

# healthUPdate

1 Oct 2021 | Issue 17

## From the CEO



### How COVID times guide our future medicines policy

The [Review of the National Medicine Policy](#) now underway comes at an opportune, if bitter-sweet, time. The all-embracing impact that COVID-19 has wielded in the health system holds important lessons for the future shape of the way Australia — its consumers, clinicians and industry — manage medicines.

That was one of the messages that came out of last week's CHF webinar, Building a Better National Medicines Policy. The webinar came just before CHF concludes its consultation on the NMP Review this week. It is vital consumers have effective input given the transformations underway impacting on use of medicines. These include exponential advances in areas such as medicine-linked device technologies and genomics — developments which make health care more complex and powerful.

That makes a strong and informed consumer voice to promote the best access and outcomes both more necessary and more challenging.

The webinar brought together the Health Department's Deputy Chief Medical Officer, Professor Michael Kidd, CHF board member Jan Donovan

and Medicines Australia CEO Elizabeth de Somer. Professor Kidd and Jan Donovan are members of the Policy's Independent Review Panel.

A key theme emerging from the webinar was the need to develop the NMP to further empower consumer-centred knowledge and understanding of rapidly advancing medicines and associated technology. To ensure that outcome the NMP needs to craft a stronger principle to assure better transparency and accountability.

Professor Kidd said two important developments had emerged from the disruptive dynamics of COVID.

Firstly, we now have a population which knows a lot more about epidemiology, public health and vaccines and wishes to have a voice in many of these areas. And along with that health literacy has also grown in some areas.

Secondly, we have seen the growth in new forms of communication such as Zoom, bringing together people virtually from across the country. And with the introduction of whole of population telehealth has come e-prescribing and dispensing. That move away from face-to-face contact has opened a whole new array of questions of how we ensure best advice and use of medicines.

Watch the [webinar](#), visit the [Department of Health website](#) or contact the [CHF Policy Team](#) about making a submission.

[READ MORE](#)

**Leanne Wells**  
Chief Executive Officer



## NEWS AND UPDATES

### Members policy forum 22 November

In line with past practice we will run a Member only Policy Forum in the morning prior to the AGM. The Policy Forum will run from 10am to 1pm (AEST) on **Monday 22 November**.

There will be three parts to this session

- A consultation on CHF's Federal Election Strategy. A copy of the draft Strategy will be provided to members before the Forum
- A session led by Rebecca Edwards, Consumer and Community Engagement Adviser, on some future developments for consumer involvement including patient leadership models
- A session on a contemporary area of policy reform with implications for the health system. The details for this session will be provided

closer to the date.



## Electronic Prescriptions for Consumers and Carers: your questions answered

As electronic prescriptions become widely available, the Australian Digital Health Agency invites you to join a Q + A session consumers and carers.

Ask any questions you might have related to your experience with using electronic prescriptions. Is there anything that wasn't clear or left you wondering how it works? We welcome all your questions and there is no requirement to have used electronic prescribing prior to joining a session.

This session will provide you with a platform where your questions will be answered directly by an expert panel.

You will be able to participate by speaking directly to our expert panel or submit your questions prior to the session.

These sessions are open to consumer peak organisations, members and consumer advocates, carers and advisors.

### DATES:

- Thurs, 7 Oct 2021, 12-12.30pm (AEDT)
- Thurs, 14 Oct 2021 12-12.30pm ([Building a Better National Medicines Policy](#)AEDT)
- Thurs, 21 Oct 2021 12-12.30pm (AEDT)

REGISTER



## How would you change healthcare in Australia?

The Digital Health Agency has released the National Digital Strategy survey

Have your say in a survey on the future of digital health for all Australians. Estimated time: 15 minutes.

It's your chance to help in the evolution of our healthcare services, and make sure it is sustainable, affordable and accessible to everyone.

[DO THE SURVEY](#)



## October is Mental Health Month

Mental Health Australia has launched its October 2021 calendars for Mental Health Month ahead of World Mental Health Day on 10 October, including daily ideas for all Australians to look after their mental health in the midst of the ongoing pandemic.

