

healthUPdate

26 February 2021 | Issue 3

From the CEO



Our contrasting responses to health and hardship

Two big events this week have highlighted Australia's contrasting approaches to our treasured notions of equity and equality. One promises a great step forward in preventive health, the other displays a failure to recognise the potential harms to health.

The rollout of the COVID-19 vaccinations commenced the most substantial national logistical operation in many years. It will be provided free to all. There never was any question that it would be otherwise.

There was a universal understanding that by making immunisation available to all, we were taking the most effective step in protecting all against the pandemic. We are all in this together.

Contrast that with another significant event of the week: the announcement of a \$25 a week increase in the JobSeeker payment, AKA the unemployment benefit. The meagre increase came after years of campaigning, including by CHF, to lift the payment substantially. This week's increase in the permanent rate, after the removal of temporary COVID supplements, will bring a frugal lift in the benefit to just over 42 per cent of the minimum national wage.

As Professor Peter Whiteford and Associate Professor Bruce Bradbury [wrote](#) in *The Conversation* this week, “even after what the government has trumpeted as a historic increase, there will be few developed countries where people will be as worse off after losing work”.

I said in a [media release](#) this week that Australians accepted the good sense of a substantial public investment in income support during the height of COVID-19 concern, and the validity of those concerns remains as strong as ever. But history has shown that both sides of politics have remained tight-fisted about increasing the JobSeeker payment and its antecedents because their polling shows there will be no great political penalty.

That validity remains. So what is different now? When we have only one job available for every nine unemployed, why do we as a nation not support a realistic and universal remedy to hardship and ill health as we do in supporting universal vaccination against COVID?

Cost continues to be a pain point for consumers. We know that penury-level income support payments are bad for health and access to health care as are high out-of-pocket costs, even for those on reasonable incomes. Affordable access was also in the spotlight in the first major policy [report from CHF's Youth Health Forum](#) in collaboration with Wellbeing, Health and Youth — the Centre for Research Excellence in Adolescent Health — released this week. Affordability is a challenge for many young people as they transition from adolescence and a reliance on parents into early adulthood.

We should also accept that, like the vaccine, a decent unemployment benefit would be a shot in the arm for all of us...and for the economy.

Leanne Wells
Chief Executive Officer



Masterclass in Co-design

CHF SUMMIT 2021
Shifting Gears

Dr Lynne Maher

“What excites me is how much we learn through partnering with consumers. As staff we often don’t know what we don’t know.”

*#Masterclass in co-design
17 March 2021*



Consumers as leaders in healthcare is the central theme of the first Australian and New Zealand Consumer Experience and Leadership in virtual Health Summit in March 2021.

Due to demand we've been able to reopen registrations for this popular masterclass.

Capturing experiences of care

This masterclass will expose you to the practices and benefits involved in experience based patient experience and co-design.

The Masterclass will be delivered by Dr Lynne Maher, recognised in many places worldwide for her work on patient experience and co-design, creativity and innovation and sustainability for improvement.

Preconference masterclass

Masterclass in Health Literacy

Professor Kirsten McCaffery

“As a research team, we are also very interested in developing and testing interventions to improve health literacy in diverse populations”

#Health Literacy Masterclass
17 March 2021



CHF is proud to announce a new Pre-conference Masterclass on Health Literacy, a virtual symposium on 17 March 2021.

Professor Kirsten McCaffery, will deliver a pre-conference Masterclass on Health Literacy.

This Masterclass will cover:

- Health literacy - what it is and why it matters
- Strategies to improve health literacy, and what the evidence tells us
- Supporting behaviour change for people with lower health literacy
- COVID and health literacy – what have we learned
- Improving multicultural health communication and COVID

Professor Kirsten McCaffery is NHMRC Principal Research Fellow & Director of Research, at the School of Public Health, University of Sydney. She will deliver the Masterclass with her fellow researchers: Dr Danielle Muscat and Dr Julie Ayre.

Preconference masterclass

News and resources



digital health
CRC



Subsidised micro-credentials in digital health

The Digital Health CRC (DHCRC) has combined resources forces with one of Australia's leading technical universities, RMIT Online (RMITO), to create industry-relevant micro-credentials designed to revolutionise the digital capability of healthcare professionals across Australia.

The online, 6-week industry-led micro-credentialed short courses cover three areas:

- Technology Enabled Care
- Digital Health Strategy & Change
- Healthcare Design

Two courses, Digital Health Strategy & Change and Healthcare Design, stack together as direct credit towards the recently launched Graduate Certificate in Digital Health commencing in April 2021.

