

# healthUPdate

12 August 2021 | Issue 14

## From the CEO



### Youth National Summit comes at pivotal time

The Youth Health Forum's National Summit #YHFSummit on September 15 is coming at a pivotal time for young Australians concerned about their futures.

The looming crisis of climate change and the impact of the COVID pandemic mean now more than ever that young people are thinking about their future.

As a recent report showed, many young Australians are concerned about climate change but despite the implications it has for their future feel they are not being taken seriously.

Young leaders, including YHF spokesperson Roxanne MacDonald and Co-Chair of the Australian Youth Affairs Coalition, Caitlin Figueiredo, will be among those presenting at the virtual conference. Clinical innovators, Professor Pat McGorry, Dr Sandro Demaio and Associate Professor Michelle Tefler also join the line-up.

Key themes at the Summit will include:

- How well is the current health system serving young people?
- How can policy makers and health advocates work together?
- What do young people need from the future of healthcare?

The times are not easy, with issues like mental health and barriers to health care besetting many young people along with high housing costs and stagnant wages.

But the future is not all gloomy for young people. There are bright signs on the horizon from countries like New Zealand and Wales which have developed new approaches to government putting wellbeing as a central goal in policy-making. These initiatives are being noticed and analysed in Australia, notably in a [VicHealth report](#).

The Summit presents a great opportunity for those people under 30 to discuss these developments and how to press for a healthier future for Australia.

[Register now](#) to be part of discussions for a better health future. Great discounts for consumers, advocates and students.

For the in-depth article, see the blog [Youth Health Summit: ideas for a brighter future](#)

## Our health system nearly world-beating

As our leaders sometimes say, when challenged about the state of health care in Australia, what other country would you like to get sick in? Not many, as it turns out. Australia's health system is nearly world-beating, the latest report from the Commonwealth Fund of New York finds.

But with two important exceptions. The Commonwealth Fund compares the performance of the health systems of 11 Western nations on five outcomes. Australia scores third best overall, rating in the top three of the five outcomes: top in Equity and in Health Care Outcomes and second in Administrative Efficiency.

It is a tribute to the high care standards of our health professionals and hospitals and to the success of Medicare in supporting equity of access and administrative efficiency of our universal health system.

For more [read the full article](#)

**Leanne Wells**  
Chief Executive Officer



## How's the health and wellbeing of Australia's young people looking?

Register for Youth Health Forum's National Summit and hear what young leaders need on health issues. The Summit on September 15 is shaping up as the largest conference of young consumer health leaders yet. Hear from the experts on tracking youth health, Katie Acheson and Gemma Wood of the Australian Youth Development Index. Given the calamities of climate change and COVID, it's a crucial time for young people to influence health policy.

[FIND OUT MORE](#)

## 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](#)



### **Katie Acheson** *Co-Founder/Youth Development Specialist, Numbers and People Synergy*

Katie Acheson has an in-depth and comprehensive understanding of the issues facing children and young people. Through her experience in the community sector, various levels of government and international organisations, she has insight into the benefits that flow into policy design when engaging young Australians.



### **Gemma Wood** *Co-Founder/Youth Development Specialist, Numbers and People Synergy*

Gemma Wood is a statistician and community development researcher with over 20 years of experience in research and consulting roles in the private, public and NGO sectors. She has maintained a focus on increased equity and opportunity for all social groups and particularly marginalised and vulnerable people.

YHF SUMMIT WEBSITE

NEWS AND UPDATES



## Brad speaks out about his journey to vaccination

Brad Rossiter OAM is a consumer champion whose life and health experience puts him in an influential position to advocate for COVID-19 vaccinations.

He 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.

Brad's vulnerable health status has left him in no doubt of his personal need for vaccination. It also drives his advocacy for community-wide acceptance of vaccination.

[WATCH AND SHARE](#)

## Health Tracker provides a path to better lives

Preventable early death is one of the most obvious risks for 10 million Australians living in lower socioeconomic communities. A new report from the Mitchell Institute at Victoria University shows just how clearly gaps in health outcomes are widening between the wealthiest and other groups in Australia. The inequality that is emerging is not the vision we have for this country.

The *Getting Australia's Health on Track* Report outlines strategies that will reduce the likelihood of disease, early death and chronic pain in people who are in situations that keep them less healthy.

These are comprehensive industry and infrastructure strategies that put the health of the nation's people in front in policy design.

For more on this and the companion report *Australia's Health Tracker by Socioeconomic Status*, read further ....