- Download the [Mental Health Month calendars](#)
- Make a [mental health promise](#)
- use the hashtag [#LookAfterYourMentalHealthAustralia](#)

To find out more about World Mental Health Day visit the website

[READ MORE](#)

## Membership Reminder!

CHF membership renewals for 2021-22 are now overdue. Voting members are reminded that they need to be financial in order to nominate for positions and/or vote at the upcoming AGM.

If you have been meaning to renew and have not yet done so, we would be grateful if you would attend to this as soon as possible. If you have difficulty renewing, please contact Kate Lyttle on [k.lyttle@chf.org.au](mailto:k.lyttle@chf.org.au)



MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

## Active Ingredient Prescribing now mandatory

Consumers should be aware that labels on prescribed medicines now need to have the active ingredient prominently displayed. New prescriptions that do not meet active ingredient prescribing requirements from 1 Aug 2021 cannot be dispensed as PBS prescriptions and will need to be reissued in alignment with active ingredient prescribing requirements, or dispensed as private prescriptions. NPS MedicineWise has consumer information on active ingredient prescribing in [English](#) and [10 community languages](#).

Since 1 February 2021 the inclusion of the active ingredient of a medicine has been mandatory on prescriptions. To support pharmacies and ensure consumers have continued access to PBS/RPBS subsidised medicines during the transition, the Department has agreed to provide a six-month grace period for pharmacy, ceasing 31 July 2021.

## WEBINAR

Join Us

Join us to save lives and improve the health of Australians.

Participate in research and help to prevent, treat and find cures for disease. Sign up to be matched with research studies. No obligation.

[Sign up now](#)

## #CHFTalks: Health consumers as partners in research

### Webinar with Join Us researchers

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..

One of the key barriers to making advances in medicine is the challenge of finding enough people to take part in studies.

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

In this webinar you will:

- hear from researchers about their work and why they need more of us to be involved
- hear from participants about their research experience & what's in it for consumers
- find out about an easy way you can put your hand up to participate in Australian health and medical research

**Time:** 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm AEST

**Date:** Tues 12 Oct 2021

**Zoom webinar**

Find out [more about this webinar](#)

For questions contact **James Ansell**, Policy Officer, [J.Ansell@CHF.org.au](mailto:J.Ansell@CHF.org.au)

REGISTER FOR WEBINAR

Professors Rachelle Buchbinder & Ian Harris  
on their explosive new book  
"Hippocracy: how doctors are betraying their oath"

Dr Ranjana Srivastava,  
Author, Cancer doctor  
and Guardian Columnist

Monday 11 October, 9am - 10:30am AEDT

WISIER HEALTHCARE

## Webinar: **FIRST, DO NO HARM: The perils of too much medicine and how we can tackle it**

Wiser Healthcare presents a powerful livestreamed discussion with globally respected doctors on the perils of too much medicine.

Wiser Healthcare's Dr Ray Moynihan, from Bond University, will moderate conversations with Professors Rachelle Buchbinder and Ian Harris, speaking on their explosive new book "*Hippocracy: how doctors are betraying their oath*" and with Dr Ranjana Srivastava - author, oncologist and well-known Guardian columnist.

Jan Donovan from the Consumers' Health Forum of Australia will then join the group for a panel discussion and live question and answer session with the audience.

**Time:** 9:00 am - 10:30 am AEST

**Date:** Mon 11 Oct 2021

**Zoom webinar**

REGISTER

## CONSULTATIONS AND SURVEYS



### Australia's Health Panel

In recent weeks discussion has turned to potentially introducing a 'COVID Passport' or a 'Vaccine Passport', an official document that confirms COVID related information such as vaccination status and confers eligibility for a reduction in the number and scope of restrictions a person is required to follow.

We want to see what panellists think of this proposal for a COVID Passport and their views on how it could operate.

Complete the [Australia's Health Panel survey](#) and share your opinions on the vaccine passport debate.

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](#)

COMPLETE THE SURVEY

Researchers from The University of Sydney want to hear from you!

