

**Consumers' Health Forum
of Australia**

**Annual Report
2004–2005**

CONSUMER'S HEALTH FORUM OF AUSTRALIA

The Consumers' Health Forum of Australia Inc (CHF) is the national voice for health consumers. It helps shape Australia's health system by representing and involving consumers in health policy and program development.

CHF, established in 1987, is an independent member-based non-government organisation for health consumers. It receives funding from the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing, membership and specially-funded projects.

CHF is the only national organisation that can reach nearly 1 million Australians across a wide range of health interests and health system experiences. It provides government and policy makers with a consumer perspective on health issues and balances the view of health care professionals, service providers and industry.

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2004–2005*

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Consumers' Health Forum of Australia Strategic Plan 2005-09

Vision

Consumers shaping health in Australia

Mission

To provide a respected and informed consumer voice on national health issues

We Value

- ❖ A broad and encompassing view of health
- ❖ Diversity in people, cultures and contributions
- ❖ A fair and responsive health system which minimises inequalities
- ❖ Self-determination for health consumers
- ❖ Working in collaboration with health providers
- ❖ Safe, good quality health care
- ❖ Being a representative, responsive and accountable consumer organisation

Goals

1. Strengthen the recognition of CHF as a national leader for health consumers
2. Improve CHF's profile and communications with key stakeholders
3. Strengthen CHF's governance and management

Chairperson's Report

Once again this year has passed very quickly at the Consumers' Health Forum of Australia (CHF). This is due to not only the amount of continuing work, but also the work that has gone into developing plans and directions for the coming years.

The 2004 Annual General Meeting saw the launch of our new Strategic Plan which provides us with a blueprint and direction for the coming years. CHF has worked hard at developing an action plan to reinforce the *Strategic Plan 2005–09* as a vibrant, living document that guides us and delivers outcomes rather than becoming a document that sits on a shelf gathering dust until the next one is due.

I would like to touch on a few key areas of work for my report. (You will find more information on all of our activities in the body of the Annual Report.)

CHF has continued to work broadly through the Community Sector Support Scheme (CSSS) funding and also on a number of projects in our identified key areas. The CSSS is the way we interact broadly with the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing to provide input and comment on policy and programs.

The CHF Community Quality Use of Medicines Project helped establish the value of the overall strategy. It is pleasing that the CHF collaboration with the National Prescribing Service helped to contribute to the refunding of this important area. The CHF Project has provided us with a great opportunity to work with our networks and reach health consumers in all parts of the country, including rural and remote areas.

The Electronic Health Records Project has ensured that CHF has led the debate amongst our members in this area. We have challenged our members and others to think of new ways to deal with privacy and other issues. We have focussed on the need to balance individual needs with system needs, and, once again, we were able to take the debate to all states through our information sessions.

Many of our members, as well as CHF, have grappled with the issues relating to sponsorship and support

from commercial organisations, especially the medicines industry. The joint CHF and Medicines Australia Project that led to the development of *Working Together: A Guide to Relationships Between Health Consumer Organisations and Pharmaceutical Companies* shows what can be achieved when we work with other groups and organisations on matters of common interest and concern. The new Guide has been developed as a best practice, open, transparent and practical way for organisations to work together.

We have also worked in collaboration with other groups in a number of areas. Currently CHF is involved in an Access to Medicines Consortium with the Australian Council of Social Service, the Australian Medical Association, the Pharmacy Guild of Australia and Medicines Australia. The consortium is exploring the barriers to access to medicines in the community.

Highlights from the Consumer Representatives Program for 2004–05 include the successful workshop held in February 2005 for both new and experienced representatives. There was also strong interest and participation in the workshop with the Australian Medical Council followed by many expressions of interest in representing consumers in medical health workforce training and accreditation in response to the subsequent information paper. Debate and discussion at the February 2005 workshop led to the development of a continuous quality improvement process for the Consumer Representatives Program which we look forward to implementing in 2005–06. The Consumer Representatives Program is one of the most important ways that we have to ensure that consumers have an impact and influence on national health policy and practice. Without it there would be much less opportunity for consumers to be involved and to provide a balance to the views of health care professionals, service providers and industry.

In concluding my report, I wish to pay tribute to all those who have helped the organisation throughout the past year. Special thanks must go to the Governing Committee for their guidance and support, especially Vice Chairperson Russell McGowan for his support and as acting Chairperson when I have not been available.

I would also like to thank the Secretariat for their continued good work over the past year. They are charged with implementing policy and being at the front line of the organisation and CHF is lucky to have had such a hard working, high performing group of people at its disposal.

Finally I would like to pay tribute to our Executive Director, Helen Hopkins, who is at the centre of most things within the organisation. She is the conduit

from the Governing Committee to the staff and also the first point of contact for most new approaches and activities. Her dedication and hard work have been instrumental in CHF having another successful year.

It has been a pleasure to work with all involved with CHF over the past year and I look forward to the challenges that the coming year will bring.

MITCH MESSER
CHAIRPERSON

CHF Highlights 2004–05

With the introduction of the *Strategic Plan 2005–09*, the members of the Consumers' Health Forum of Australia (CHF) have committed to the shared vision of consumers shaping health in Australia. We seek to do this through providing a respected and informed consumer voice on national health issues.

CHF looks to its members to contribute to the health debate in whatever ways they are able. The CHF Secretariat seeks to inform and engage members in health programs and policy, draw members' contributions together, and test and share what we have to say as health consumers.

The three priority areas identified by the Governing Committee for 2005 to set the direction for the work of CHF are:

- safe and appropriate use of medicines
- safety and quality in health care, and
- living with chronic conditions.

During 2004–05, there have been many opportunities to meet with our members and for members to meet with each other through our project work. Other stakeholders sometimes say it must be hard to consolidate a view with such a wide range of members but, once again, this year the strength of the common views of health consumers has stood out. Where different views are held, health consumer networks value the opportunity to share the reasons behind their different perspectives and together we strengthen our contribution to the health debate. Opportunities for robust discussion through our project work also contribute substantially to other core activities such as submissions, presentations, through our key advocates on strategic national health committees, and our briefings and comments to the media.

CHF publications *HealthUpdate* and *The Australian Health Consumer*, and the website www.chf.org.au are used to communicate CHF activities regularly and to generate discussion on health care reform with our members and with health care providers to optimise health consumer outcomes.

Safe and appropriate use of medicines

The CHF Community Quality Use of Medicines Project, funded by the National Prescribing Service (NPS) as part of the Community Quality Use of Medicines (QUM) Program has been a key part of our activity in the medicines area. Project Officer Yvonne Solly has visited many communities around Australia, from Moree and Narrabri in New South Wales, Esperance and Bunbury in Western Australia, to Katherine and Darwin in the Northern Territory. Twenty community engagements in rural and regional areas have contributed enormously to the informed consumer voice CHF has provided in the development and implementation of the Community QUM Program nationally as a key partner with the NPS. People have told us what they like and do not like about the information materials provided, and about their access or not to some of the services to promote quality use of medicines, such as Medicines Line and Home Medicines Reviews and the continuing lack of awareness and availability of Consumer Medicines Information (CMI).

We hope that the CHF visits help to increase awareness of the various initiatives to help consumers with safe and appropriate use of medicines in communities around Australia. CHF thanks all who have participated for their contribution, which helped to improve the NPS Community QUM Program by advice on effective information dissemination through various consumer networks and on the content of the *Get to know your medicines* kit. These community engagements have also helped CHF to raise health policy issues such as the lack of information about generic medicines and limited availability in some rural areas at a national level.

Also during 2004–05, CHF has collaborated with Medicines Australia to develop *Working Together: A Guide to relationships between Health Consumer Organisations and Pharmaceutical Companies* to assist organisations when considering, or embarking on, potential collaborations. Representatives from health consumer organisations and pharmaceutical companies were consulted during the project.

Key advocates in the medicines priority area have included Mitch Messer on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee and Jo Watson on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Pricing Authority. These committees have provided an important opportunity for consumer input on the negotiation and implementation of the recommendations of the Australia–US Free Trade Agreement.

CHF has also continued to provide a consumer perspective through its consumer representatives program on a range of medicines committees. For example, Melanie Cantwell and Judith Skinner through the expert advisory group for the research project conducted by the Pharmacy Guild of Australia about consumer expectations of pharmacy, and Jan Donovan on the Medicines Evaluation Committee.

Key submissions have included the CHF response to the proposed new pricing and listing arrangements for generic medicines on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme and input to the Prescription Shopping Project.

One of the key presentations in the medicines area was by Mitch Messer CHF Chairperson to the *Australian Financial Review* Health Congress in February 2005.

Safety and quality in health care

During 2004–05, the Electronic Health Records Project funded by the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing has provided opportunities for CHF to consult with members about the benefits and risks that consumers see in a move to improved electronic communication in health. Policy Officer Amanda Bresnan has participated in information sessions with members in most states. Discussions at these sessions have confirmed earlier CHF findings that consumers see the potential for significant improvements in safety and quality in health care if the right information is available to health professionals and consumers when needed.

Consumers recognise that many safety issues arise because of poor communication between health care providers and consumers, between different health care providers, and between different parts of the health system. Electronic health records provide a tool to improve this communication, although consumers also want to ensure that their personal communications with health professionals are improved rather than compromised and that appropriate privacy protections are in place.

The Electronic Health Records Project has also helped CHF to provide strong advice on strategies for appropriate consumer input to development and implementation of HealthConnect, the proposed national health records scheme. Meeting reports from the Electronic Health Records Project have provided updates on discussion points at meetings with members.

Russell McGowan is a key advocate for consumer involvement in continuous quality improvement in health services through his participation on the Australian Council for Healthcare Standards. CHF has also benefited from the individual appointments of Helen Hopkins (CHF) and Marg Brown (Health Consumers of Rural and Remote Australia) to the Australian Health Information Council (AHIC).

Consumer representatives in this area have included Amy Zelmer, Melanie Cantwell and Susan Mitchell on AHIC working groups and Amy Zelmer, Sheila Rimmer, Jennifer Ball, Anne McKenzie and Maxine Drake on Safety and Quality Council Committees.

The key submission in this priority area was to the Review of Future Governance Arrangements for Safety and Quality in Health Care in November 2004.

The National Health Information Summit in December 2004 included consumer speakers in every session, including a plenary presentation by Helen Hopkins, CHF Executive Director, on 'Health Consumers Progressing National Priorities'. CHF was also pleased that the participating consumer representatives made a valuable contribution through raising a number of challenging questions for researchers and health professionals from the floor.

