

healthUPdate

30 January 2019

From the CEO

Health reviews show need for real reform, not least in mental health

The Government would seem to be acknowledging the need for widespread reform given the battery of reviews into Australia's health system currently underway. This year's Budget should indicate if the Government is for real in allocating serious money for real progress.

CHF's Budget submission to the Federal Government **proposes 23 recommendations for change** covering ten broad areas ranging from prevention to aged care and primary health.

It is often said that Australia has a high-quality health care system, yet we see evidence that Australia isn't performing as well as other comparable countries in equity and access to services. There are also signs of weakening in important areas, like aged care and private health insurance.

Consumers have voiced their concerns about uncertainty and the cost of health care services, both of which are important components of access.

[CHF's submission for the 2020 Federal Budget](#)

One area that is desperate for more than small change is mental health. As the Productivity Commission has estimated in its impressive draft report, the **overall annual cost to the economy** of mental illness could be up to \$180 billion. That huge cost could be reduced significantly with a better approach to mental health care.

As so many Australians who have needed mental health care know, the ideal of universal access to the services they need is a fiction.

The Commission's report points to "*a once in a generation opportunity to reform our mental health system*".

[CHF submission to the Draft Report on mental health](#)

Farewell Diana, champion of health consumers

Health consumers everywhere have lost a true champion with the passing of Diana Aspinall, at age 80. A leading figure in the development of the

health consumer movement in the Blue Mountains of NSW, Diana set a wonderful example over 45 years of the way consumer advocates can make a lasting difference to health and community care.

A former registered nurse, Diana used her own experience as someone living with multiple health conditions to highlight the everyday needs for healthcare in her region and society. Dianna worked at local, state and national levels, including with CHF, and was a founding member of Health Consumers NSW.

Among her many contributions, she was involved at different times with community development programs, countering domestic violence, community nursing for youth and children, arthritis, chronic pain management and consumer led research for people living with cancer.

See [the full story](#)

Leanne Wells
Chief Executive Officer



News & Resources

National medicines policy

In late 2019 Minister Hunt announced a review of Australia's Medicines Policy. The existing policy has served consumers well for nearly 20 years. In many ways it was ahead of its time with focus on achieving better health outcomes, rather than looking at inputs or even outputs, and on putting people's needs first. It aims to ensure timely and affordable access to medicines, safe and effective medicines, quality use, and a responsible and viable medicines industry. These aims are still valid today and a stakeholder group will convene at Parliament House this week to begin a process to refresh the policy so it continues to remain contemporary.

Health alert - novel coronavirus



The outbreak of novel (new) coronavirus 2019 (2019-nCov) in the city of Wuhun, China, has added to fears in the public domain and amongst

health professionals alike. The Chief Medical Officer and Department of Health are monitoring the outbreak closely and have released information for health workers. Keep up-to-date with the latest information on the Department's website.

[DEPT OF HEALTH WEBSITE](#)

Opportunity for consumers



Future state of primary health care - Kitchen table discussions

Kitchen Table Discussions are community engagement sessions led by local people for local people. They offer individuals and small groups the opportunity to participate in discussions at a time of day and place that suits them.

This is your opportunity to host a **Kitchen Table Discussion** with your local community members on what's important to you in primary health care.

CHF is collaborating with Health Consumers Queensland to offer consumers and carers from across Australia the opportunity to facilitate a consultation with their local community on primary health care.

We are looking for 12 people to host Kitchen Table Discussions from all states and territories. We would like our hosts to have personal experience with or an interest in primary health care.

CHF CEO, Leanne Wells is a member of the **Ten Year Primary Health Care Plan Steering Group** and the kitchen table insights will inform the ideas CHF will take to the Group.

[FIND OUT MORE](#)

Safety and Quality Special Interest Group – Expression of Interest



The Safety and Quality Special Interest Group works with CHF to connect consumers with the **Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care** (the Commission) for user testing of resources such as decision support tools, consumer factsheets and consumer tools. We continue to respond to requests for consumer feedback from the Commission, as well as organisations that align with CHF's priority areas including health literacy, patient activation, and shared decision-making.

Through this group, CHF aims to provide a space for those interested in safety and quality to share information, communicate and bounce ideas around to enact change.

We currently have 19 members and would like to increase to 25. The group is advisory to CHF, and is open to all members and consumer representatives with final decision remaining with the CHF Board. We do not meet face-to-face however use a mixture of online forums (SharePoint) and meet via teleconference once per month. No sitting fees or reimbursement is offered to participants.

If you are interested and would like more information, please contact Leanne Kelly, Safety and Quality Policy Officer on l.kelly@chf.org.au

Workshops and conferences:

CHF
Consumers Health
Forum of Australia
Consumers shaping health

**Consumers
as leaders
in healthcare**

CHF | SUMMIT
2020
Shifting Gears
Sydney 2-3 Sept 2020

Summit 2020 - Shifting gears

We are hosting our 1st **Australian and New Zealand Consumer Experience and Leadership in Healthcare** Summit in Sydney this year. The summit will offer the opportunity for both organisations and consumers to come together to explore, discuss and grow the concept and

practice of consumer-centred care, and be at the forefront of system change.

We will be **announcing our keynote speakers** and opening for abstract submissions and registrations in February 2020.

Registration is free for consumer advocates and leaders.

[FIND OUT MORE](#)

Consultations & Surveys

Australia's Health Panel



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

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 members.

[LEARN MORE](#)

Plus Paternal - focus on fathers



Planning for and having a child are life-changing events. And while the health system importantly concentrates on mothers and babies, how well does it cater for men's health needs at this time? And what can be done to improve men's involvement?

