

healthUPdate

28 February 2020

From the CEO

Thinking time for consumer health

Your membership feedback has made it clear that you expect CHF to be a “thought leader”. Thinking through health consumer needs and priorities is a routine challenge for us, given the demands for our advice and leadership — whether to do with primary health care, private insurance, digital health, national medicines policy, quality and safety or numerous other day-to-day health policy issues that arise.

CHF has never been busier, nor more engaged at a national level on so many demanding topics.

So earlier this month we paused to spend a day in retreat, taking stock of our present and future directions, to discuss where we should direct our efforts.

We were fortunate to have three health issue leaders to stimulate our thinking: Professor Tim Shaw, Director of Research and Workforce Capacity, Digital Health Cooperative Research Centre, Dr Karen Luxford, CEO of the Australian Council on Healthcare Standards and Dr Rob Grenfell, Health Director, Health & Biosecurity, CSIRO.

These panellists gave us much to think about concerning the future of Australia’s health and how CHF can lead consumers in taking a pivotal role in shaping a better health system.

Their views came from varying perspectives but tended to converge around the concept of health consumer leadership and influence. On domains as varied as climate change, digital health and the expansion of consumer-held diagnostic gadgetry, the message was for CHF to assert consumer influence and leadership.

“Health in a hostile environment” as Dr Grenfell described the impact of climate change, is a perspective that must involve consumers. And more generally, the changing dynamics in society where big corporations are challenging government influence will mean that the consumer voice must be stronger to ensure patient interests are not blurred by commercial interests. The outcome of the retreat discussion will be synthesised and published in the coming weeks.

Leanne Wells
Chief Executive Officer



Conferences and workshops

The image shows a promotional banner for the CHF Summit 2020. On the left, the CHF logo is displayed with the text 'Consumers Health Forum of Australia' and 'Consumers shaping health'. Below this, the text reads 'Consumers as leaders in healthcare'. On the right, the main event logo features four interlocking gears with icons: a person reading, a family, a heart with a cross, and a person on a bicycle. The text 'CHF | SUMMIT 2020' and 'Shifting Gears' is prominently displayed, with 'Sydney 2-3 Sept 2020' below it.

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

Registrations are now open for our **Summit 2020 - Shifting Gears** in Sydney this September.

Keynote speakers include: ABC TV's Ellen Fanning, Dr Kate Mulligan, Director, Policy and Communications for the Alliance for Healthier Communities in Toronto, and Vincent Dumez, Co-Director and patient partner at the Centre of Excellence on Partnering with Patients and the Public, University of Montreal - [read more](#)

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.

Submissions for abstracts are also **now open**. We invite you to propose topics relevant to contemporary issues *in health reform from a consumer perspective*. See more about [topics for submissions](#).

CHF SUMMIT 2020

News and resources

Health alert - coronavirus



The chance of coming into contact with coronavirus (Covid-2019) has increased with more cases reported outside China, and media outlets are awash with news and opinion pieces about the emerging new disease.

CHF reinforces the message from the Chief Medical Officer and the Department of Health that people should follow the most recent information posted daily on the Department's website and from the [World Health Organisation](#).

[DEPT OF HEALTH WEBSITE](#)

Why consumers must help remedy overdiagnosis

The risks and costs of overdiagnosis pose an important and complex issue for health consumers in Australia and many other countries. Jan Donovan attended the Preventing Overdiagnosis International Conference in Sydney last December, and writes about her experiences in a recent blogpost. Jan is a director on the board of the Consumer's Health Forum of Australia.



[READ MORE](#)

[All Media Releases and Blogposts](#)

National Strategic Action Plan for Rare Diseases

Australian academics first called for a national plan for rare diseases in 2010, and this week **Rare Voices Australia** were delighted to launch the first National Strategic Action Plan for Rare Diseases. Rare Voices Australia (RVA) has led the collaborative development of the Action Plan. After extensive consultation with stakeholders around the country, the Action Plan has been developed by the rare disease sector, for the rare disease sector.

[READ MORE](#)

Asthma and children: diagnosis and treatment



NPS MedicineWise has launched a new program on paediatric asthma which focuses on the diagnosis and treatment of the condition.

Recent discussions in the media about treatment options has highlighted the complexity of managing asthma.

Children are not "small adults" and diagnostic and treatment approaches need to be designed with their specific needs in mind.

The new educational program from NPS MedicineWise will provide an opportunity for health professionals to refresh basic principles for children of all ages.

NPS MedicineWise is an independent, not-for-profit and evidence-based organisation committed to improving the way health technologies, including medicines and medical tests, are prescribed and used.

[LEARN MORE](#)

Thinking of a cosmetic procedure or surgery?



Get informed and make a safer choice

A new education campaign '**be safe first**,' from the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (Ahpra) helps consumers keep informed about the risks associated with cosmetic procedures. The campaign includes resources to help consumers to know what kinds of questions to ask before going ahead with a cosmetic procedure. **Be safe first** encourages consumers to think seriously about who is undertaking the procedure, where it is performed, and the product being used before going through with any cosmetic procedure.

The 'be safe first' resources include a new 'cosmetic surgery and procedures' section on the Ahpra website with dedicated pages for specific audiences.

[FIND OUT MORE](#)



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

The Primary Health Network (PHN) After Hours Program provides funding to plan, co-ordinate and support after hours services.

The **PHN After Hours Program** is under evaluation by the Department of Health. CHF, representing consumers, has been invited to contribute. We are seeking consumer views and experiences of after hours care.

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](#)

Climate health WA Inquiry



Targeted workshops summary report

In March 2019, the State Government of WA announced a Chief Health Officer Inquiry to investigate the implications of climate change, including more frequent and intense weather events, on health.