DHCRC is contributing 50% towards enrolment costs for staff of CHF member organisations who wish to undertake these short courses.

The creation of this new learning pathway for digital health education furthers the Digital Health CRC vision in supporting long-term digital health professional development and creating leaders in the field.

DHCRC extends to the CHF and members an offer to co-fund the cost of registration for the upcoming intakes of these short courses. The courses have start dates of Monday 22 February, Monday 12 April and Monday 24 May 2021.

If you are interested please contact education@dhcrc.com.

To learn more about the digital health micro-credentialed short courses, visit [RMIT Online](https://www.rmitonline.edu.au) or contact businesssolutions@rmitonline.edu.au

CONTACT DIGITAL HEALTH CRC

CHF member survey and consumer advocate webinar series

CHF Consumer support - what would you like to see?

CHF will be running a new webinar series, **Consumer Link**, to support consumer advocates who are participants in CHF's consumer representatives program or serve as nominees on committees.

Following the success of our CHF Talks webinars for members and stakeholders, CHF is designing a series of webinars specifically tailored to consumer representatives.

The webinars will be informational and educational and provide support to the CHF pool of consumer advocates on varying topics to cater for different levels of experience.

We need you to tell us what would best support you in your consumer advocacy work. This short survey asks about your preferences on how we can present this series and topics of interest. Your responses will also help us consider other support we can provide to consumer representatives in the medium to longer term.

The survey is expected to take up to 5 minutes of your time. It closes on Friday 26 March 2021 and the first **Consumer Link** webinar is scheduled for 7 April 2021.

[COMPLETE THE SURVEY](#)

TGA stakeholder survey 2020

The Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) conducts an annual stakeholder survey to help report on our key performance indicators and make ongoing improvements to the way we work with our stakeholders. The 2020 survey covered topics from previous surveys while incorporating new questions in selected areas, such as advertising and medicine shortages.

[VIEW THE SURVEY RESULTS](#)

Have you had #COVID19 or cared for someone who has?

The COVID Living evidence Taskforce and CHF are seeking Australians with lived experience of COVID19 to join a Consumer Panel. Members will be compensated for time.

Please share this with your networks, applications close by 5pm Monday 8 March.

[APPLY NOW](#)

Health Consumer Leadership Survey

[Health Consumers NSW](#) and **[Cancer Voices NSW](#)** will be jointly presenting a workshop on consumer leadership at the Consumers' Health Forum Australia Summit 2021: Shifting Gears on 18-19 March 2021.

As a consumer leader you are invited to respond to this survey to provide the perspectives of someone who has worked in, and has an understanding of, consumer leadership in the broader health and more

specific cancer sectors. Your input will help ensure that the workshop content is current and informative for those participating.

[TAKE THE CONSUMER LEADERSHIP SURVEY](#)

Consultations

CHF is putting in submissions to the following consultations. We welcome any comments you may have on what our positions should be. Please email your comments to **Jo Root, Policy Director** at j.root@chf.org.au or give Jo a ring on 02 62735444

Vaping - TGA



The **Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA)** is conducting a public consultation on a proposed product standard for vaporiser nicotine products, such as nicotine-containing vape liquids, e-liquids and e-juices.

The consultation asks about potential quality and safety requirements for vaporiser nicotine products that have not been approved by the TGA, covering topics such as labelling, packaging and prohibited ingredients. The consultation will close on **31 March 2021**.

The consultation paper is at [Consultation Hub](#).

CHF will be responding so you can send thoughts through to **Jo Root, Policy Director**, at Jo.Root@chf.org.au or you can put in your own submission.

[EMAIL JO ROOT](#)

Medical Research Future Fund's research missions

Six of the Medical Research Future Fund's [research missions](#) are currently undergoing national consultation.

Through February and March 2021, two webinars will be held for each Mission to assist the public in developing consultation submissions.

To register for the webinars, visit the consultation page for each Mission (listed below).

[Cardiovascular Health Mission Consultation Page](#)

Webinar dates: Tuesday 23 February, Wednesday 10 March

[Dementia, Ageing and Aged Care Mission Consultation Page](#)

Webinar dates: Tuesday 16 February, Friday 19 March

[Genomics Health Futures Mission Consultation page](#)

Webinar dates: Tuesday 16 March, Thursday 25 March

[Indigenous Health Research Fund Consultation page](#)

Webinar dates: Tuesday 23 March, Tuesday 30 March

[Stem Cell Therapies Mission Consultation Page](#)

Webinar dates: Thursday 11 March, Friday 26 March

[Traumatic Brain Injury Mission Consultation Page](#)

Webinar dates: Friday 19 February, Friday 5 March

Submissions for each consultation closes on 23 April 2021.