Just complete a **5-minute** survey.

Three lucky people will each receive a **\$50 gift card**.



THE UNIVERSITY OF  
**SYDNEY**  
—  
Westmead Applied  
Research Centre



### Do you have a heart condition?

- Has COVID-19 affected your heart health?
- Have social restrictions made it 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:

[DO THE SURVEY](#)



## Video monitoring of hand hygiene compliance, friend or foe. What are your thoughts?

Hand hygiene is the most important thing a healthcare worker (HCW) can do to prevent a patient from getting an infection. Auditing of HCW's hand hygiene practices is required in all public healthcare facilities in Australia.

Researchers from the University of Sydney want to explore the attitudes of healthcare consumers to the potential use of the novel video-based monitoring system for auditing healthcare workers' hand hygiene practices. You have been invited to participate in this part of the study because you are a member of CHF.

The study has two components:

1. [Online survey](#).
2. [Interview](#)

You can participate in either or both. For questions about this study, contact Katherine McKay at [kmck4637@uni.sydney.edu.au](mailto:kmck4637@uni.sydney.edu.au).

**COVID-19 vaccine**





## Information on the COVID-19 vaccine

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

The new [COVID-19 restriction checker](#) is a search tool to help you find what you can or can't do in your state or territory as advice changes about COVID-19.

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.

[Learn how to protect yourself and others - how to stop the spread of COVID](#)

Learn how to [find your vaccination record](#) and [what to do if information is missing](#)

FOR MORE

## Media releases and editorial

[How COVID times guide our future medicines policy](#) - *The National Medicine Policy Review now underway comes at an opportune, if bitter-sweet, time... ..* [BLOG POST: 1 OCT 2021](#)

[Health consumers as agents of change](#) - *Health consumers as agents of change - Australia's health system is no longer fit for purpose and central to the fundamental changes needed should be a shift towards a more wellness-focused and consumer-centred ethos. ...* [BLOG POST: 17 SEPT 2021](#)

All Media Releases and Editorial

## Consumer program



## 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 invitations are targeted due to the specific work or strategic nature of the work.

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, contact , **Rebecca Edwards**, on email [R.Edwards@chf.org.au](mailto:R.Edwards@chf.org.au). Currently the CHF office is closed due to Covid restrictions in Canberra.



## Expert Advisory Group for the Progressive Profile of a GP project

### *Royal Australian College of General Practice*

The Royal Australian College of General Practice (RACGP) is inviting a consumer representative and other stakeholders to provide project advice and guidance as part of the Expert Advisory Group for the project. The Expert Advisory Group will include a range of stakeholder representatives who will provide advice and guidance to the project, in particular reviewing and providing feedback on the structure and content of the progressive profile and scope of practice documentation.

*Closing date: 16 Oct 2021*

[MORE INFORMATION](#)

## Consumer Advisory Group - call for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander representative

### *Royal Australian College of Physicians*

The Royal Australian College of Physicians Consumer Advisory Group is seeking a member with Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander background or experience. The work of the Consumer Advisory Group complements the work of other College bodies in progressing the RACP Indigenous Strategic Framework.

*Closing date: 16 Oct 2021*

[MORE INFORMATION](#)

## Clinical Radiology Curriculum and Assessment Committee Consumer Role

### *Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Radiologists*

The Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Radiologists (RANZCR) advances patient care and quality standards in the clinical radiology and radiation oncology sectors and drives the appropriate, proper and safe use of radiological and radiation oncological medical services.

This includes supporting the training, assessment and accreditation of trainees; the maintenance of quality and standards in both specialties; and workforce mapping to ensure we have the specialists available to support the sectors in the future. The Faculty of Clinical Radiology Council is seeking consumer representation for the Clinical Radiology Curriculum and Assessment Committee (CRCAC).

*Closing date: 29 Oct 2021 (deadline extended)*

[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 1 Dec 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 Kate Lyttle on 02 6273 5444 or [K.Lyttle@chf.org.au](mailto:K.Lyttle@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