Living with chronic conditions

Much of CHF's work in the priority areas above is relevant and important for people living with chronic conditions. The 2004–05 CHF Consumer Representatives Training and Support Project was a strong enabler for informed consumer participation across a wide range of national health program and policy committees. A complete list of all consumer representative activities is included in this Annual Report.

The CHF Research Project, funded by the National Health and Medical Research Council in 2004, was an important step for people with chronic conditions. The development of a model Framework for Implementing

the CHF and National Health and Medical Research Council *Statement on Consumer and Community Participation in Health and Medical Research* has provided practical tools to help researchers and consumers work together to achieve research outcomes that meet the needs of health consumers. Earlier CHF work has demonstrated that consumers value all kinds of research including scientific discovery and health service and population research. It has also demonstrated that consumers can contribute to the research questions from their experience and they expect publication, dissemination and implementation of the research. CHF would like to thank the National Ageing Research Institute and the Queensland Institute of Medical Research for participating as pilot implementation sites for the Research Project.

Consumer representative Michele Kosky on the National Health and Medical Research Council has been a strong advocate for consumer participation in research.

Private health is an emerging key advocacy area. Stakeholder groups in private health are beginning to understand the interest CHF has in safe, good quality health choices including private health, as many members represent chronic illness groups, including older people, who are frequent users of the health system. Karen Carey-Hazell has made a strong contribution on the Policy Advisory Committee for reform of prostheses arrangements. A number of consumer representatives including Janney Wale and Rebecca Coghlan have participated in Clinical Advisory Groups for implementing the reform.

Many people, even those on low incomes, hold onto private health insurance to keep their access options

open for when they need it, or to choose the hospital that is closest to their family support. CHF has given input on the importance of good communications with all stakeholders to support people in making informed choices about private health insurance and about the full costs of private health care.

One of the key CHF submissions in this area was to the Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee Inquiry: National Health Amendment (Prostheses) Bill 2004.

An appropriately trained and well-resourced health workforce is also of key interest to health consumers with chronic conditions. This was demonstrated by the strong interest consumer representatives showed in a workshop CHF ran for the Australian Medical Council (AMC) and subsequent responses to the information paper on the AMC accreditation process of medical specialties and medical training. Key advocates include Christopher Newell on AMC.

CHF also developed a *Strategy for Encouraging Consumers and General Practitioners to Make Better Use of Electronic Medication Records in Chronic Disease Management* collaboratively with the General Practice Computing Group through a project that involved consumers and general practitioners in telephone interviews and a roundtable discussion.

Once again the Secretariat has had a very busy year and I would like to thank all of the staff for their energy and commitment, as well as our members and Governing Committee for their ongoing support.

HELEN HOPKINS
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

CHF Governance

The Consumers' Health Forum of Australia Incorporated (CHF) is an association incorporated under the *Associations Incorporation Act 1991* (ACT).

Governing Committee

The Governing Committee is responsible for all facets of the management of CHF and meets face-to-face three times a year. Voting members of CHF elect a Governing Committee every two years at an Annual General Meeting. The current Governing Committee was elected on 28 October 2004. The Constitution provides for a twelve-member Governing Committee, comprising:

- five members nominated by organisations that are constituted on a national basis, and
- seven members nominated by organisations that are not constituted on a national basis.

The Governing Committee, Executive Committee and Sub-committees voluntarily contributed the equivalent of 216 working days to CHF in undertaking its responsibilities during 2004–05.

Members of the Governing Committee

Mitch Messer – Chairperson (Health Consumers' Council of WA)

Russell McGowan – Vice Chairperson (Health Care Consumers' Association of the ACT)

Sheila Rimmer AM – Secretary (Carers Australia)

Susan Mitchell – Treasurer (Health Consumers of Rural and Remote Australia)

Margaret Charlton (South Australian Consumer Reps Network) from 5 May 2005

Sally Crossing AM (Cancer Voices NSW)

Frank Fisher (Health Issues Centre)

Roy Harvey (Australian Council of Social Services)

Kirsty Machon (National Association of People Living with HIV/AIDS)

Christopher Newell AM (Tasmanians with Disabilities)

Alexandra Rivers (Mental Health Co-ordinating Council)

Diane Walsh (Consumer Reference Group, Top End Division of General Practice)

Jenna Bateman (Mental Health Coordinating Council) to 28 October 2004

Sue Pluck (South Australian Consumer Reps Network) to 24 January 2005

Russell Raymond OAM (Federation of Ethnic Communities' Council of Australia) to 28 October 2004

Executive Committee

The Governing Committee elects an Executive Committee, comprising the CHF Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, Secretary, Treasurer and one other. The Executive is responsible for implementing the policy decisions of the Governing Committee, and for the management and finances of CHF. The Executive meets by teleconference between Governing Committee meetings.

During 2004–05, the Executive Committee comprised:

- Mitch Messer, Chairperson
- Russell McGowan, Vice Chairperson
- Susan Mitchell, Treasurer
- Sheila Rimmer AM, Secretary
- Diane Walsh (from 10 February 2005)
- Sally Crossing (to 28 October 2004)
- Sue Pluck (to 24 January 2005)

Sub-committees

As a membership organisation driven by the needs and views of its members, CHF establishes Sub-committees of the Governing Committee as well as project steering committees or reference groups to assist in developing its policies and responses and managing grants.

The following Sub-committees met during the year:

- Constitution Sub-committee
- Consumer Representatives Sub-committee
- Membership Sub-committee
- *The Australian Health Consumer* Editorial Sub-committee.

CHF Governing Committee

Mitch Messer (Chairperson)

Mitch Messer has been the CHF Chairperson since November 2003 and a member of the CHF Governing Committee since 1998. He was the Chairperson of the CHF Constitution Sub-committee in 2004–05.

He is Executive Director of Cystic Fibrosis Western Australia and the President of Cystic Fibrosis Worldwide and Cystic Fibrosis Australia. He has also been involved with health consumer issues through other organisations including the Health Consumers' Council of WA, where he has been a Board member and Chairperson. He is a founding member and current Treasurer of the Genetic Support Council of WA (Inc), which is the peak group representing the interests of those with genetic conditions in Western Australia.

Mitch has also been involved in many committees and working groups dealing with a range of issues – especially quality use of medicines, genetic services and lung transplants. He is currently the consumer member of the Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee and the CHF representative on the Australian Pharmaceutical Advisory Council.

Russell McGowan (Vice Chairperson)

Russell McGowan is President of the Health Care Consumers' Association of the ACT and a member of the ACT Health Council. He is a Board member of the National Blood Authority, the Australian Divisions of General Practice and the Australian Council on Healthcare Standards (where he is a trained consumer surveyor and Chair of its National Advisory Committee). He also sits as a consumer representative on the Australian Screening Advisory Committee.

He was diagnosed with myelofibrosis in 1992 and underwent a bone marrow transplant. Russell now suffers the consequences of his treatment, a condition called chronic Graft versus Host Disease (cGVHD). Coming into contact with the health consumer movement through an oncology services consumer group, he has worked with other cancer survivors over the past decade in helping to form a national consumer alliance of cancer advocacy and support groups.

He has undertaken postgraduate studies in Aboriginal education and public administration. His employment includes fieldwork, teaching and policy development, mainly in community and indigenous employment, education and training programs.

Susan Mitchell (Treasurer)

Susan Mitchell has had a long and productive association with consumer representation with state-based and national organisations. This experience has developed her knowledge and understanding of consumer representation and activism.

Susan's goal is to achieve equality of access to health services by people in metropolitan, rural and remote areas, which involves working with all sorts of people to achieve positive outcomes. Her work is often made more complex by the fact that she does not live in a major city or regional centre.

She is a past co-Chair of the Rural Women's Network and recently retired from the Executive Council of the NSW Farmers Association after 10 years. Susan is the Health Consumers of Rural and Remote Australia representative on the National Council for Women.

Sheila Rimmer AM (Secretary)

Sheila Rimmer is co-Chair of the COTA National Seniors NSW Policy Council and a member of the National Policy Council. She was a former National President of COTA Australia (now known as COTA National Seniors) and former President of Council on the Ageing (NSW).

Sheila was educated at the London School of Economics at London University and at Columbia University, New York. She moved to Australia in 1964 and worked as a tutor at the University of Tasmania and as a political commentator on television. In 1969 she moved to Sydney and was a full-time academic.

In 'retirement', she is a member of the NSW Greater Metropolitan Consumers Task Force, Chair of the NSW Home and Community Care State Advisory Committee, and a member of the Commission for Complaints in Aged Care. Nationally she is a member of the National Prescribing Service Community Quality Use of Medicines Program Working Group, the Australian Women's Coalition, the National Accreditation of Nursing Homes Committee, and the Medical Services Advisory Committee.

Diane Walsh (Executive Committee)

Diane Walsh is Chairperson of the CHF Consumer Representatives Sub-committee. She was recently nominated by CHF to the National Prescribing Service Community Quality Use of Medicines Working Group and the Health Insurance Commission Consumer Communications Group.

Diane chairs the Consumer Reference Group (CRG) of the Top End Division of General Practice and has been a member since its inception seven years ago. In the Northern Territory she holds positions as the public member of the Medical and Dental Boards of the Northern Territory, community member of the NT Health Advisory Council, and consumer member of the Board of the Top End Division of General Practice.

Diane works as a part-time primary teacher and runs a small market business. She began her consumer involvement through her employment as a childbirth educator, and membership of the Childbirth Education Association and the Darwin Homebirth Group. She is particularly interested in workforce standards, training and supervision, rural and remote access, and women's and children's health.

Margaret Charlton

Margaret Charlton is a member of the Steering Committee of the South Australian Consumer Reps Network and was elected to the Management Committee of the Health Consumers Alliance of South Australia in November 2004.

She has been on the Board of the Epilepsy Association of South Australia and the Northern Territory since its inception in 1976 and has lobbied strongly for a less discriminatory approach to people with epilepsy by employers and other organisations.

Margaret was also involved in consumer issues through the Health and Social Welfare Council, and while completing an education degree she majored in health studies at Flinders University.

Margaret has always had a strong interest in safety and quality issues, particularly the prevention of adverse events and incidents, pharmacy standards and consumer education. She works with adult migrants and refugees as the educator of a community program and has taught indigenous young people for a number of years.

Sally Crossing AM

Sally Crossing is the Chairperson of the CHF Membership Sub-committee. She is an economist, and after a career in banking and government she works full time on a voluntary basis to represent health care consumers, particularly those who have experienced cancer.

