

healthUPdate

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From the CEO



The primary case for better health care

Our #CHF Talks webinar on primary care development has given valuable insights into what could or should be profound reforms in everyday health care.

Australia's primary health arrangements are high standard but ailing. With Medicare struggling to meet contemporary needs and the primary care system (or some might say non-system) generally failing to reflect modern potential, the four webinar panellists each brought an expert perspective on how things could be so much better.

A key reference point for the webinar was the discussion paper of the Ministerial Primary Health Reform Steering Group and we were fortunate to have group co-chair, Dr Steve Hambleton on the panel.

He was joined by Dr Dawn Casey, Deputy CEO, [National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation](#) (NACCHO), Mr Ray Messom, CEO, [Western Sydney Primary Health Network](#) and Dr Gabrielle O'Kane, CEO, [National Rural Health Alliance](#).

Dr Casey spoke about the success of NACCHO organisations in curbing the spread of COVID in communities. An important part of the success of ACCHOs is that all the staff of local organisation know their patients and all the patients know their staff, she said.

Ray Messom described his network's drive to develop a one system health care in Western Sydney so that the variety of services collaborate with the aim of patient-centre care through integrated, coordinated, comprehensive and accessible services.

Dr O'Kane introduced a concept to counter the paucity of health services in the bush — RACCHOs, or Rural Areas Community Controlled Health Organisations. These would support integrated, multidisciplinary, pool-funded structures that would not only serve patients better but also make it more attractive for health professionals to move to the bush.

Dr Hambleton said a central point to make about the need for primary health reform was that the focus needed to be on "the person not the patient".

"Our health care needed to move away from an illness to a wellness focus, embracing such factors as the social determinants of health. It was no good fixing somebody's diabetes if they had not home to go to", he said.

"A new funding model was needed to free up GPs to work in team settings for better patient-centred care.

Change is a big challenge, but Dr Hambleton emphasised the opportunity to act is now, with a supportive Health Minister who had established the primary reform process and health professions who supported change.

CHF has for years campaigned to promote the consumer interest in primary health reform. The webinar has further strengthened the case that strong primary health strengthens all Australians.

For more on this discussion [read more](#) or [listen to the webinar](#).

Leanne Wells
Chief Executive Officer



We're having a summit for young health advocates

Are you a young adult under 30 who's interested in having a say on healthcare for young people? The CHF Youth Health Forum's National Summit is happening on 15 September 2021! 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. Watch this space for more announcements.

Can't wait until September to have your say? Join the Youth Health forum today - [find out more](#) or [apply here](#)

YOUTH HEALTH FORUM



We join NAIDOC to Heal Country!

The theme for [2021 Naidoc Week](#) is Heal Country! - inviting us to embrace First Nations' cultural knowledge and understanding of Country as part of Australia's national heritage and respect the culture and values of Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islanders.

The theme reminds us too of the twin health and environmental challenges for First Nations peoples and all Australians.

FOR MORE



Australia's Health Panel

Australia's Health Panel is a way for you to have your say on topical health care services. Through the Panel, we ask you about a range of healthcare issues that may impact you, your family and your community.

We use your responses to take the pulse of how people feel about particular issues, find out about your experiences in obtaining health care services and get your thoughts on what's working and what isn't. This gives insights that help us to design and shape our advocacy work on health policy. It's also a great opportunity for you to get involved and have your say about health care in Australia.

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](#)

SEE THE RESULTS



Simple messages, repeated often, by trusted voices are most effective.

Guide for Health Professionals to talk about Climate Change and Health

Health professionals know that effective communication is one of the most powerful tools they can use to protect public health. Thus, effectively communicating climate change from a health perspective is of the utmost importance, given it is the biggest health threat – and health opportunity – of the century.

The [Climate and Health Alliance in Australia](#) are delighted to launch a new communications [guide for health professionals](#), *Real, Urgent and Now: Communicating the Health Impacts of Climate Change*.

This guide is designed to support health professionals to speak with confidence about climate change and its health impacts with patients, clients, colleagues and communities and join a growing cohort of health professionals who recognise their unique authority and responsibility to talk about climate change and health.

