pancreatic Cancer Roadmap

On behalf of Cancer Australia, the Federation of Ethnic Communities' Council of Australia (FECCA) is conducting consultations with culturally and linguistically diverse people and health professionals providing care to people affected by pancreatic cancer. FECCA is a national organisation representing Australians from different ethnic communities. All interested stakeholders are invited to participate.

For further information on this consultation, email [pancreatic@fecca.org.au](mailto:pancreatic@fecca.org.au), phone 02 6282 5755 or visit [www.fecca.org.au/pancreatic](http://www.fecca.org.au/pancreatic) and the National Pancreatic Cancer Roadmap.

**Spread the word:** share our tweets via [@CancerAustralia](https://twitter.com/CancerAustralia)

FOR MORE

# Australian Atlas of Healthcare Variation 2021



## The Fourth Atlas of Australian Healthcare Variation

The *Fourth Atlas of Australian HealthCare Variation* was launched on 28 April 2021 by the Australian Commission of Safety and Quality. It examines variation in healthcare use according to where people live.

It covers six clinical areas:

- early planned birth;
- chronic disease and infection
- ear, nose and throat surgery in children and young people
- lumbar spinal surgery; gastrointestinal investigations
- medicines use in older people.

National leaders in health care discussed the important findings - you can find highlights in a [30 minute presentation here](#) (scroll down for the replay).

FOR MORE

## 'Power to the people' - The Health Advocate

In this brief article in *The Health Advocate*, authored by the Australian Commission of Quality and Safety in Healthcare, — CHF CEO, Leanne Wells, discusses how engaged health care consumers and health literacy play a part in improving efficiency for health services, as well as improving health outcomes for patients.

*The Health Advocate* is the magazine for the Australian Hospitals and Healthcare Association. You can access the complete [published May edition here](#).

READ MORE



## Register for NPS MedicineWise national events





## National Medicines Symposium (NMS 2021)

This year's NPS National Medicines Symposium (NMS) 2021 will be a virtual event held on **Tuesday 18 May 2021**.

Registration is \$100 and closes on 14th May. Access includes exclusive online networking opportunities, and recordings of the presentations post-event.

[FIND OUT MORE](#)

## Choosing Wisely Australia National Meeting

*Empowering consumers to choose wisely.*

The Choosing Wisely Australia National Meeting will follow the Symposium on **Wed 19 May 2021**.

Registration is \$100 and closes on 14 May. Access includes networking opportunities and recordings of the presentations post-event.

[FIND OUT MORE](#)

## Australia's Health Panel



## Australia's Health Panel

Australia's Health Panel is a way for you 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 networks.

See [Australia's Health Panel results](#)

[JOIN AUSTRALIA'S HEALTH PANEL](#)



## Join Us - the national research register

*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

[Budget moves for youth health welcome as a first step](#) - The \$2.3 billion investment in mental health and suicide prevention is a welcome first step on the road to much needed mental health system reform, the Youth Health Forum says. "It is promising to see a number of the Productivity Commission's priority recommendations ..... .. [MEDIA RELEASE: 12 MAY 2021](#)

[Budget's modest response to aged care and mental health inquiries](#) - The Budget has offered a modest but welcome response to the compelling recommendations for, transformational reform and substantial funding =urged by two national inquiries ..... .. [MEDIA RELEASE: 11 MAY 2021](#)

[Steve Morris worked together with consumers on medicines](#) - We acknowledge and congratulate Adjunct Associate Professor Steve Morris for his role as CEO of NPS MedicineWise during a period of significant developments for consumers and are sorry to hear Steve will be leaving NPS in July. His leadership has been invaluable in..... .. [MEDIA RELEASE: 04 MAY 2021](#)

[Federal Budget: a CHF perspective](#) - CEO Leanne Wells talks about the health Budget to ABC Radio News interviewer Glen Bartholomew (Edited). Overall reaction "We are pretty happy. The budget has promised record spending in areas of greatest concern..... .. [BLOGPOST: 12 MAY 2021](#)

[A fresh view of Shifting Gears from Croakey](#) - After the scores of speakers and hundreds of conversations at CHF's Shifting Gears Summit, reporting on the proceedings presents numerous opportunities. CHF's eJournal Health Voices provided articles from 15 of the contributors to the Summit. Yet a comprehensive conference report by Croakey News..... .. [BLOGPOST: 05 MAY 2021](#)

[All Media Releases and editorial](#)

## Webinars replays

### What are “living guidelines” and how are consumers involved?

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.