She founded the Breast Cancer Action Group NSW in 1997 after she was diagnosed and treated for breast cancer in 1995, aged 49. In June 2005, she was appointed a Member of the Order of Australia (AM) for services to the community through health care consumer advocacy and the establishment of the Breast Cancer Action Group NSW and Cancer Voices NSW.

Sally is co-Chair of Cancer Voices NSW, a coalition of more than ninety cancer consumer groups which acts on behalf of the 30 000 people diagnosed with cancer in NSW each year. She sits on The Cancer Council New South Wales, the NSW Health Participation Council, and various state and national committees. The NSW Minister for Fair Trading presented her with the inaugural Consumer Advocate Award in December 2001 for her work for women with breast cancer.

Frank Fisher

Frank Fisher has had a serious chronic illness for the past forty years and is an active lobbyist for people with chronic illnesses. He is a past Committee of Management member of the Health Issues Centre. Frank has been a member of the Board of the Continence Foundation of Australia and other health-related organisations. He is also a member of various Victorian community groups. Until recently he was on the Advisory Committee of the National Resource Centre for Consumer Participation in Health.

Nationally, Frank is currently the consumer representative on the Therapeutic Goods Administration Medical Devices Evaluation Committee and the National Health and Medical Research Council Expert Advisory Group on Antimicrobial Resistance.

He is an Associate Professor and until 2005 was Director of the Graduate School of Environmental Science, Monash University. In addition to his work as an environmental scientist he now also teaches in the Health Knowledge and Society course in Monash University's new MB BS degree and initiated that degree's new Environment and Medicine elective.

Roy Harvey

Roy Harvey has been engaged in health service research, development of health statistics and policy, and the management of research and statistics groups for over thirty years. He has lead health sector reform projects in Eastern Europe, South East Asia and China for the World Bank and AusAID, and developed and presented training programs for the World Bank.

Since 2002, he has been the ACOSS health policy adviser, representing ACOSS on the Australian Pharmaceutical Advisory Committee and the 2004 Senate Committee on Health Insurance, and has prepared ACOSS policy papers on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme.

Roy has worked closely with consumer groups since the late 1980s, especially CHF and COTA Australia mainly on issues related to polypharmacy and privacy. His main interests are equity of access to health and aged care services, improving continuity of care, and health and long-term unemployment.

Kirsty Machon

Kirsty Machon is the HIV Health Policy analyst at the National Association of People Living with HIV/AIDS (NAPWA). She is responsible for coordinating and developing policies and submissions for HIV/AIDS treatments information and advocacy, health service delivery, treatments access, conduct of research in humans, and community participation in clinical research design and the Australia-US Free Trade Agreement.

She is also a journalist, and former editor of *Positive Living* and the *HIV Herald* – two national publications about HIV and its treatment for HIV positive people and community-based HIV health professionals. She has an interest in biomedical ethics.

Her work has included clinical trial design and development, and she represents NAPWA on a number of groups, including the Immune-Based Therapies Working Group of the National Centre in HIV Epidemiology and Clinical Research, and the Advisory Board of the Australian Centre for HIV and Hepatitis Virology Research.

Christopher Newell AM

Christopher Newell is the Chairperson of *The Australian Health Consumer* Editorial Sub-committee.

For a number of years he has been nominated to the CHF Governing Committee by Tasmanians with Disabilities, a trans-diagnostic organisation that focuses on advocacy, policy development and self-help for, and on behalf of, people with all types of disability. Both Tasmanians with Disabilities and Christopher have a broad interest in the work of CHF and issues for all consumers. Consumer rights, ethics, and consumer research are several particular interest areas, as is general practice reform, and pursuing areas where personal experience as a consumer facilitates effective advocacy for consumer rights. People with a disability are a significant social grouping disadvantaged in today's society.

Christopher has been a consumer representative for many years for Tasmanians with Disabilities and other consumer bodies on a number of national and state forums in many fields including telecommunications, rights, advocacy, ethics, education and health.

Alexandra Rivers

Alexandra Rivers is a carer and family member of people with chronic illness and health problems. She is a Board member of the Mental Health Co-ordinating Council of NSW. She is also Vice President of the Schizophrenia Fellowship of NSW and the NSW Aboriginal Education Council, a Board member of the Neuroscience Institute for Schizophrenia and Allied Disorders (NSW), and a member of NSW Centre for Mental Health Carer Support Working Parties.

A teacher and a registered psychologist, she retired recently from an academic position. She is currently a member of the Guardianship Tribunal of NSW, and acts as a Guardian Ad Litem for the Children's Court of NSW, and for the Administrative Decisions Tribunal of NSW.

CHF Staff

The Executive Director, Helen Hopkins, is the senior employee of CHF and has responsibility for the CHF Secretariat staff, day-to-day finance and administration, and other delegations and powers given by the Governing Committee.

Melanie Cantwell, Director Policy and Projects

Jan Finley, Special Services Advisor

Prue Borrman, Consumer Representatives Program Manager

Amanda Bresnan, Policy Officer

Janet Cameron, Office Manager

Colleen Sheen, Communications Manager

Yvonne Solly, Community Quality Use of Medicines Project Officer

Emma Awizen, Web Communication Officer (on leave from December 2004)

Milly Betteridge, Policy Officer (to October 2004 then casual work)

Melanie Rogers, Knowledge Management Officer (casual work)

Nadine Firestone, Project Support Officer (to December 2004)

Beth Micklethwaite, Research Project Officer (to December 2004)

Cathy Savage, Office Coordinator (to January 2005)

**Financial Report for
the Year Ended
30 June 2005**

CONSUMERS' HEALTH FORUM OF AUSTRALIA INCORPORATED
ABN 59 369 286 137

COMMITTEE MEMBER'S REPORT

Your committee members present their report on the company for the financial year ended 30 June 2005.

Committee Members

The names of the committee members in office at any time during or since the end of the financial year are:

Mitchell Messer – Chairperson (Appointed 15 November 2002)
Russell McGowan – Vice Chairperson (Appointed 15 November 2002)
Susan Mitchell – Treasurer (Appointed 15 November 2002)
Sheila Rimmer – Secretary (Appointed 15 November 2002)
Jenna Bateman (Resigned 28 October 2004)
Sally Crossing (Appointed 15 November 2002)
Frank Fisher (Appointed 15 November 2002)
Sue Pluck (Resigned 25 January 2005)
Christopher Newell (Appointed 15 November 2002)
Russell Raymond (Resigned 28 October 2004)
Diane Walsh (Appointed 15 November 2002)
Roy Harvey (Appointed 22 April 2004)
Alexandra Rivers (Appointed 28 October 2004)
Kirstin Machon (Appointed 28 October 2004)
Margaret Charlton (Appointed 5 May 2005)

Operating Results

The loss of the association for the financial year was \$26,953 (2004: \$28,409 loss).

Significant Changes in State of Affairs

No significant changes in the state of affairs occurred during the financial year.

Principal Activity

The principal activity of the association during the financial year was to contribute to the development of equitable health services.

No significant change in the nature of these activities occurred during the year.

After Balance Date Events

No matters or circumstances have arisen since the end of the financial year which significantly affected or may significantly affect the operations of the association, the results of those operations, or the state of affairs of the association in future financial years.

Signed in accordance with a resolution of the committee:



Mitchell Messer - Chairperson



Susan Mitchell - Treasurer

Dated: 22/9/05

CONSUMERS' HEALTH FORUM OF AUSTRALIA INCORPORATED
ABN 59 369 286 137

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2005

	Notes	2005 \$	2004 \$
Revenue from all activities	3	970,127	859,313
Administration costs		(216,825)	(272,994)
Program costs		(780,255)	(614,728)
Net surplus/(deficit) from all activities		(26,953)	(28,409)
Total changes in equity		(26,953)	(28,409)

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

CONSUMERS' HEALTH FORUM OF AUSTRALIA INCORPORATED
ABN 59 369 286 137
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
AS AT 30 JUNE 2005

	Notes	2005 \$	2004 \$
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash assets	6	13,604	96,903
Receivables	7	79,972	96,565
Other	9	8,221	3,192
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS		101,797	196,660
NON-CURRENT ASSETS			
Other financial assets	8	16,145	16,145
Property, plant and equipment	10	85,194	104,276
TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS		101,339	120,421
TOTAL ASSETS		203,136	317,081
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Payables	11	32,373	19,456
Interest bearing liabilities	12	17,642	15,688
Provisions	13	34,608	21,805
Other	14	32,441	121,772
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES		117,064	178,721
NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Interest bearing liabilities	12	9,865	27,507
Provisions	13	4,409	7,000
Other	14	5,525	10,627
TOTAL NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES		19,799	45,134
TOTAL LIABILITIES		136,863	223,855
NET ASSETS		66,273	93,226
EQUITY			
Retained surplus	16	66,273	93,226
TOTAL EQUITY		66,273	93,226

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

CONSUMERS' HEALTH FORUM OF AUSTRALIA INCORPORATED
ABN 59 369 286 137
STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2005

	Notes	2005 \$	2004 \$
CASH FLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES			
Receipts government, members and other parties	3	1,086,064	1,140,650
Interest received		4,448	6,085
Payments to suppliers and employees		(1,144,882)	(1,101,619)
Borrowing costs		(7,958)	(5,052)
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities	19	(62,378)	40,064
CASH FLOW FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES			
Payments for property, plant and equipment		(5,233)	(66,778)
Proceeds from sale of property, plant and equipment		-	136
Net cash provided by/(used) investing activities		(5,233)	(66,642)
CASH FLOW FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES			
Repayment of finance lease principal		(15,688)	(12,243)
Net cash provided by/(used in) financing activities		(15,688)	(12,243)
Net increase/(decrease) in cash held		(83,299)	(38,821)
Cash at beginning of financial year		96,903	135,724
Cash at end of financial year	6	13,604	96,903

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

CONSUMERS' HEALTH FORUM OF AUSTRALIA INCORPORATED
ABN 59 369 286 137

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2005

NOTE 1: STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The financial report is a general purpose financial report that has been prepared in accordance with Accounting Standards, Urgent Issues Group Consensus Views and other authoritative pronouncements of the Australian Accounting Standards Board and the requirements of the Associations Incorporations Act 1991 of the Australian Capital Territory.

The financial report covers the Consumers' Health Forum of Australia Incorporated as an individual entity. The Consumers' Health Forum of Australia Incorporated is an Association established under the Associations Incorporations Act 1991 of the Australian Capital Territory.