[DOWNLOAD THE GUIDE](#)

New national survey for digital health



Last days to complete this national survey on virtual health care - closing soon

CHF is involved in conducting a national research project called: [Reimagining healthcare in Australia: the journey from telehealth to 21st century design](#). This research project includes a review of recent academic literature, called a [Rapid Review](#) and has an accompanying [Consumer Explainer](#). It also includes several national consumer insights surveys. These surveys focus on consumer preferences

and expectations in healthcare, and the results, in combination with the other project pieces will shape future service development and research.

Please do not hesitate to contact **Sarah Elliott, Project Lead** on email: s.elliott@chf.org.au with any questions.

COMPLETE THE SURVEY



Consumer Review Committees

Heart Foundation Research



Heart Foundation - Consumer Review Committees

You can make a difference to heart health research by becoming a **Heart Foundation Consumer Reviewer**.

As a charity relying on donations from the public, the Heart Foundation must ensure research funded is relevant, has translatable outcomes, and the processes are transparent. Consumer reviewers will help bridge the gap between researchers and the the public.

All consumers will attend a training session and receive an induction pack

Register your interest today

REGISTER YOUR INTEREST

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.

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](#)

Videos

- [Top 3 questions](#) - What is pandemic fatigue? What should I ask my GP and why does vaccine advice keep changing?
- [How vaccines work](#)
- [Vaccine development times](#)

FOR MORE



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

[Better health for the next generation](#) - *The doubling in Australia's per person health spending over the next 40 years projected in the Intergenerational Report reinforces the need to act now to counter big drivers in health costs* [MEDIA RELEASE: 29 JUNE 2021](#)

[Webinar highlights opportunities for primary health reforms](#) - *Proposals for big changes to primary health care have recently been presented to the Government so CHF spoke to four leaders in implementing collaborative commissioning* [BLOGPOST: 08 JULY 2021](#)

[We join NAIDOC to Heal Country!](#) - *A first of its kind national survey has been launched to Australian consumers this week, garnering insights on consumer perception, uptake and barriers.....* [BLOGPOST: 09 JULY 2021](#)

All Media Releases and editorial

Consumer program



Consumer Representative Appointments

Congratulations to:

Susannah Morris, appointed by the Minister for the Health, the Hon Greg Hunt MP, to the membership of the Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee (PBAC) for the period of four years.

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, contact , **Kate Lyttle**, on 02 6273 5444 or email K.Lyttle@chf.org.au.

Course Advisory and Monitoring Committee

ALACC Health College

ALACC Health College is seeking a consumer representative to sit on its Course Advisory and Monitoring Committee.

This committee provides advice and monitoring over design, delivery and evaluation of all Nursing Programs and/or the reaccreditation of an existing one. Its aim is to support the College in providing students with a supportive learning experience that ensures they are life-long learners and work-ready.

The Committee provides advice and ongoing monitoring for current Nursing Programs and ensures they comply with the following standards:

- Accreditation standards as per the Australian Nursing and Midwifery Accreditation Council (ANMAC)
- Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia's (NMBA) Enrolled Nurse Standards of Practice
- Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency's (AHPRA) registration requirements
- Australian Skills Quality Authority's (ASQA) training requirements.

For questions contact **Rati Deep** on email: rati@alacchealth@edu.au.

Expressions of interest close midnight AEST on Sunday 25 July 2021

MORE INFORMATION

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.

Consumer and Community Advisory Committee

The George Institute for Global Health

The George Institute is an independent global medical research institute which was established to improve the health of people worldwide, particularly those living in disadvantaged circumstances, by challenging the status quo and using innovative approaches to prevent and treat non-communicable diseases and injury.

The George Institute is formalising its efforts in community involvement, including the establishment of a Consumer and Community Advisory Committee (CCAC). This Committee will function at the organisational level and work with senior researchers and other Institute leaders.

Expressions of Interest are sought from people who have, or care for people with health conditions, particularly those that align with the Institute's research priority areas ([more on these](#)).

For questions contact the Consumer and Community Involvement Program Manager, **Karena Conroy** on email at kconroy@georgeinstitute.org.au

Expressions of Interest close at COB AEST on Tuesday 20 July 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 Kate Lyttle on 02 6273 5444 or K.Lyttle@chf.org.au.

[BECOME A MEMBER](#)



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