

healthUPdate

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From the CEO



Pharmacy role in ensuring best medicine for consumers

The wider, if somewhat belated, entry of pharmacies into the COVID vaccination effort is a significant step forward as the pressure for all eligible Australians to get vaccinated mounts. The neighbourhood pharmacy is our most common point of contact with the health system, providing an easier path to combat COVID. The expanding availability of immunisation and other health services at pharmacies makes sense if we are to encourage consumer-centred and community-based health care.

It is why CHF for many years has advocated for a consumer say in the Community Pharmacy Agreement which determines the regulation and funding of prescribed medicine dispensing by pharmacies. Since last year, CHF, along with NACCHO, has been able to take part in consultations as part of that pharmacy agreement.

This has given consumer and community representatives through the new Pharmacy Stakeholder Consultation Committee a voice in the administration of pharmacy measures such as indigenous pharmacy programs, telehealth and home medicine programs. See the communique from [its most recent meeting](#).

Other topics canvassed by the committee included aged care quality and safety relating to pharmacy programs in response to COVID and the broader practice of pharmacy and responses to the Aged Care Royal Commission in relation to pharmacy programs.

Representatives have also noted the current status of staged supply and the Opiate Dependence Treatment Program and that a post market review of patient access and affordability will be undertaken in relation to medicines available under the program.

Another important recent development in the realm of consumers and medicines is the [Review of the National Medicines Policy](#). This policy, now over 20 years old, sets out guidelines covering elements such as timely access to medicines and their cost, quality, safety and availability.

The review will among other things evaluate current NMP objectives and determine whether these should be modified in the context of rapidly evolving treatments options, population changes, interconnected relationships and system-wide capacities.

Of particular relevance to us is that the Review will also consider the “centricity” of consumers in the NMP and whether it captures the diversity of consumers, their needs and expectations.

Other aspects for review include whether the NMP needs to be expanded to include health technologies, a matter of growing significance given the rise in devices used by patients in the administering their medicines, such as diabetes monitors.

It is yet another example of why consumers will need an effective say in best use of medicines now and into the future.

Leanne Wells
Chief Executive Officer



A promotional banner for the Youth Health Forum Summit. It features a circular portrait of Neil Pharaoh on the left. The background is a mix of yellow, light blue, and teal wavy shapes. Text on the right reads: "Hear from Neil Pharaoh with stories, insights and passion for advocacy". Below this is "Youth Health Forum" and "SUMMIT" in large, colorful letters. At the bottom right, it says "15 Sept 2021". In the bottom left corner, the CHF logo is displayed with the text "Consumers Health Forum of Australia".

An important event to build capacity for better services for young people

Neil Pharaoh has something to say about young people and leadership.

As a founding director of LGBTIQ+ philanthropic group, GiveOUT Australia, and national co-convenor of Rainbow Labor, Neil led the internal campaign that achieved

over 200 legislative and regulatory reforms, including changing the Labor Party's position on marriage equality.

"Compromise is the basis of democracy, and we need to be willing to take small steps and bring people along with us," says Neil, who will be speaking about advocacy and how young people can achieve more at the Youth Health Forum National Summit on 15 Sept 2021.

[READ MORE](#)

NEWS AND UPDATES

Covid-19 restrictions and the Doherty Report: what do you need to know?

At best, all the discussion on Australia's pathway out of lockdowns is constantly challenging the process as new information is promoted, or the seriousness of the Delta outbreak changes the parameters for decision-makers.

Behind it all, was the Doherty Report which mapped out projections of Australia's best steps. If you are interested in this topic, we've collated some reading aimed at consumers.

Professor Julie Leask from the University of Sydney, School of Public Health points us to an [explainer published by Doherty Institute](#) on 3 August 2021.

The Institute itself [published this Statement](#) to clarify its position on 23 Aug 2021.

The Grattan Institute [published commentary](#) from Professor Stephen Duckett and A/Professor Anika Stobart advocating for a new plan , and [a podcast with](#) Professor Sharon Lewin, Director of the Peter Doherty Institute for Infection and Immunity, explaining the modeling further - both published on 25 August 2021.



Missing information from your immunisation record?