The financial report has been prepared on an accruals basis and is based on historical costs. It does not take into account changing money values or, except where stated, current valuations of non current assets. Cost is based on the fair values of the consideration given in exchange for assets.

The following is a summary of significant accounting policies adopted by the Association in the preparation of the financial report. The accounting policies have been consistently applied, unless otherwise stated.

(a) Income tax

The Association is exempt from income tax under Subdivision 50-B of the Income Tax Assessment Act 1997.

(b) Property, plant and equipment

Plant and equipment

Plant and equipment is valued at cost or fair value less, where applicable, any accumulated depreciation. The carrying amount of plant and equipment is reviewed annually by management to ensure it is not in excess of the recoverable amount from these assets.

Depreciation

Plant and equipment is measured on the cost basis.

The depreciable amount of all fixed assets is depreciated over their useful lives to the Association commencing from the time the asset is held ready for use.

The depreciation rates for each category of property, plant and equipment are:

Class of asset	Depreciation rates	Depreciation basis
Equipment	10%-33.34%	Straight Line
	10%-33.34%	Diminishing Value
Leasehold improvements	10%	Diminishing Value
Lease assets	20%-33.34%	Straight Line

(c) Leasehold assets

Finance leases

Leases of fixed assets where substantially all the risks and benefits incidental to the ownership of the asset, but not the legal ownership, are transferred to the Association are classified as finance leases. Finance lease are capitalised, recording a liability equal to the present value of the minimum lease payments, including any guaranteed residual values. Finance lease assets are depreciated on a straight-line basis over the estimated useful life of the asset. Finance lease payments are allocated between interest expense and reduction of lease liability over the term of the lease. The interest rate is determined by applying the interest rate implicit in the lease to the outstanding lease liability at the beginning of each lease payment period.

CONSUMERS' HEALTH FORUM OF AUSTRALIA INCORPORATED

ABN 59 369 286 137

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2005

NOTE 1: STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

(c) Leased assets (continued)

Operating Leases

Lease payments for operating leases, where substantially all the risks and benefits remain with the lessor, are recognised as an expense in the period in which they are incurred.

Lease incentives

Lease incentives under operating leases are recognised as a lease incentive liability (other current liabilities) when provided. Lease payments made over the remainder of the lease term reduce the liability to the extent that they are in excess of the average monthly rentals.

(d) Employee benefits

Provision is made for the Association's liability for employee benefits arising from services rendered by employees to balance date. Employee benefits expected to be settled within one year together with entitlements arising from salaries and annual leave that will be settled after one year, have been measured at their nominal amount at the remuneration rates expected to apply at the time of settlement. Other employee benefits payable later than one year have been measured using a shorthand method that reliably estimates the present value of the estimated future cash flows to be made for those benefits. Contributions made to employee superannuation funds by the Association are charges as expenses when incurred.

(e) Cash

For the purposes of the Statement of Cash Flows, cash includes cash on hand and in banks, in deposits at call and investments in money market instruments convertible to cash, net of outstanding bank overdrafts.

(f) Revenue

Grants

Grants are recognised as revenue to the extent that the monies have been applied in accordance with that conditions of the grant. Grant funds received prior to year-end but unexpended as at that date are recognised as unexpended grants (other current liabilities).

Membership fees and journal subscriptions

Revenue from membership fees and journal subscriptions are recognised progressively over the period to which the membership or subscription relates. Both membership fees and journal subscriptions are levied on a financial year basis. The portion of membership fees and journal subscriptions received that relates to the following financial year is brought to account at balance date as revenue received in advance (other current liability).

Other revenue

All other revenue is recognised upon the delivery of the goods or services to the customer.

(g) Goods and Services Tax (GST)

Revenues, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of GST, except where the amount of GST is not recoverable from the Australian Taxation Office. In these circumstances the GST is recognised as part of the cost of acquisition of the asset or as part of an item of expense. Receivables and payables in the Statement of Financial Position are shown inclusive of GST.

(h) Comparative information

The classification of comparative figures has been changed where the change improves the understandability of the financial information.

CONSUMERS' HEALTH FORUM OF AUSTRALIA INCORPORATED

ABN 59 369 286 137

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2005

Note 2: Adoption of Australian Equivalents to International Financial Reporting Standards

The association is preparing and managing the transition to Australian Equivalents of International Financial Reporting Standards (AIFRS) effective for financial years commencing from 1 January 2005. The adoption of AIFRS will be reflected in the associations financial statements for the year ending 30 June 2006. On first time adoption of AIFRS, comparatives for the financial year ended 30 June 2005 are required to be restated.

The association's management, along with its auditors, have assessed that the application of AIFRS will not have a material impact on the association.

	2005	2004
	\$	\$
Note 3: Revenue		
Operating activities:		
- Grant revenue	919,202	805,680
- Membership fees	27,885	25,812
- Publications and journal subscriptions	13,027	17,880
- Other	5,565	3,720
	<u>965,679</u>	<u>853,092</u>
Non-operating activities:		
- Interest	4,448	6,085
- Proceeds and disposal of equipment	-	136
	<u>4,448</u>	<u>6,221</u>
Total revenue	<u>970,127</u>	<u>859,313</u>

Note 4: Surplus/(Deficit) From Ordinary Activities

Net surplus/(deficit) from ordinary activities has been determined after:

(a) Expenses:

Depreciation of non-current assets

- Plant and equipment	6,797	7,204
- Leasehold improvements	4,756	4,500
- Leasehold assets	12,762	10,800
	<u>24,315</u>	<u>22,504</u>

Borrowing costs

- Lease finance charges	7,643	5,052
-------------------------	-------	-------

Rental expense on operating leases:

- Premises	68,336	61,433
- Plant and equipment	-	4,754
Total	<u>75,979</u>	<u>66,187</u>

CONSUMERS' HEALTH FORUM OF AUSTRALIA INCORPORATED

ABN 59 369 286 137

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2005

	2005 \$	2004 \$
Note 5: Auditors' Remuneration		
Remuneration received by the auditor during the financial year for:		
- Auditing or reviewing the financial report	5,995	2,500
- Other services	-	1,200
	<u>5,995</u>	<u>3,700</u>
Note 6: Cash Assets		
Cash on hand	100	100
Cash at bank	13,504	96,803
	<u>13,604</u>	<u>96,903</u>
Note 7: Receivables		
CURRENT		
Trade Debtors	79,972	96,565
Note 8: Other Financial Assets		
NON CURRENT		
Bond on leased office premises	16,145	16,145
<p>(i) Relates to a bank guarantee held with the St George Bank Limited, in favour of The Institution of Engineers, Australia, the lessor of Unit 10, Level 2, Engineering House, 11 National Circuit Barton ACT. The amount represents three months rent, and is refundable to the Association on expiration of the current lease, subject to satisfactory vacation of the leased premises.</p>		
Note 9: Other Assets		
CURRENT		
Prepayments	8,221	3,192
Note 10: Property, plant and equipment		
Office equipment – at cost	38,288	33,055
Accumulated depreciation	(22,353)	(15,556)
	<u>15,935</u>	<u>17,499</u>
Leasehold improvements – at cost	52,057	52,057
Accumulated depreciation	(9,255)	(4,500)
	<u>42,802</u>	<u>47,557</u>
Leased assets – office furniture and equipment – at cost	52,375	52,375
Accumulated depreciation	(25,918)	(13,155)
	<u>26,457</u>	<u>39,220</u>
Total property, plant and equipment	<u>85,194</u>	<u>104,276</u>

CONSUMERS' HEALTH FORUM OF AUSTRALIA INCORPORATED

ABN 59 369 286 137

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2005

	2005	2004
	\$	\$
Note 10: Property, plant and equipment (continued)		
(a) Movements in Carrying Amounts		
movement in the carrying amounts of each class of property, plant and equipment between the beginning and the end of the current financial year.		
2005	Plant & equipment	Leasehold improvements
	\$	\$
Opening balance	17,499	47,557
Leased assets recognised	5,233	-
Depreciation expense	(6,797)	(4,755)
Carrying amount at end of year	<u>15,935</u>	<u>42,802</u>
	<u>\$</u>	<u>\$</u>
	<u>39,220</u>	<u>26,457</u>
	<u>85,194</u>	<u>85,194</u>
	<u>\$</u>	<u>\$</u>
Note 11: Payables		
CURRENT		
<i>Unsecured liabilities</i>		
Creditors and accrued expenses	<u>32,373</u>	19,456
Note 12: Interest bearing liabilities		
CURRENT		
Lease liability	<u>17,642</u>	15,688
NON CURRENT		
Lease liabilities	<u>9,865</u>	27,507
Total interest bearing liabilities	<u>27,507</u>	43,195
Note 13: Provisions		
CURRENT		
Annual Leave	22,705	21,805
Long service leave	11,903	-
	<u>34,608</u>	21,805
NON CURRENT		
Long service leave	<u>4,409</u>	7,000
Total provisions	<u>39,017</u>	28,805
Note 14: Other liabilities		
CURRENT		
Unexpended grants	12,795	94,244
Revenue received in advance	14,545	22,427
Lease incentive	5,101	5,101
	<u>32,441</u>	121,772

CONSUMERS' HEALTH FORUM OF AUSTRALIA INCORPORATED

ABN 59 369 286 137

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2005

	2005	2004
	\$	\$
Note 14: Other liabilities (continued)		
NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Lease incentive	5,525	10,627
Total other liabilities	<u>37,966</u>	<u>132,399</u>

Note 15: Retained Surplus

Retained surplus at the beginning of the financial year	93,226	121,635
Net surplus/(deficit)	<u>(26,953)</u>	<u>(28,409)</u>
Retained surplus at the end of the financial year	<u>66,273</u>	<u>93,226</u>

Note 16: Leasing Commitments

(a) *Finance leases*

Finance leases commitments payable:

- not later than 1 year	17,642	19,844
- later than 1 year, but not later than 5 years	9,865	30,164
Minimum lease payments	<u>27,507</u>	<u>50,008</u>
Less future finance charges	<u>(2,455)</u>	<u>(6,813)</u>
Total lease liability	<u>25,052</u>	<u>43,195</u>

General description of leasing arrangements:

Finance leases relate to office furniture lease expiring in September 2006 (3 year lease with a \$2,077 residual payable on expiration), computer hardware lease expiring in July 2006 (3 year lease, zero residual) and a photocopier lease expiring September 2007 (5 year lease, zero residual).