Are you a consumer advocate in South Australia?

Are you interested in being part of a consumer advocacy group for South Australia? After 20 years, the Health Consumers Alliance of South Australia (HCASA), the State peak voice for health consumers in South Australia closed in September 2020. South Australia is consequently without an independent and systemic peak health consumer organisation. To support consumer advocates, CHF is establishing a South Australian Consumers' Network. To take part, contact **Ghislaine Martin** on info@CHF.org.au

EMAIL CHF

CHF Summit 2021 - Shifting Gears



Consumers as leaders in healthcare will be a central theme of this first Australian and New Zealand Consumer Experience and Leadership in Health Summit.

18 - 19 March 2021



[CHF SUMMIT WEBSITE](#)

Successful health strategies, policies, research and programs depend on consumers involvement at each stage of development.

Develop your skills as a consumer advocate

CHF Summit 2021: Shifting Gears will draw together consumers and other leaders from the health sector to explore the latest research and developments which drive health towards a consumer-centred culture.

Principal Sponsors of the Shifting Gears Summit: Australian Commission for Safety and Quality in Health Care, Australian Department of Health, Australian Digital Health Agency and NSW Health.

SEE THE PROGRAM



REGISTER FOR THE SUMMIT

Australia's Health Panel



New survey from Australia's Health Panel's Health Panel

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

COVID vaccine rollout

Recent discussions both locally and globally around the COVID-19 pandemic are now focusing on the roll out of COVID vaccines to help counter the illness. This has culminated with regulators in various jurisdictions giving emergency or provisional approval for the vaccine to be used, including in Australia.

Polling done by [Essential Research](#) showed Australians have mixed attitudes towards taking a COVID vaccine. For February 2021 Australia's Health Panel looks to find out more about why and when people will or will not get a COVID vaccine.

To share your views about the COVID vaccine and the Australian rollout, **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](#)

Webinar replays

Recent webinars for health care consumers

- 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 replay](#).
- COVID vaccine rollout: Officials' briefing for consumers. Speakers: Professor Michael Kidd, the Commonwealth's Deputy Chief Medical Officer and Lisa Schofield PSM, First Assistant Secretary, COVID-19 Vaccine Taskforce - 5 Feb 2021 [watch replay](#).
- Self-care... patient power - a webinar will be on self-care and self-management and follow-up on the Mitchell Institute's national blueprint for support and development of self-care - 7 Oct 2020 [watch replay](#).
- Patients, partners in health – significant trends for change, with increasing acceptance of patients being engaged as partners with clinicians. What does this mean for Australia's approach? [watch replay](#).
- Social prescribing, the referral of patients to non-medical activities to supplement conventional care - webinar on successful trials in Canada and Australia [watch replay](#).
- A celebration of the learnings from the National Collaborative Pairs program [watch replay](#).

[CHF YOUTUBE CHANNEL](#)

CHF member spotlight

HEALTHY BONES AUSTRALIA

Introducing Healthy Bones Australia

Osteoporosis Australia has announced its official rebrand to 'Healthy Bones Australia' this February, to reinforce the importance of prevention. This is in response to the concerning statistic that Australians suffered from 173,000 broken bones in 2021.

Healthy Bones Australia calls for Australians to “prioritise their bone health”, by learning the risk factors for, and how to best to prevent, brittle bones and osteoporosis. In support of this, Healthy Bones Australia has also launched an [education hub](#) for bone health, reinforcing the aim to protect, build and support better bone health for all Australians.

[VISIT HEALTHY BONES AUSTRALIA](#)

Participate in research



Join Us - call for research stories

Join Us is the national health research register, a [simple online register](#) that helps researchers prevent, treat and find cures for disease.