My Health Record sources Australian immunisation information, including COVID-19 vaccination information from the [Australian Immunisation Register \(AIR\)](#) and certain clinical documents in My Health Record.

Missing or incomplete immunisation details

If you notice some of your that immunisation information is missing, this might be due to a setting in your record. This can be changed easily by consumers.

How to change your settings

The Digital Health Agency has published guidance about how to find your immunisation information and [how to check and change AIR settings](#).

There is also a [printable PDF](#) with steps to check and change AIR settings in My Health Record.

[GO TO SUPPORT WEBPAGE](#)



Registrations are open

The Summit will be an event for youth health and consumer advocates, health and Youth based organisations, researchers and students, healthcare providers and policy makers.

[REGISTER](#)

See 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 in Sept 2021.

[SEE THE PROGRAM](#)

Can't wait until September to have your say?

Join the Youth Health forum today - [find out more](#) or [apply here](#)

[YHF SUMMIT WEBSITE](#)

[CONSULTATIONS AND SURVEYS](#)



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](#)



Australia's Health Panel

Last days to the Australia Health Panel survey on research.

The gap between the broader Australian public and the medical research sector was identified in this [report commissioned](#) by the Australian Government Department of Health in 2015

Further work revealed that despite [96% of Australians being willing to participate or consider participation in clinical trials](#), more than 70% had never discussed the option as part of their healthcare decision making.

In support of efforts to increase consumer involvement in medical research, as this leads to benefits for consumers, CHF has joined with initiatives such as the [Join Us Medical Research Register](#) and the [Australian Clinical Trial Alliance](#).

However there is little research exploring why Australian consumers do or don't participate in medical research and what barriers exist that cause the disconnect between the broader public and the medical research sector.

This Australia's Health Panel survey for August aims to look further into this area.

We would like to thank the [CHF Research and Data Special Interest Group](#) for their assistance in writing this survey.

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](#)

[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](#)

FOR MORE

Media releases and editorial

[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 will be a focus of the YHF National Summit....*
..... [BLOG POST: 26 AUG 2021](#)

[Brad a vaccine advocate with a community message](#) - *Brad has overcome multiple health challenges and become a community health leader in Bateman's Bay on the NSW South Coast. Now he has joined CHF's Consumer Conversations video project to lend his voice to encourage COVID vaccinations... ..* [BLOG POST: 26 AUG 2021](#)

[Our health system is nearly world beating](#) - *Australia's health system is nearly world-beating, the latest report finds - with two important exceptions.. ..* [BLOG POST: 13 AUG 2021](#)

[Health Tracker provides a path to better lives](#) - *Getting Australia's Health on Track provides an update on the simple but important ways we can change our lives and reduce by one third the avoidable diseases of modern life... ..* [BLOG POST: 13 AUG 2021](#)

All Media Releases and Editorial

Consumer program



Consumer Advisor appointments

We would like to congratulate:

Sue Viney, on her nomination to the ACSQHC Patient Safety Technical Working Group

Jebby Philips, and **Judy Wettenhall** on their recent nominations to The George Institute Join Us Advisory Committee.

Consumer reports

A big thankyou to Melissa Cadzow, Angela Fitzpatrick and Geraldine Robertson for their consumer reports on their involvement in the:

- ACSQHC Patient Advisory Group (Melissa),
- Biotoxin and related Illness Advisory Committee (Angela)
- Colorectal Surgery Implementation Liaison Group (Geraldine).

Rebecca Edwards,

Consumer and Community Engagement Expert Advisor

R.Edwards@chf.org.au.

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. Currently the CHF office is closed due to Covid restrictions in Canberra.



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

Royal Australian College of Physicians

The RACP [Consumer Advisory Group](#) is a standing committee representing the broad views of the community in the work of the RACP. The work of the Committee complements the work of other College bodies in progressing the [RACP Indigenous Strategic Framework](#).

RACP is seeking to appoint member to the committee who has Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander background or experience.

For information about how to apply for this role please refer to this [position description](#) or contact consumers@racp.edu.au

Closing date: 3 Sept 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 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.

[BECOME A MEMBER](#)



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