(b) *Operating leases*

Operating leases commitments payable:

- not later than 1 year	57,460	70,855
- later than 1 year, not greater than 5 years	153,227	148,549
Minimum lease payments	<u>210,687</u>	<u>219,404</u>

General description of leasing arrangements

Operating leases relate to a telephone system lease expiring August 2005 and office premises lease at Unit 10, Level 2, Engineering House, 11 National Circuit Barton ACT. The office premises lease expires July 2007 with an option to renew for a further 3 years, and has a fixed 4% annual increase in rental payments which has been included in the amounts disclosed above.

CONSUMERS' HEALTH FORUM OF AUSTRALIA INCORPORATED

ABN 59 369 286 137

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2005

Note 17: Related Parties

The names of the committee members who have held office during the financial year are:

Mitchell Messer
Russell McGowan
Susan Mitchell
Sheila Rimmer
Jenna Bateman
Sally Crossing
Frank Fisher
Christopher Newell
Sue Pluck
Russell Raymond
Diane Walsh
Roy Harvey
Alexandra Rivers
Kirstin Machon
Margaret Charlton

Other than the Chair, no committee members received any remuneration for the Association or any related entities in connection with the management of the Association. At the direction of the Chair, the Chair's honorarium for the financial year of \$10,000 has been remitted to his employer as recompense for time taken off in fulfilling his role as Chair of the Association.

Note 18: Association Details

(a) Association details

The association is incorporated under the Associations Incorporation Act 1991 of the Australian Capital Territory.

(b) Locations

The registered office and principal place of business of the Association is:
Unit 10, Level 2, Engineering House
11 National Circuit, Barton ACT

(c) Activities

The Association provides information, representation and advocacy on national health issues for its membership of health consumer organisations.

CONSUMERS' HEALTH FORUM OF AUSTRALIA INCORPORATED
ABN 59 369 286 137

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2005

	2005	2004
	\$	\$
<hr/>		
Note 19: Cash Flow Information		
(a) Reconciliation of net cash flows from operating activities to net surplus/(deficit)		
Net surplus/(deficit) from ordinary activities	(26,953)	(28,409)
Non-cash flows in surplus/(deficit) from ordinary activities		
- Depreciation	24,315	22,504
- Gain on disposal of plant and equipment	-	(136)
Changes in assets and liabilities		
- Receivables	16,593	(23,001)
- Other financial assets	-	(9,480)
- Other assets	(5,029)	14,506
- Payables	12,917	2,082
- Provisions	10,212	15,978
- Other liabilities (including lease incentives)	(94,433)	46,020
Net cash relating to operating activities	<u>(62,378)</u>	<u>40,064</u>

Note 20: Financial Instruments

(a) Interest rate risk

Interest rate risk that the value of a financial asset or liability will change subject to interest rate risk are as follows:

- Variable rate cash deposits totalling \$17,612 at the average rate of 4.25% (2004 \$96,803)
- Fixed interest bearing liabilities (finance leases) totalling \$25,052 at the average rate of 11.5% (2004 \$43,194)

(b) Credit risk

The maximum exposure to credit risk at balance date to recognised financial assets is the carrying amount as disclosed in the statement of financial position and notes to the financial statements. With the exception of cash deposits with St George Bank and grants receivable from the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing the Association does not have any material credit risk exposure to any single debtor or group of debtors.

(c) Net fair values

The net fair values of financial assets and liabilities approximate the values shown in the statement of financial position and the notes thereto.

CONSUMER'S HEALTH FORUM OF AUSTRALIA INCORPORATED

**STATEMENT BY COMMITTEE MEMBERS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2005**

In the opinion of the Committee:

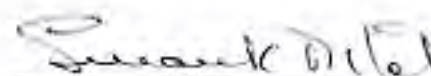
- (i) the accompanying Statement of Financial Performance is drawn up so as to give a true and results of the Association for the year ended 30 June 2005,
- (ii) the accompanying Statement of Financial Position is drawn up so as to give a true and fair vi affairs of the Association as at 30 June 2005.
- (iii) at the date of this statement there are reasonable grounds to believe that the Association will debts as and when they fall due.

The financial statements have been made out in accordance with the Australian Accounting Stan mandatory professional reporting requirements. The financial statements were prepared based on records as maintained and kept at the office of the Consumers' Health Forum of Australia Incorporated.

This statement is made and signed at Canberra in accordance with a resolution of the Committee.



Mitchell Messer - Chairperson



Susan Mitchell - Treasurer

Dated: 22/9/05

Di Bartolo Diamond & Mihailaros

An Australian Capital Territory Partnership



**Chartered Accountants
and Business Advisers**

Level 7, 28 University Ave
GPO Box 588
Canberra City, ACT 2601

Tel (02) 6257 7500
Fax (02) 6257 7599
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www.pkf.com.au

INDEPENDENT AUDIT REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF CONSUMERS' HEALTH FORUM OF AUSTRALIA INCORPORATED

SCOPE

The financial report and committee's responsibility

The financial report comprises the statement of financial position, statement of financial performance, statement of cash flows, accompanying notes to the financial statements and the committee's declaration for Consumers' Health Forum of Australia Incorporated, for the year ended 30 June 2005.

The association is responsible for the preparation and true and fair presentation of the financial report, in accordance with its Constitution. This includes responsibility for the maintenance of adequate accounting records and internal controls that are designed to prevent and detect fraud and error, and for the accounting policies and accounting estimates inherent in the financial report.

Audit Approach

We conducted an independent audit in order to express an opinion to the members of the association. Our audit was conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards, in order to provide reasonable assurance as to whether the financial report is free of material misstatement. The nature of an audit is influenced by factors such as the use of professional judgement, selective testing, the inherent limitations of internal control, and the availability of persuasive rather than conclusive evidence. Therefore, an audit cannot guarantee that all material misstatements have been detected.

We performed procedures to assess whether in all material respects the financial report presents fairly, in accordance with the Accounting Standards in Australia, and other mandatory financial reporting requirements in Australia, a view which is consistent with our understanding of the associations financial position, and of their performance as represented by the results of its operations and cash flows.

We formed our audit opinion on the basis of these procedures, which included:

- examining, on a test basis, information to provide evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial report, and
- assessing the appropriateness of the accounting policies and disclosures used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by the directors.

While we considered the effectiveness of management's internal controls over financial reporting when determining the nature and extent of our procedures, our audit was not designed to provide assurance on internal controls.

Independence

In conducting our audit, we followed applicable independence requirements of Australian professional ethical pronouncements.

Liability is limited by the Accountants
Scheme, approved under the Professional
Standards Act 1994 (NSW)

A Member ¹⁶ of
PKF International

PARTNERS:
Rosa Di Bartolo B.A (Accounting), FCA
George Diamond B.Ec, FCA
John Mihailaros B.Comm (Accounting), CA

AUDIT OPINION

In our opinion, the financial report of Consumers' Health Forum of Australia Incorporated is in accordance with:

- (a) the *Incorporations Association (ACT) Act 1991*, including:
 - (i) giving a true and fair view of the association financial position as at 30 June 2005 and of for the year ended on that date; and
 - (ii) complying with Accounting Standards in Australia
- (b) other mandatory financial reporting requirements in Australia.

PKF Di Bartolo Diamond & Mihailaros



Ross Di Bartolo

Partner

Date: 26.9.2005.

Canberra
GPO Box 588
CANBERRA ACT 2601

Di Bartolo Diamond & Mihailaros

An Australian Capital Territory Partnership



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and Business Advisers

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DISCLAIMER OF ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONSUMERS' HEALTH FORUM OF AUSTRALIA INCORPORATED

The additional financial data presented is in accordance with the books and records of the association, which have been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in our statutory audit of the association for the financial year ended 30 June 2005. It will be appreciated that our audit did not cover all details of the additional financial data. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on such financial data and we give no warranty of accuracy or reliability in respect of the data provided. Neither the firm nor any member or employee of the firm undertakes responsibility in any way whatsoever to any person (other than Consumers' Health Forum of Australia Incorporated) in respect of such data, including any errors of omissions therein however caused.

PKF Di Bartolo Diamond & Mihailaros
GPO Box 588
CANBERRA ACT 2601

Ross Di Bartolo

Partner

Canberra

Liability is limited by the Accountants
Scheme, approved under the Professional
Standards Act 1994 (NSW)

A Member Firm of
PKF International

PARTNERS:
Ross Di Bartolo B.A (Accounting), FCA
George Diamond B.Ec, FCA
John Mihailaros B.Comm (Accounting), CA

CONSUMERS' HEALTH FORUM OF AUSTRALIA INCORPORATED
ABN 59 369 286 137

DETAILED PROFIT AND LOSS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2005

	2005	2004
	\$	\$
INCOME		
Grants	919,202	805,680
Publications and journal subscriptions	13,027	17,880
Membership fees	27,886	25,812
Interest	4,448	6,085
Proceeds on disposal of equipment	-	136
Other	5,564	3,720
TOTAL INCOME	970,127	859,313
LESS EXPENSES		
Annual report	3,391	2,329
Audit fees and accounting fees	17,182	12,674
Bank charges	2,279	2,170
Computer expenses	895	2,092
Consultants	40,100	73,230
Contract staff	38,385	40,089
Depreciation	24,315	22,503
Finance lease charges	7,643	5,052
Governance expenses	62,672	43,870
Hire of plant and equipment	-	4,754
Information Technology upgrades	7,958	16,475
Insurance	21,862	23,421
Publication expenses	31,415	20,508
Legal costs	3,008	6,470
Long service leave	2,312	-
Minor equipment purchases	2,031	3,265
Other expenses	69	490
Postage and couriers	4,483	6,479
Printing and stationery	22,098	12,330
Rent and on costs	68,336	83,123
Repairs and maintenance	7,500	9,503
Salaries and on costs	495,052	416,712
Subscriptions	131	742
Telephone	10,047	10,435
Training expenses	341	245
Travel	29,413	9,325
Workshop expenses	94,162	59,436
TOTAL EXPENSES	997,080	887,722
NET OPERATING SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)	(26,953)	(28,409)

These financial statements should be read in conjunction with the attached Disclaimer

Appendices

CHF Key Submissions, Consultations and Reports

August 2004

HealthConnect Benefits Realisation Advisory Group
Input into the Benefits Realisation Advisory Group Consultation Paper

Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee Public Consultation

Submission on the Australia – United States Free Trade Agreement Implementation of the Obligations to Improve Transparency of the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme through an Independent Review Mechanism

