

# healthUPdate

26 March 2021 | Issue 5

## From the CEO



### Shifting Gears and changing care

I am delighted to report that our Shifting Gears summit conference last week went into overdrive. It drew more than 820 registrants and the proceedings stimulated great energy from the start. We know this because of the many hundreds of lively responses that poured on to the chat line over the two days.

Our many talented speakers from around Australia, New Zealand, Canada and England provided a continually absorbing flow of ideas. Despite some apprehension about how the virtual presentation would go, the conference worked well. It seemed to bring speakers into closer company with their audience than typically experienced at pre-COVID events at conference centres.

The ideas and experiences came thick and fast. Topics included latest developments on digital health in Australia, pioneering work on social prescribing in Canada, primary care partnerships in New Zealand, global trends in safety and quality in health care, and health consumer leadership in England.

The overall result was an enthusiastic mood for more action to promote the role of the consumer in health care. In coming days, I will be releasing a statement in response to the messages from the summit.

There are too many wonderful speakers to name any individual star performer. What I can say is that the combined result of so many excellent talks was very affirming for us at CHF. Registered attendees can view the recorded sessions for twelve months. Just log into the [conference platform: Delegate Connect](#).

This after all was the first major national conference we have held and the fact that it attracted so many top line speakers and attendees was confirmation of CHF's place as the pre-eminent advocate for health consumers in Australia.

**Leanne Wells**  
Chief Executive Officer



## News and resources



Connecting all Australians  
to the national research effort

### Help Australian researchers- get on board *Join Us* register

Australia has world class health and medical researchers who have been responsible for many life changing breakthroughs. Australian medical research has helped improve lives both here in Australia and internationally.

But the ability to conduct this research depends on being able to recruit enough people into studies. These studies can take many months and sometimes cost hundreds of thousands of dollars. Many studies fall over at this hurdle because they don't get enough people to participate.

That's why [The George Institute](#) in partnership with the [University of New South Wales](#) have launched a register called *Join Us*, which aims to recruit

**a million Australians** who agree to be contacted if there is a study that might be appropriate for them.

Watch [this short video](#) featuring Dr. Clare Arnott, clinician and researcher.

Ultimately, the goal of this project is to achieve better health and wellbeing for all Australians by more rapidly translating new research findings into practice.

VISIT JOIN US



## Ageism in health care

*A project by the Older Women's Network NSW (OWN NSW) and Health Consumers NSW (HCNSW)*

The HCNSW and the Older Women's Network (NSW) launched a new report on ageism in health care: *"What Can You Expect at Your Age?!"* – an investigation of recent experiences of age discrimination by older adults accessing health care at the [CHF Summit: Shifting Gears](#).

The report is the result of an 18-month investigation into older people's experience of health care. Most people included were in NSW but we did hear from people across Australia and, sadly, that this reflects many people's experience of health care across the country.

HCNSW and OWN will be hosting a webinar at 10:30am on 23 April to further explore the issues raised in the report.

You can download the report, watch the launch video, and register for the webinar here:

FOR MORE

Webinar



## How COVID gave us the chance to solve housing and homelessness issues and why we are back to square one H

*A joint event from the Poverty and Inequality Partnership and the Community Housing Industry Association*

COVID-19 has posed special risks for Australians experiencing poverty and disadvantage. It has presented a particular health and welfare hazard for people experiencing homelessness.

Drawing on newly-published research, this webinar will explore the nature and effectiveness of measures taken by governments, NGOs and rental housing providers to minimise pandemic-triggered risks to homeless people and tenants in 2020.

**When:** Tuesday 30th March 2021

**Time:** 11 - 12.30, AEDT

**Format:** Zoom

[FIND OUT MORE AND REGISTER](#)

## CHF member survey and consumer advocate webinar series



### CHF Consumer support - what would you like to see?

We need you to tell us what you would like to hear about to support you in your consumer advocacy work.

This short survey asks about your preferences and topics of interest for a new webinar series, **Consumer Link**, which will support consumer advocates who are participants in CHF's consumer representatives program.

Your responses will also help us consider other support CHF can provide.