The aim of the Inquiry is to review the current planning and response capacity of the health system in relation to the health impacts of climate change, and make recommendations for improvement with respect to climate change mitigation and public health adaptation strategies.

A series of targeted workshops were held to explore the impacts on health that vulnerable groups are facing because of climate change. The report was released at the end of January, and provides a summary of the feedback received.

The workshops were targeted to consult with the following groups:

- Aboriginal people
- Consumers of WA health system
- People on low incomes or experiencing homelessness
- People from culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) communities

To learn more and access the report, head to the Climate health WA Inquiry webpage or email: climatehealthwa@health.wa.gov.au

LEARN MORE

Consumer Representatives Program

Consumer Representative Appointments

Catherine Hughes, nominated to the NPS MedicineWise - Australian vaccines study research advisory group

Peter Martin, nominated as the main consumer representative on the Medicines Australia - Code of Conduct Committee

Tara Le Flohic, nominated as the alternate consumer representative on the Medicines Australia - Code of Conduct Committee

Paul Murdoch, nominated as the main consumer representative on the Medicines Australia - Code of Conduct Monitoring Committee

John Stubbs, nominated as the alternate consumer representative on the Medicines Australia - Code of Conduct Monitoring Committee

Jo Root, nominated to the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission - Consumer Consultative Committee

Consumer Representative Reports



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.

Alison Marcus, Opioid communication and education activities workshop

Dianne Smith, Australasian College for Infection Prevention and Control 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, 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.

[SEE ALL OUR CONSUMER REP VACANCIES](#)

Multipurpose Services Project Advisory Committee

The Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care (ACSQHC)

The Commission has established the the Multipurpose Services Project Advisory Project to improve safety and quality and accreditation processes in multipurpose services, including aged care.

This project will involve consultation with stakeholders to identify safety and quality issues and a preferred strategy to address the concern that some activities provided by multipurpose aged care services such as independence and recreational activities, fall outside the National Safety and Quality Health Service (NSQHS) Standards and the Residential Aged Care Accreditation Standards (the Accreditation Standards).

The Commission is seeking consumer representation on a Multipurpose Services Project Advisory Committee which will support this project.

The appointment will run from March 2020 to December 2021, and will consist of three teleconferences. The next teleconference is anticipated to take place on Monday 6 April 2020. Sitting fees will be paid by the Commission for this work.

Expressions of interest close Sunday 22 March 2020 (midnight AEDT).

[MORE INFORMATION](#)

General Practice Accreditation Coordinating Committee

The Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care (ACSQHC)

General practice accreditation is voluntary in Australia and is designed to support implementation of processes and systems to improve the quality of care for patients attending accredited general practices. The Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) develops the Standards for General Practices against which practices are assessed for accreditation.

The General Practice Accreditation Coordinating Committee provides oversight and input on issues relating to the implementation and assessment of the RACGP Standards for general practices as part of the National General Practice Accreditation Scheme. Applications are invited to be on this committee which involves two teleconferences up to December 2020. The work is likely to be ongoing.

Expressions of interest close 26 April 2020 (midnight AEDT).

[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 not 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.

Expert Working Group - Supporting Optimal GP Pathology Requesting

Department of Health

The Department of Health is seeking two consumer representatives to join a time limited expert working group.

Two representatives are sought for a consumer perspective to help better understand the context, drivers and patient implications of GP decision making around ordering pathology tests.

The Department of Health will cover travel costs and provide sitting fees for this work. Applications to join the Expert Working Group are invited.

Contact Cristy Henderson, Assistant Director, Behavioural Insights and Evaluation Section at the Department of Health on (02) 6289 8898 for questions. Email your application to behavioural@health.gov.au

Applications close on Friday 28 February 2020

MORE INFORMATION

Embedding Clinical Trials in Routine Care Reference Group

Australian Clinical Trials Alliance

The Australian Clinical Trials Alliance (ACTA), ACTA is currently working on a project to develop a simplified information sheet and consent form for comparative effectiveness research (CER) studies. The *Embedding Clinical Trials in Routine Care Reference Group* has been established to review background documents relating to a proposal to find a consent model for CER trials within the Australian context.

ACTA are inviting three consumer representatives to become members of the Reference Group. The work will consist of a one off, half-day workshop in Sydney on Thursday 19 March 2020.

ACTA will cover sitting fees at remuneration tribunal rate and travel costs for this important work.

Contact Nicola Straiton, Senior Project Officer at the Australian Clinical Trials Alliance, on 03 8639 0770 for questions.

Applications close on Sunday 8 March 2020

[MORE INFORMATION](#)

Dietetic Credentialing Council (DCC)

Dietitians Association of Australia (DAA)

The Dietetic Credentialing Council (DCC) is an independent Council responsible for the regulatory framework for the dietetic profession in Australia.

The Dietitians Association of Australia (DAA) is seeking a consumer representative to join the Council to assist in overseeing all aspects related to the maintenance and development of regulatory standards, codes and guidelines and their implementation. More information is available in the [Terms of Reference](#).

The appointment is for a two-year term, starting on 23 March 2020 and ending on 23 March 2022. The work will consist of six to eight teleconferences. The teleconferences are usually between one to two hour long. The next meeting is anticipated to take place on 23 March 2020.

DAA will pay sitting fees for this work and cover travel costs when necessary.

To apply, please email the following to Credentialing Manager at DAA, Ms Julia Schindlmayr at credentialing@daa.asn.au.

- a letter of endorsement verifying experience and links to a health consumer group
- A CV in pdf format
- responses to the selection criteria listed in the Terms of Reference under “External member- health consumer representative”

Please contact Julia Schindlmayr at the Dietitians Association of Australia on 02 6189 1210 should you have any queries.

Applications close on Friday 13 March 2020

[MORE INFORMATION](#)



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