October 2004

Health Insurance Commission

Joint letter with the Australian Consumers' Association on the Prescription Shopping Project – Medical Practitioner Information Service

National Health and Medical Research Council

Joint submission with the National Ageing Research Institute, Consumer perspectives on research from a participation and priority setting workshop at the National Ageing Research Institute

November 2004

Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing, Review Panel

Submission on the Review of Future Governance Arrangements for Safety and Quality in Health Care

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP)

CHF/RACGP Consumer Representatives Workshop to provide input to the review of RACGP Practice Standards

December 2004

CHF Electronic Health Records Project

Report on the Electronic Health Records Consumer Representatives' Workshop on the development, trialling and implementation of HealthConnect
October 2004

National Health and Medical Research Council and the Consumers' Health Forum of Australia

Publication of *A Model Framework for Consumer Participation in Health and Medical Research*

January 2005

CHF Consumer Representatives Training and Support Project

Information Paper *Strengthening the Consumer Representatives Program*

CHF Electronic Health Records Project

Consultation paper for members on the Electronic Health Records Project

Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing, Pharmaceutical Benefits Branch

Submission on the Proposed New Pricing and Listing Arrangements for Generic Medicines

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee Inquiry

Submission on the National Health Amendment (Prostheses) Bill 2004

February 2005

Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing

Submission on the HealthConnect Business Architecture Version 1

Federal Privacy Commissioner

Submission on the Review of the Medicare and Pharmaceutical Benefits Programs Privacy Guidelines

May 2005

CHF Consumer Representatives Training and Support Project

Final Report CHF Consumer Representatives Workshop 21-22 February 2005

Australian Medical Council

Consultation on Seeking Consumer Representatives for Australian Medical Council committees, accreditation teams and review groups

June 2005

General Practice Computing Group and CHF

Strategy for encouraging consumers and general practitioners to make better use of electronic medication records in chronic disease management

CHF Key Presentations

Governing Committee

Mitch Messer CHF Chairperson

Australian General Practice Accreditation Limited (AGPAL)

Does accreditation of general practice deliver for consumers?

February 2005

Australian Financial Review 7th Annual Health Congress
Quality Use of Medicines – what is it intended to achieve

February 2005

Russell McGowan Vice Chairperson

Australian College of Health Service Executives Congress
CP not PC! – How consumers can learn to rely on accreditation

November 2004

Christopher Newell AM

Developing the Health Insurance Market Conference
Putting consumers first

November 2004

Executive Director

Helen Hopkins

Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing Postgraduate Course – Health Policy Analysis (La Trobe University)

Consumer participation in health policy analysis
August 2004

University of New South Wales – Reinventing Health – New Developments in Health and the Internet
Consumers, health and the internet

September 2004

General Practice Computing Group Annual Forum
Stakeholder Panel

October 2004

Australian Health IT Forum

Ensuring health information technology delivers what consumers need and want

October 2004

National Health Information Summit – Transforming Australia's Health System

Health consumers progressing national priorities

December 2004

National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC)
Consumer Representatives workshop

Reflections on Consumer Participation in the NHMRC
April 2005

Australian Library and Information Association, Digital Amnesia – Challenges of Government Online

Government online – the challenges for consumers

April 2005

NHMRC Ethics in Human Research Conference

Consumers' views on the ethical process

May 2005

Secretariat Staff

Amanda Bresnan

Health Issues Centre Electronic Health Records Congress
CHF, consumers and electronic health records

May 2005

Institute for International Research (IIR) 8th Annual
Electronic Health and Electronic Health Records
Congress

CHF, consumers and electronic health records

June 2005

Prue Borrmann

Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing Short Course (La Trobe University)

Consumer involvement in health policy processes

September 2004

Beth Micklethwaite

Queensland Institute of Medical Research Annual
Scientific Conference

Consumer perspectives in health and medical research

September 2004

Involve Conference, United Kingdom

Implementing the *Statement on Consumer and Community Participation in Health and Medical Research* in Australia

November 2004

Australian Health and Medical Research Congress

Poster: Implementing the *Statement on Consumer and Community Participation in Health and Medical Research* in two Australian research institutes

November 2004

CHF Members

CHF comprises a wide variety of consumer organisations with an interest in health, including illness groups, disability groups and specific population groups such as youth, older people and women.

Voting Members

Voting members of CHF are organisations that:

- represent consumer and community opinions and do not act primarily as representing professional, provider or commercial interests
- have membership open to consumers who can be elected to the board or governing body of the organisation
- have aims and objectives that are significantly for representation of the opinions of consumers, and
- fully support the aims and objectives of the Consumers' Health Forum of Australia.

A

ACCESS Australia National Infertility Network Ltd
ACT ME/CFS Society Inc
ACT Repetitive Strain Injury & Overuse Injury Association
AIDS Council of New South Wales
Allergy and Environmental Sensitivity Support and Research Association
Arthritis Australia
Arthritis Foundation of NSW
Arthritis Foundation of Victoria
Arthritis Foundation WA
Asthma Foundations of Australia
Australian Association for the Welfare of Child Health
Australian Breastfeeding Association
Australian Chemical Trauma Alliance Inc
Australian Council of Social Service
Australian Crohns & Colitis Association
Australian Federation of AIDS Organisations
Australian Hepatitis Council
Australian Pensioners' and Superannuants' Federation Inc
Australian Primary Care Community Partnership Inc

B

Breast Cancer Action Group (NSW)
Breast Cancer Action Group Inc
Breast Cancer Network Australia

C

Cancer Alliance Network
Cancer Voices NSW
Carers Australia
Child Health Association Inc
Chronic Illness Alliance Inc
Cochrane Consumer Network (CCNet)
Coeliac Society of NSW Inc
Consumer Reference Group of the Top End Division of General Practice
Continence Foundation of Australia Ltd
COTA National Seniors
COTA National Seniors (SA)
Country AIDS Network (Vic) Inc
Cystic Fibrosis Australia Inc
Cystic Fibrosis Victoria Inc
Cystic Fibrosis Western Australia

D

DES Action Australia - NSW
Diabetes Australia
Diabetes Australia - ACT
Diabetes Australia - NSW
Diabetes Australia - SA

E

Eating Disorders Association of SA Inc

F

Federation of Ethnic Communities' Councils of Australia

H

Haemophilia Foundation Australia
Health Care Consumers' Association of the ACT
Health Consumers Alliance of South Australia Inc
Health Consumers' Council (WA) Inc
Health Consumers of Rural and Remote Australia Inc
Health Consumers Voice NT
Health Issues Centre Inc
Health Rights & Community Action
Heart Support Australia Ltd

I

Illawarra Stroke Unit Project

L

Lymphoedema Support Group of New South Wales

M

Maternity Coalition Inc

ME/CFS Society (SA) Inc

ME/CFS/Fibromyalgia Association of Queensland

ME/Chronic Fatigue Syndrome Association of Australia Ltd

Mental Health Association NSW Inc

Mental Health Co-ordinating Council

Mental Illness Fellowship of Australia

N

National Association of People Living with HIV/AIDS

National SIDS Council of Australia

NSW Council of Social Service

O

Obsessive Compulsive Disorders Support Service

Older Persons' Action Centre

Older Women's Network Inc (NSW)

P

Palliative Care Australia

People Living With HIV/AIDS (NSW) Inc

Post-Polio Network (NSW) Inc

Public Interest Advocacy Centre

S

SHOUT (Self Help Organisations United Together)

Sleep Apnoea Association (ACT) Inc

South Australian Consumer Reps Network

South Australian Council of Social Service

Stillbirth and Neo-natal Death Support (Qld) Inc

Support & Advocacy Committee of Prostate Cancer

Foundation of Australia

T

Tasmanians with Disabilities Inc

The Link Youth Health Service

TRANX (Tranquilliser Recovery and New Existence) Inc

V

Victorian Mental Illness Awareness Council Inc

W

Western Australia Association for Mental Health

Wollongong Health Watch

Women's Health Victoria Inc

Associate Members

Associate members are individuals or organisations with an interest in consumer health issues.

Organisational Associate Members

A

Aboriginal & Islander Community Health Service

ACT Health Government Relations and Planning

Adelaide Central Community Service

Aged Care Association Australia

Alcohol and Drug Foundation ACT Inc

Association of Professional Engineers, Scientists and Managers, Australia

Asthma Victoria

Australian Association of Consultant Pharmacy

Australian College of Health Service Executives

Australian Council Against Health Fraud

Australian Crohns & Colitis Association (Qld) Inc

Australian Divisions of General Practice Ltd

Australian Healthcare Association

Australian Nursing & Midwifery Council Inc

Australian Nursing Federation (Victorian Branch)

Australian Physiotherapy Association

Australian Safety and Efficacy Register of New Interventional Procedures - Surgical (ASERNIP-S)

Australian Self-Medication Industry Inc (ASMI)

B

Ballarat and District Division of General Practice

Brisbane South Division of General Practice

C

Cancer Council Australia

Cancer Council New South Wales

Cancer Council of WA

Cancer Council South Australia

Canning Division of General Practice Ltd

Carers Association of Victoria Inc

Central Highlands Division of General Practice

D

DepressioNet

E

Epilepsy Association of SA and NT Inc

G

Greater Metropolitan Clinical Taskforce Consumer Forum
Greater Bunbury Division of General Practice

H

Health Promotion Service, South East Health
Hornsby Ku-ring-gai Ryde Division of General Practice

I

Illawarra Division of General Practice
Ipswich and West Moreton Division of General Practice

J

Joanna Briggs Institute, The

K

Kidney Health Australia

L

Liverpool Women's Health Centre

M

Mallee Division of General Practice
ME/CFS Society of Victoria Inc
Mornington Peninsula Division of General Practice

N

National Asthma Council Australia
National Breast Cancer Centre
National Heart Foundation of Australia
National Prescribing Service
North East Valley Division of General Practice
North East Victorian Division of General Practice
North Shoalhaven Health Consumer Action Group
North West Melbourne Division of General Practice
Northern Metropolitan Community Health Service
Northern Sydney Health
NSW Health Social Work Department
NSW Nurses' Association
NSW Therapeutic Assessment Group Inc
Nurses Board of Victoria

O

Older Women's Network (Australia)

P

Partners in Pain (P.I.P's) Support Group
Pharmaceutical Society of Australia
Pharmacy Guild of Australia

Q

Queensland Cancer Fund

R

Redcliffe Bribie Caboolture Division of General Practice
Royal College of Nursing, Australia
Rural Doctors Association of Australia

S

School of Population Health, University of Western
Australia
Sexual Health & Family Planning Australia Inc
Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia
South East Area Health Service
South Western Sydney Area Health Service, Community
Participation
Southern Child & Adolescent Mental Health Service,
Flinders Medical Centre
Southern Tasmanian Division of General Practice
Spinal Injuries Association
St George District Division of General Practice
St Joseph's Hospital, Sydney
Sunshine Coast Division of General Practice

T

Telephone Information Support and Counselling
Association
Toora Women Inc

W

Wentworth Area Health Service Consumer Participation
West Victorian Division of General Practice
Wingecarribee Health Service
Women with Disabilities (Australia)
Women's Health Queensland Wide Inc

Corporate Associate Members

GlaxoSmithKline Australia
Janssen-Cilag/Johnson & Johnson Pty Ltd
Merck Sharp & Dohme (Australia) Pty Limited
Pfizer Australia
Sydney Legacy Appeals Fund
The Pharmaceutical Alliance

Individual Associate Members

There are also 59 individual associate members.