Healthy Male's Plus Paternal Project is hoping to answer these questions and many more as it examines the man's journey to fatherhood. It will also explore the practice and views of health professionals who provide services

in any point of the pathway from pre-conception to the end of the first year of a child's life.

Healthy Male is conducting two national surveys.

1. Men's lived-experience survey – This survey is for men who have fathered or tried to father a child in the last five years.

2. Health professional survey – This survey is for health professionals from general practice, fertility support, midwifery, obstetrics and gynaecology services.

Take part in the online survey to have your say. You will be asked about your experiences at difference points in time and with different health professionals and services. Healthy Male (Andrology Australia) would like to hear your ideas for how the system could be improved to better meet the needs of men.

[LEARN MORE](#)

CHF Media Releases & Blogs



Great expectations on health require real action

We proposed 23 recommendations for change covering ten broad areas ranging from prevention to aged care and primary health.

[MEDIA RELEASE](#)



Medical Costs Finder a disappointing first step

We called for the government to provide for more detailed information on the new Medical Costs Finder website.

[MEDIA RELEASE](#)

[It's time to make access to mental health care a reality for all](#)

[Diana Aspinall, champion of health consumers](#)

[Climate, health and saving life as we know it](#)

[Help shape a healthier future with Australia's Health Panel](#)

Consumer Representatives Program



CHF expects and appreciates reports from CHF nominated consumer representatives. These reports help keep CHF informed of consumer representative work.

Consumer representative reports can be made online, via email, mail or phone. CHF thanks the following consumer representatives for keeping us up to date on their work.

Joanne Baumgartner, CTIQ Clinical Trials Steering Committee
Ailsa Rayner, Collaborative Partnership - Employee Awareness Advisory Group

Consumer Representative Appointments

Jo Root, nominated to the NPS MedicineWise - National Medicines Symposium (NMS) 2020 - NMS Program Steering Committee.

Dianne Smith, nominated to the Australasian College for Infection Prevention and Control Ltd (ACIPC) - ACIPC 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 healthUPdate 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 opportunities webpage](#). If you have any questions about any of the opportunities please contact the contact person listed under each opportunity on our website or CHF's Consumer and Member Relationship Coordinator, Ghislaine Martin, at g.martin@chf.org.au.

FIND OUT MORE

Palliative Care Australia - Consumer Peer to Peer Mentoring Program

Expressions of interest are sought from experienced and skilled consumer advocates, who would like to share their knowledge of consumer leadership and pass on skills and insights as part of a 'Peer to Peer' mentoring program for consumers and carers. The program is being run by

Palliative Care Australia and CHF and initial appointments will be for 6 months.

Expressions of interest close 2 February 2020 (midnight AEDT).

[MORE INFORMATION](#)

Department of Health - Medical Research Future Fund (MRFF) Medicinal Cannabis Research Roundtable

A consumer representative is sought to take part in a roundtable to assist in shaping the overall design of a **Medical Research Future Fund** (MRFF) grant opportunity to examine the benefits of medicinal cannabis for pain, symptom and side effect management for cancer patients. The Department of Health will be hosting the stakeholder roundtable on 27 February 2020 in Canberra, ACT.

Expressions of interest close 2 February 2020 (midnight AEDT).

[MORE INFORMATION](#)

Australian vaccines study research advisory group

A consumer representative is sought to join the Advisory Group for the Australian Vaccines research project. The project aims to provide evidence on real-world use of the quality use of vaccines, specifically the extent of coverage in Australia for adult and adolescent vaccines recommended in the Australian Immunisation Handbook (both funded and unfunded). The work will initially run from March to September.

Expressions of interest close COB Friday 14 February 2020

[MORE INFORMATION](#)

Medicines Australia Code of Conduct Committee

The Medicines Australia Code of Conduct sets out standards of conduct for pharmaceutical companies engaging in the marketing of prescription medicine products. The Code of Conduct Committee considers a range of complaints and applies penalties and sanctions if the complaint is found to be substantiated. This opportunity is a three-year term involving monthly meetings.

Expressions of interest close COB Friday 14 February 2020

[MORE INFORMATION](#)

Medicines Australia Code of Conduct Monitoring Committee

The Medicines Australia Code of Conduct sets out standards of conduct for pharmaceutical companies engaging in the marketing of prescription medicine products. The Monitoring Committee monitors selected promotional activities of member companies, thereby supporting the quality use of medicines. This opportunity is a three year term involving monthly meetings.

Expressions of interest close COB Friday 14 February 2020

[MORE INFORMATION](#)

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.

Click below for more information on CHF membership.

[BECOME A MEMBER](#)

Other Consumer Representative Vacancies

This section is for consumer representative opportunities that CHF does do provide nominations for. Members can work directly with other stakeholders to nominate consumer representatives to committees that are of interest to them.

CHF checks that consumer participation is supported with coverage of travel costs and sitting fees, however CHF does not prescribe an amount for sitting fees as committee requirements vary.

SA Statewide Cancer Network Steering Committee

Expressions of Interest for membership on the South Australian Statewide Cancer Clinical Network Steering Committee are now open.

If you are passionate about improving care for patients and their carers and families, and have experience in Cancer settings, please apply. The Commission on Excellence and Innovation on Health are seeking two Consumers for this committee. More information, including how to apply, is available on the CEIH website.

Applications close on Friday 14 February 2020

[MORE INFORMATION](#)

Welcome to our new member!



Living with Osteoporosis

Managing your bone health

Osteoporosis Australia

Osteoporosis Australia is the national not-for-profit organisation responsible for providing osteoporosis information and services to the community and health professionals.

OA aims to improve awareness about the disease in the Australian community and reduce bone fractures.

[LEARN MORE](#)

Consumers Health Forum

7B/17 Napier Close,
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