[FOR MORE](#)



## Last days to apply to join the new Mental Health Special Interest Group

Would you like to help shape and inform CHF policy and advocacy to improve mental health care for all consumers?

If you are a mental health consumer or carer of a mental health consumer with strong connections to your community, or if you are, or have been, a consumer advocate in mental health care we would like to hear from you.

**Applications close Sunday 15 August**

[SEE MORE](#)

**Medicines update**



## Active Ingredient Prescribing

From 1 August 2021, new prescriptions that do not meet active ingredient prescribing requirements cannot be dispensed as PBS prescriptions and will need to be reissued in alignment with active ingredient prescribing requirements, or dispensed as private prescriptions. For details see NPS MedicineWise consumer information in [English](#) and [10 community languages](#).

FOR MORE

## Webinars

### Consumer Link: Patient Leadership fundamentals

Patient Leadership – what is this in practice?

In this webinar, we'll be hearing from David Gilbert, a leading thinker and doer in the field of patient and public engagement and a respected strategist, facilitator, researcher, trainer, writer, connector and communicator. David has worked with over a hundred local, national and international organisations to help develop effective ways that patients can be true partners in health and healthcare

The webinar will discuss patient leadership, what it is and hear from David on the UK experience.

We will work through the challenges and opportunities, and put this into an Australian context.

David is located in the UK and for this reason, the webinar will be at 4:00pm AEST

David will be joined in discussion with Debra Letica, Consumer Advisor and CHF CEO, Leanne Wells.

**When: 18 August 2021**

**Time: 4:00pm AEST**

Contact **Rebecca Edwards**, Consumer Engagement Adviser on email: [r.edwards@chf.org.au](mailto:r.edwards@chf.org.au) if you have questions.

REGISTER





## Webinar: Join Us and health research participation

*Join Us* connects researchers with people who are willing to be involved in research, and helps researchers prevent, treat and find cures for disease.

In this webinar we'll hear from researchers connected to the project and you'll have the chance to ask questions and learn more.

REGISTER FOR THE WEBINAR



## Australia's Health Panel

There is a known gap between the broader Australian public and the medical research sector. A [report commissioned](#) by the Australian Government Department of Health in 2015 identified a lack of awareness about medical research including clinical trials amongst both doctors and consumers as well as low 'clinical trial culture' at all levels of the health system in Australia.

This was followed by projects in 2017 that found 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.

We support efforts to increase consumer involvement in medical research as leads to benefits for consumers. For this reason, we have joined with initiatives aimed to improve consumer involvement in research 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



### 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

[Youth Health Summit: ideas for a brighter future](#) - *Now, perhaps more than ever, young people have reason to think deeply and darkly about the future.. ..* [BLOG POST: 12 AUG 2021](#)

[Young people incubating ideas for healthy lives](#) - *When the CHF Youth Health Forum first met, a key theme that quickly emerged was that young people were part of the "missing middle" in health care.. ..* [BLOG POST: 05 AUG 2021](#)

[COVID Vaccine Plan firms direction](#) - *We welcome the National COVID Vaccine Campaign Plan in providing stronger and more detailed directions for Australia to counter the pandemic but We still face uncertainty about the future impact.. ..* [MEDIA RELEASE: 04 AUG 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 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](mailto:K.Lyttle@chf.org.au).



## Statutory Advisory Committees and the Australian Influenza Vaccine Committee

### *Therapeutic Goods Administration*

Would you like to contribute to the regulation of therapeutic goods in Australia? Have you considered becoming a member of one of the Therapeutic Goods Administration's committees?

The Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) is seeking applications from medical and scientific experts to fill a number of upcoming vacancies across TGA's Statutory Advisory Committees and the Australian Influenza Vaccine Committee. You must have expertise in relevant medical or scientific fields or experience with consumer health issues.



As a committee member you will contribute significantly towards the TGA's regulatory functions by providing independent expert advice on matters across a broad spectrum of issues relating to medicines, devices, vaccines and other products and substances.

Further information about the roles of the committees is available at [TGA Statutory Advisory Committees](#) and [Australian Influenza Vaccine Committee \(AIVC\)](#)

If you have the appropriate expertise and are interested in contributing to the regulation of therapeutic goods in Australia, we would like to hear from you. The deadline for applications is close of business Tuesday 17 August 2021.

To apply, and find out more about the appointment process, go to the [Department of Health website](#).

Enquiries can be made by email to [committee.vacancies@health.gov.au](mailto:committee.vacancies@health.gov.au)

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](mailto:K.Lyttle@chf.org.au).

BECOME A MEMBER



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