Consumer Representatives

Health consumer representatives have an important role in shaping health in Australia. Through CHF, health consumers are represented on 209 Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing, professional, and research project committees.

Consumer representatives are selected by canvassing member organisations for people with the interest, skills and experience to make an effective contribution to the work of the committee or working party. The Consumer Representatives Sub-committee of the CHF Governing Committee chooses the representative from the nominations received, based on set selection criteria.

In 2004–2005, consumer representatives contributed to the development of the new continuous quality improvement policy which will be implemented in 2005–06 to improve effectiveness and efficiency in the Consumer Representatives Program.

CHF extends its thanks and appreciation to all Consumer Representatives for their dedication, enthusiasm and time devoted to the cause of consumer participation.

Australian Cancer Network (ACN)

ACN Council

Sally Crossing AM

Australian Council for Safety and Quality in Health Care (Safety and Quality Council)

Safety and Quality Council – Adverse Medicine Events (AME) Line Project Steering Committee

Anne McKenzie

Safety and Quality Council – Australian Falls Prevention Project for Hospitals and Residential Aged Care Facilities Expert Panel

Sheila Rimmer AM

Safety and Quality Council – Australian Falls Prevention Taskforce

Amy Zelmer

Safety and Quality Council – Clinical Leadership Program National Advisory Committee

Susan Mitchell

Safety and Quality Council – Clinical Leadership Program Project Steering Committee

Jennifer Ball

Safety and Quality Council – Consumer Advisory Committee 2004

Helen Hopkins

Maxine Drake

Safety and Quality Council – Medication Safety Taskforce

Nancy Pierce (to December 2004)

Melanie Cantwell

Australian Council on Healthcare Standards (ACHS)

Australian Council on Healthcare Standards (ACHS)

Russell McGowan

ACHS Clinical Indicator Working Parties

Janet Wale

ACHS National Advisory Committee

Hanno Stanojevic (to December 2004)

ACHS Standards Committee

Hanno Stanojevic (to December 2004)

Ann Thomson

Australian Divisions of General Practice (ADGP)

ADGP Board of Directors

Russell McGowan

ADGP National Divisions Forum Steering Committee 2005

Tim Benson

Australian General Practice Accreditation Ltd (AGPAL)

AGPAL Board

Christopher Newell AM

Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing

Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation

Jenni Howlett

Consumer Perspectives Steering Committee

Robert Leahy

*Enhanced Divisional Quality Use of Medicines (EDQUM)
Data Reference Group
Sue Pluck (to October 2004)*

*EDQUM Program Steering Group
Nancy Pierce*

*Evaluation Advisory Group for Informing Consumers
of the Real Cost of PBS Medicines
Melanie Cantwell*

*Evaluation of Childhood Immunisation Register
Steering Group
Jenni Howlett*

*General Practice Immunisation Incentives Advisory
Group
Irene Shaw*

*HealthConnect Benefits Realisation Expert Advisory
Group
Sue Pluck*

*HealthInsite Editorial Board
Betty Johnson
Sue Healy*

*Informed Financial Consent Taskforce for Private
Healthcare
Anne McKenzie*

*Informed Financial Consent Taskforce for Private
Healthcare – Doctor/Patient Working Group
Tim Benson*

*Informed Financial Consent Taskforce for Private
Healthcare – Health Fund/Hospital Consumer Working
Group
Tim Benson*

*Joint Advisory Committee on General Practice and
Population Health
Sue Pluck*

*Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) Monitoring and
Evaluation Group
Helen Hopkins*

*MediConnect Evaluation Working Group
Sue Pluck*

*MediConnect Field Testing Working Group
Helen Hopkins*

*MediConnect Hospital Working Group
Judith Skinner*

*National Advisory Committee on Oral Health
Kay Robinson*

*National Cancer Control Initiative Management
Committee
Merrian Kathryn Oliver-Weymouth*

*National Influenza Pandemic Action Committee
Robin Toohey AM (to March 2005)
Kirsty Machon*

*National Pathology Accreditation Advisory Council
Janet Wale*

*Neonatal Standards Working Party
Carolyn Minchin*

*Overseas Trained Doctors Taskforce Reference Group
Diane Walsh*

*Palliative Care Knowledge Network Management Group
Valerie McKeown*

*Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee
Mitch Messer*

*Pharmaceutical Benefits Pricing Authority
Jo Watson*

*Primary Care Providers Working Together Collaborative
– Interim Steering Committee
Glenda McChesney-Clark*

*Private Health Industry Quality and Safety Committee
(PHIQS)
Christopher Newell AM
Russell McGowan*

*PHIQS Open Disclosure Working Group
Sue Pluck*

*PHIQS Patient Safety Working Group
Christine Walker*

*Private Sector Outreach Services Working Group
Valerie McKeown*

*Prostheses and Devices Ministerial Advisory Committee
Karen Carey-Hazell*

*Prostheses Policy Advisory Group
Karen Carey-Hazell*

<i>Prostheses Clinical Advisory Group – Cardiac</i> Karen Carey-Hazell (to December 2004) Jill Forck	<i>AHIC Health Information Workforce Capacity Building Working Group</i> Heather Grain
<i>Prostheses Clinical Advisory Group – Cardio Thoracic</i> Niall Gosslund	<i>AHIC National Consent Policy Working Group</i> Melanie Cantwell
<i>Prostheses Clinical Advisory Group – Hip and Knee Accessories</i> Janet Wale	<i>AHIC National Health Information Summit Steering Committee</i> Melanie Cantwell
<i>Prostheses Clinical Advisory Group – Lens</i> Karen Carey-Hazell	<i>AHMAC National Oral Health Plan Monitoring Group</i> Samantha Edmonds
<i>Prostheses Clinical Advisory Group – Orthopaedic (Hips)</i> Rebecca Coghlan	<i>AHMAC Working Party on a Nationally Consistent Approach to Medical Registration</i> Dell Horey
<i>Prostheses Clinical Advisory Group – Orthopaedic (Knees)</i> Janet Wale	<i>Australian Health Workforce Advisory Committee (AHWAC)</i> Dell Horey
<i>Prostheses Clinical Advisory Group – Spinal</i> Rebecca Coghlan	<i>AHWAC Perioperative Working Group</i> Valerie McKeown
<i>Prostheses Clinical Advisory Group – Trauma</i> Rebecca Coghlan	<i>AHWAC Working Group on Public Access to Registers</i> Dell Horey
<i>Prostheses Clinical Advisory Group – Urogenital</i> Robert Shanks	<i>AHWAC Working Group on the Implementation of a National Database or Index</i> Dell Horey
<i>Prostheses Clinical Advisory Group – Vascular Stents and Grafts</i> Jill Forck	<i>Australian Medical Workforce Advisory Committee (AMWAC) Radiology Working Party</i> Ann White
<i>Quality Use of Pathology Committee</i> Janet Wale	<i>Australian Screening Advisory Committee (ASAC)</i> Russell McGowan Roberta Higginson
<i>Quality Use of Pathology Point of Care Testing (POCT) Steering Group</i> Roger Killeen	<i>ASAC Communication and Education Working Group</i> Anna Wellings-Booth
<i>Statutory Immunity Advisory Group</i> Robin Toohey AM	<i>ASAC Communication and Education Working Group</i> Don Baumber
Australian Health Ministers' Advisory Council (AHMAC) <i>Australian Health Information Council (AHIC)</i> Helen Hopkins	<i>ASAC Monitoring and Evaluation Working Group</i> Susan Pitt
<i>AHIC Clinical Register Governance Reference Group</i> Amy Zelmer	<i>ASAC Policy Review and New Technologies Working Group</i> Sue Lockwood
<i>AHIC Electronic Decision Support Steering Committee</i> Susan Mitchell	<i>ASAC Quality Assurance and Workforce Working Group</i> Judith Maher

Medical Specialist Training Steering Committee
Sheila Rimmer AM

*Medical Specialist Training Steering Committee –
Reference Group 1: Risk Assessment*
Sheila Rimmer AM

*Medical Specialist Training Steering Committee –
Reference Group 2: Service Delivery in Public Hospitals*
Russell McGowan (Interim)

National Health Performance Committee
Shirley Shaw

Australian Institute of Health and Welfare
Health Data Standards Committee
Heather Grain

Australian Medical Council
Australian Medical Council
Christopher Newell AM

Education Accreditation (General)
Sheila Rimmer AM (to November 2004)
Susan Mitchell

Education Accreditation (Specialist)
Derek Weir
Mary Corich

Recognition of Medical Specialties Advisory Committee
Robin Toohey AM
Rebecca Coghlan

Australian National University
Community Liaison Committee
Susan Mitchell

Australian Patient Safety Foundation
Australian Patient Safety Foundation Inc Council
Margaret Charlton

Australian Pharmaceutical Advisory Council (APAC)
Australian Pharmaceutical Advisory Council
Mitch Messer

APAC Community Care Guidelines Working Group
Judith Skinner

APAC Consumer Medicine Information (CMI) Working Party
Melanie Cantwell

Cancer Council NSW (CCN)
Cancer Council NSW Board
Sally Crossing AM

Continence Foundation of Australia
Consumer Advisory Committee
Frank Ritchie
Shirley Shaw

Dietitians Association of Australia
Council of Dietetic Standards Recognition
Sheila Rimmer AM

Flinders University of South Australia
*Consumer/Community Involvement in Divisions of
General Practice Research Project Critical Reference
Group*
Shirley Shaw