The George Institute is now looking for consumers who have participated in health or medical research to share their stories about the benefits and importance of participating in such research activities. If you would like to share your experiences please contact Angela Hehir at ahehir@georgeinstitute.org.au

[JOIN US REGISTRY](#)

Media releases and editorial

[JobSeeker rate a poor response](#)

The proposed new JobSeeker rate of just \$25 a week extra fails to recognise the economic and health damages that low incomes inflict on people .. [MEDIA RELEASE: 23 FEB 2021](#)

[Time for national action on loneliness, the unnoticed epidemic](#)

A report on loneliness, an issue which clouds the lives of many Australians and exposes them to increased risk of depression and other illness .. [MEDIA RELEASE: 22 FEB 2021](#)

CHF Journal - Health Voices



COVID and the plague of ideas

Australians' experience with COVID-19 has stimulated more active consumer and community involvement in health care decision-making. Authors in the November edition of *Health Voices* covered a range of diverse development propelled by the forces of the epidemic.

Health Voices
Issue 27 | Nov 2020

[READ MOIRE](#)

Consumer program



Representative appointments

Congratulations to:

Jo Root, nominated to the Private Health Insurance Clinical Categories Review Advisory Committee

Richard Brightwell, nominated to the NPAAC Direct-to-Consumer Genetic Testing Drafting Committee

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.

Joanne Baumgartner,
MBS Review - General Surgery Implementation Liaison Group

Melissa Cadzow,
ACSQHC - Patient Safety Reporting Advisory Committee

Elizabeth Robinson,
ACSQHC - Multipurpose Services Project Advisory Committee

Geoffrey Bartle,
National Blood Authority Advisory Board

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.

The Nursing and Midwifery Strategic Reference Group

Department of Health

Consumer representation is sought for the Nursing and Midwifery Strategic Reference Group (NMSRG), an external committee to enable key nursing and midwifery experts to provide comment and advice to the Department of Health and the Chief Nursing and Midwifery Officer (CNMO) on relevant nursing and midwifery policy and strategy issues.

Expressions of interest are invited from consumer advocates for a three-year term.

Expressions of interest close at midnight AEDT on Sunday 28 February 2021.

[MORE INFORMATION](#)

South Australian Consumers' Network

Consumers Health Forum

After 20 years of operation, the Health Consumers Alliance of South Australia (HCASA), the State peak voice for health consumers in South Australia was defunded closed on 30 September 2020. South Australia is consequently without an independent and systemic peak health consumer organisations. To support consumer advocates in South Australia, CHF is establishing a South Australian Consumers' Network.

This will be an informal grouping of consumers who have self-selected to work more intensively to have a voice on South Australian policy issues and to connect South Australian consumers. This group is open to all South Australian based consumers.

Expressions of interest have been extended to midnight AEDT on Sunday 28 February 2021.

[MORE INFORMATION](#)

Consumer Rapporteurs

Consumers Health Forum

CHF is supporting three consumers with **complimentary registration** to act as consumer rapporteurs at the Summit.

The rapporteurs' role involves three main activities:

- to attend sessions at the CHF Summit 2021
- work together to prepare and deliver two 15-minute consumer insights sessions at the conclusion of each day
- help document consumer perspectives on the Summit activities and outcomes and contribute to a consumer report on the Summit..

As rapporteurs you will:

- participate in a planning teleconference before the Summit
- Catch-up with other consumers two or three times during the Summit
- Contribute to a consumer insights session to sum up the conference themes and highlights

Rapporteurs will be supported by CHF's policy team should they need assistance in preparing or rehearsing their insights sessions.

[MORE INFORMATION](#)

Ambulance Health Services Working Group

Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care

The Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care (ACSQHC) is establishing the Ambulance Health Services Working Group to provide clinical advice, expertise and consumer input into the

development of a National Safety and Quality Health Service NSQHS Standards User Guide for Ambulance Health Services.

Consumers with an interest in patient transport services are invited to express your interest in joining the ACSQHC - Ambulance Health Services Working Group. The appointment is for an eighteen months term from 1 April 2021 to 30 December 2022. The work consists of four online meetings per financial year. The first meeting is anticipated to take place on 21 April 2021. The Commission will cover sitting fees for this work.

Expressions of interest close midnight AEDT on Sunday 14 March 2021.

[MORE INFORMATION](#)

The Medicare Benefit Schedule (MBS) Review Taskforce - Electrocardiogram (ECG) Review Committee

Department of Health

Consumers are invited to express their interest in participating in the MBS ECG Review Committee, which will review changes to MBS ECG items introduced on 1 August 2020 following implementation of recommendations from the MBS Review Taskforce.

To apply, please completing the [Expression of Interest](#) form found on the Dept website and send a brief cover letter and CV to the clinical trial manager: Email: cardiacservices@health.gov.au

Close COB Monday 1 March 14 March 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.

[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 | Tel: 02 6273 5444