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 in early April 2021.

The first webinar will consist of a brief overview of CHF's aims and intentions for the initiative, a review of key items on the policy landscape and a progress update on the [CHF's Consumer Commission](#)

[TAKE THE SURVEY](#)

## Consultations

### Preventive Health Strategy consultation

The Government has released a [consultation paper](#) on the Development of the National Preventive Health Strategy.

There will be a consultation with members at 2 pm on Thursday 8 April, to inform the CHF response to the paper.

We encourage members and consumers to [answer the survey](#).

Contact **Tammy Wolffs**, for more information and to register for the consultation — email: [t.wolffs@chf.org.au](mailto:t.wolffs@chf.org.au)

[EMAIL TAMMY WOLFFS](#)

### Consultation on product standard for 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](mailto:Jo.Root@chf.org.au) or you can put in your own submission.

[EMAIL JO ROOT](#)

## Webinars

# CHF Talks

Consumers shaping health  
WEBINAR SERIES

CHF  
Consumers Health  
Forum of Australia



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

*Presentation and panel discussion featuring the National COVID-19 Clinical Evidence Taskforce.*

The National COVID-19 Clinical Evidence Taskforce brings together 32 peak health professional bodies from across Australia.

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.

**When:** 27 April 2021

**Time:** 12 to 1 pm

[REGISTER](#)

## Australia's Health Panel



## Participate in the Loneliness survey from 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.

## Loneliness

Loneliness has been linked to poor physical and mental health and poor personal wellbeing, leading to harmful effects. It is clearly a significant issue for consumers. CHF recognises that addressing loneliness is critical to improving the health and wellbeing, so we are pleased to have initiated this discussion and to be partnering with a community of experts to move this issue forward.

The March 2021 Australia's Health Panel survey is a chance for you to share your perspectives on loneliness in Australia, following the [release of the final report](#) from the Loneliness Thought Leadership Roundtable in 2020. **Closes at the end of March.**

To share your views about loneliness, 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

## Media releases and editorial

### [COVID vaccination program needs the community to be patient and well-informed](#)

*We welcome the start of the 1b phase of the COVID vaccination roll out to older people and other vulnerable groups, urging the importance of ...* [MEDIA RELEASE: 22 MAR 2021](#)

All Media Releases and editorial

## Consumer program



## Representative appointments

## Congratulations to:

**Ray Bange**, nominated to the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care - Ambulance Health Services Working Group

**Melissa Cadzow**, nominated to the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care - Patient Advisory Group

**Adam Johnston**, nominated to the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care - Patient Advisory Group

**Azure Rigney**, nominated to the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care - Patient Advisory Group

**Tammy Wolffs**, nominated to the Australian Physiotherapy Association - First Contact Physiotherapy in Primary Care Advisory 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.

**Dianne Smith**, The Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health - Primary Care Committee

## 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).



## 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.

## Community Representative, Ethics Board

### *The Speech Pathology Association of Australia*

The Ethics Board for the Speech Pathology Association of Australia promotes ethical practice in the profession, manages and enforces the Association's Code of Ethics.

An community representative position is currently vacant. Community representatives represent community interests and ensure that community perspectives are appropriately considered.

For more information, please contact Trish Johnson, Manager Ethics and Professional Issues at Speech Pathology Australia via email at [tjohnson@speechpathologyaustralia.org.au](mailto:tjohnson@speechpathologyaustralia.org.au) or on (03) 9642 4899.

*Applications close at 5:00pm AEST Monday 5 April 2021*

MORE INFORMATION

## Recognition of Medical Specialties Review Panels

### *Australian Medical Council (AMC)*

The AMC is looking to establish a pool of reviewers for Recognition Review Panels to undertake detailed (Stage 2) analysis of cases for recognition of medical specialties.

If you have questions, contact Karen Rocca, Manager, Accreditation Projects and Process Development, at [recognition@amc.org.au](mailto:recognition@amc.org.au) or phone: 02 6270 9760.

*Applications close COB Friday 9 April 2021*

MORE INFORMATION

## 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 18 April 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](#)



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