General Practice Computing Group (GPCG)
GPCG Management Committee
Debra O'Connor

GPCG Chronic Disease Management Working Group
Debra O'Connor

GPCG Electronic Communication Working Group
Heather Grain

GPCG Evaluation and Monitoring Working Group
Janette Donovan

GPCG Preventive Care Working Group
Dell Horey

GPCG Quality Care Delivery Working Group
Diane Walsh

General Practice Education and Training (GPET)
GPET Consultative Group
Diane Walsh

Health Insurance Commission (HIC)
HIC Consumer Communication Group
Sue Pluck (to September 2004)
Diane Walsh

HIC Stakeholder Advisory Group
Debra O'Connor

Medical Services Advisory Committee (MSAC)
Medical Services Advisory Committee (MSAC)
Sheila Rimmer AM

MSAC Artificial Invertebral Disc Replacement (Application 1090)

Rebecca Coghlan

MSAC Carbon Labelled Urea Breath Test (Application 1085)

Valerie McKeown

MSAC Computed Tomography Colonography (Review of Application 1095)

Barbara Joss

MSAC Deep Brain Stimulation for the Symptoms of Parkinson's Disease (Application No 1092)

Valerie McKeown

MSAC Drug Eluting Stents (Reference 30) Sub Committee

Sheila Rimmer AM

MSAC Endometrial Ablation of Chronic Refractory Menorrhagia (Reference 31)

Rebecca Coghlan

MSAC Endoscopic Ultrasound for Staging Pancreatic, Gastric, Oesophageal and Hepato-biliary Neoplasms (Application 1072)

Barbara Joss

MSAC Endovascular Neurointerventional Procedures (Review of Application 1093)

Barbara Smith

MSAC High Energy Water Cooled Transurethral Microwave Thermotherapy (Application 1076)

Don Baumber

MSAC Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy Advisory Committee (Application 1018-1020)

Robin Toohey AM

MSAC Intacs Implants (Application 1083)

Craig Ellis

MSAC Laparoscopic Removal of Malignancies (Reference 28)

Shirley Shaw

MSAC Measurement of B-type Natriuretic Peptide (BNOP) (Application 1087)

Paula Calcino

MSAC Measurement of International Normalised Ratio (INR) in General Practice (Application 1071)

Karen Carey-Hazell

MSAC Multifocal Multichannel Objective Perimetry (Application 1078)

Sheila Rimmer AM

MSAC Peripheral Arterial Tonometry with Ascending Aortic Waveform Analysis using the SphygmoCor System (Application 1079)

Richard McCluskey

MSAC Permanent Tri-Chamber Resynchronisation Committee (Application 1042)

Ivan Kayne

MSAC Review of Magnetic Resonance Cholangiopancreatography (Reference 25)

Leo Pomery

MSAC Review of Prostate Specific Antigen (PSA) Test (Application 1068)

Max Gardner AM

MSAC Review of Prostate Specific Antigen (PSA) Test (Application 1068)

Don Baumber

MSAC Review of Radi Pressure Wire (Application 1080)

Peter Edwards

MSAC Sacral Nerve Stimulation for Faecal Incontinence (Application 1077)

Elizabeth Symons

MSAC Sentinel Node Biopsy (Application 1065)

Avis Macphee

MSAC Supporting Committee on Positron Emission Tomography for Epilepsy (PET) (Reference 26)

Margaret Charlton

MSAC Treatment of Cerebral Aneurysms (Reference 33)

Barbara Smith

MSAC Uro Vysion Fluorescence In situ Hybridization (FISH) Assay (Application 1084)

Craig Ellis

MSAC Uterine Artery Embolisation (Application 1081)

Jo-Anne Tamlyn

MSAC Vertebroplasty Supporting Committee

Valerie McKeown

Mental Health Council of Australia*National Consumer and Carer Forum*

Janet Meagher

National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation*Community Quality Use of Medicines Project*

Sue Pluck (to July 2004)

Yvonne Solly

National Blood Authority*Professional and Community Advisory Forum*

Kay Robinson

National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC)*National Health and Medical Research Council*

Michele Kosky

Australian Health Ethics Committee (AHEC) Organ Donation Working Party

Mardi Thompson

Australian Health Ethics Committee (AHEC) Post Coma Unresponsiveness Working Party

Michele Kosky

NHMRC Communicating with Patients Working Group

Dell Horey

NHMRC Development of Guidelines for Australian Drinking Water

Alec Percival

NHMRC Electromagnetic Energy Research Committee

Clive Deverall

NHMRC Expert Advisory Group on Antimicrobial Resistance

Frank Fisher

NHMRC Mental Health Research Working Group

Suzanne Knapman

NHMRC Potable Reuse of Reclaimed Water Working Party/Steering Committee

Alec Percival

NHMRC Privacy Working Group

Melanie Cantwell

NHMRC Special Expert Committee on Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies (SECTSE)

Sharon Caris

NHMRC Technical Working Party on Intravenous Immunoglobulin

Dawn Thorp

NHMRC Xenotransplantation Working Party

Twanny Farrugia

Michele Kosky

National Health Priority Action Council (NHPAC)*National Health Priority Action Council*

Hilda Bastian (to October 2004)

Karen Carey-Hazell

NHPAC Cancer Strategies Group

Clive Deverall

NHPAC Examining Trauma Care

Heather Grain AM

NHPAC National Arthritis and Musculoskeletal Conditions Advisory Group

Fay Gale

NHPAC National Heart, Stroke and Vascular Health Strategies Group

Karen Carey-Hazell

National Prescribing Service (NPS)*National Prescribing Service Board Director*

Janette Donovan

National Prescribing Service Board Alternate Director

Sue Pluck (to October 2004)

Diane Walsh

NPS Australian Prescriber Editorial Advisory Panel

Christopher Newell AM

NPS Curriculum and Training Working Group

Rebecca Coghlan

NPS Decision Support Working Group

Sue Pluck (to January 05)

NPS Management Committee for the Community Quality Use of Medicines Program

Matthew Hunt

Alison Marcus

Sue Pluck (to January 2005)

Sheila Rimmer AM

Moya Sandow

Judith Skinner (to July 2004)

Diane Walsh

Christine Walker

NPS Medicines Line Management Committee

Judith Skinner (to July 2004)

Diane Walsh

NPS New Drugs Working Group

Melanie Cantwell

NPS Summit 2005 Scientific Steering Committee

Helen Hopkins

NPS Pharmacy Program Prescribing Interventions & Feedback

Nancy Pierce

NPS Program Information/Communication Working Group

Janette Donovan

Palliative Care Australia

Palliative Care Australia National Project Steering Committee

Robin Toohey AM

Pharmaceutical Industry

Australian Self-Medication Industry (ASMI) Complaints Panel

Fran Hausfeld (to March 2005)

ASMI Promotional Monitoring Committee

Derek Weir (to December 2004)

CHF/Medicines Australia Guidelines for Working Together: A Guide to Relationships between Health Consumer Organisations and Pharmaceutical Companies

Melanie Cantwell

Sheila Rimmer AM

Janet Wale

Medicines Australia Code of Conduct Committee

Sharon Caris

Quality Assurance Reference Group (QARG) (Consumer Medicines Information)

Diana Aspinall

Fran Hausfeld (to March 2005)

Therapeutic Goods Advertising Code Council

Alan Barclay

Derek Weir

Therapeutic Goods Advertising Code Council (TGACC)

Complaints Resolution Panel (CRP)

Alan Barclay (to January 2005)

Derek Weir (to December 2004)

Judith Maher

Pharmacy Guild of Australia (PGA)

PGA Change Management in Community Pharmacy

Bruce Campbell

PGA Dispensing and Monitoring of S8 & S4 Drugs

Commissioned Research Project Expert Advisory Group

Janet Lowe

PGA Evaluation of the Home Medicines Review Program

Melanie Cantwell (to December 2004)

Judith Skinner

PGA Expert Advisory Group for Consumer Experiences, Needs and Expectations of Community Pharmacy Project

Melanie Cantwell

Judith Skinner

PGA Expert Advisory Group for Weight Management Project

Valerie McKeown

PGA Medicines Information for Consumers Evaluation Project

Melanie Cantwell

PGA Role of Pharmacy in Immunisation

Diane Walsh

Royal Australasian College of Physicians (RACP)

Arthritis and Musculoskeletal Conditions Quality Improvement Project (AMQuIP) Advisory Committee

Janet Wale

RACP Australasian Rehabilitation Outcomes Centre Scientific and Clinical Outcomes Committee

Shirley Shaw

RACP Tobacco Use Working Party

Robin Toohey AM

Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (RANZCOG)

RANZCOG Joint Committee of Maternity Services
Darlene Cox (to March 2005)

RANZCOG Nuchal Translucency – Ultrasound, Education and Monitoring Program

Karen Lane

Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Radiologists (RANZCR)

RANZCR Curriculum Advisory Committee
Pam Bell

RANZCR Quality Use of Diagnostic Imaging (QUDI) Program Advisory Group

Ann Revell

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP)

RACGP Expert Group on Practice Standards
Robin Toohey AM

RACGP Quality in General Practice Committee
Mitch Messer

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) and Royal Australian College of Nursing (RACN)

RACN Nursing in General Practice Project
Susan Mitchell

South Australian Department of Human Services

South Australian Safety and Quality Council
Gerald Graves
Pam Moore

Speech Pathology Association of Australia

Speech Pathology Association of Australia Ethics Board
Peter Dhu

Standards Australia

Standards Australia Open Disclosure in Health Care
Heather Grain

Standards Australia IT/14 Health Informatics Committee
Heather Grain

Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA)

Complementary Medicines Evaluation Committee
Heather Yeatman

Drug Safety and Evaluation Branch Workflow Processes Review

Melanie Cantwell

Labelling of Prescription Medicines
Derek Weir

Medical Devices Evaluation Committee
Frank Fisher

Medicines Evaluation Committee
Janette Donovan

Medicines Labelling Legislation Sub-committee
Melanie Cantwell

National Drugs and Poisons Scheduling Committee
Derek Weir (to May 2005)

Project Advisory Committee (PAC) Electronic Listing Facility of Drug Products
Karen Carey-Hazell

Sub Committee on Guidelines for Consumer Focused Labelling
Janette Donovan

TGA Industry Consultative Committee
Helen Hopkins
Derek Weir (to January 2005)

Trans Tasman Interim Advertising Council
Derek Weir

VICFIT

Lifestyle Prescription Reference Group
Tim Benson
Judith Maher

Number of committees

2000–2001	160
2001–2002	200
2002–2003	184
2003–2004	207
2004–2005	209