Each week, more than 250 Taskforce contributors work together to find new research and quickly incorporate that research into national, evidence-based guidelines for the clinical care of Australians with COVID-19.

These are living guidelines, updated with the latest global research in near real-time with trusted, up-to-the minute advice to clinicians providing frontline care. Hear from the team on the findings from this project.

[WATCH THE REPLAY](#)

## Future focus: What's in store for health and care in 2021?

Insights into Australian priorities from leaders in the health sector. Speakers include: Dr Brendan Murphy, Secretary for the Department of Health, and Amanda Cattermole, CEO of the Australian Digital Health Agency - 8 Feb 2021

[WATCH THE REPLAY](#)

[CHF YouTube channel](#)

## Consumer program



## Consumer Representative Appointments

Congratulations to:

**Alison Marcus**, nominated to the NPS MedicineWise - Safe Use of Medicine in Older People Expert Working Group

## Consumer Reports

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

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

**Rebecca Edwards**, The Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health - General Practice Accreditation Coordinating Committee

**Geoffrey Bartle**, NPS MedicineWise - Expert Working Group - Heart Failure

**Neville Millen**, Prostheses Clinical Advisory Group - Orthopaedic (Hips)

## Consumer representative vacancies





CHF nominates consumer representatives to high level committees and those related to funded priority areas. Calls for nominations are made via *Health Update* 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 vacancies webpage](#).

If you have any questions, please contact the person listed or alternatively, our Consumer and Member Relationship Coordinator, **Ghislaine Martin**, 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 nomination.**

## Other consumer opportunities

CHF also advertises consumer opportunities that we do not provide nominations for. The opportunities listed below are for members to work directly with stakeholders and apply to sit on committees that are of interest.

CHF checks that consumer participation is supported with coverage of travel costs and sitting fees before advertising these opportunities.

## Blood Synergy Advisory Committee

### *Monash University*

The Blood Synergy is a NHMRC-funded program established to address Australia's national transfusion research priorities. It is a collaborative research program focused on how blood products are used now, and how they can be better used in the future to improve patient outcomes. More information is available on their website: [www.bloodsynergy.org](http://www.bloodsynergy.org).

Consumers and community representatives with lived experience as blood donors and/or blood transfusion recipients are invited to express their interest in joining the Advisory Committee.

Interested consumers with transfusion experience are encouraged to [complete the contact form](#).

For more information, please contact the Blood Synergy Program Manager, Karina Brady, via email at [sphpm.bloodsynergy@monash.edu](mailto:sphpm.bloodsynergy@monash.edu)

*Applications close midnight AEST Sunday 16 May 2021*

[MORE INFORMATION](#)

## Key informant interviews on the safe use of medicines for older people

### *NPS MedicineWise*

NPS MedicineWise provides evidence-based resources and activities for consumers and health professionals to support the best possible decisions about use of medicines and medical tests. NPS MedicineWise is currently looking for feedback from consumers about the safe use of medicines for older people.

NPS MedicineWise is seeking to interview for people who are:

- aged 60 years or older
- taking more than one medicine
- have had a medication management review with a pharmacist (also called Home Medicines Review or Residential Care Medication Management Review)

The interviews will run for 30 minutes and will be conducted between 10 May to 21 June 2021. All interviews will be conducted remotely, either via phone or tele/videoconference. A \$50 online gift voucher on completion of the interview.

Interested members can respond to [this short questionnaire](#) before the closing date.

*Expressions of Interest close at COB AEST on Monday 7 June 2021*

MORE INFORMATION

## TEXT4myBACK clinical trial

### *The University of Sydney*

The University of Sydney is seeking consumer participation in a clinical trial, TEXT4myBACK, a text message intervention to support recovery of people with low back pain.

The study will compare two different formats of text messages that provide information about low back pain. It is being conducted at the University of Sydney and carried out entirely remotely.

People who have a current acute episode of back pain (i.e. less than 3 months) who are interested in participating should complete the study [pre-screening survey online](#).

If you meet the inclusion criteria, you will be contacted by the research team who will provide you with more information about the study.

If you participate, you will be asked to complete follow-up online surveys at 3, 6 and 12 months which require around 20-30 minutes of your time.

*Expressions of interest close at 12:00 midnight (AEST) on Wednesday 1 December 2021*

MORE INFORMATION

SEE ALL CONSUMER REP OPPORTUNITES

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



We sent you this email because you opted to receive this newsletter from the [Consumers Health Forum](#).

[Unsubscribe](#) or email us [info@chf.org.au](mailto:info@chf.org.au) | Tel: 02 6273 5444