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# Consumers Shaping Health



## *News and views on health consumer issues - July 2019*

### **Keeping up with changing healthcare needs**

With almost half the Australian population now living with chronic disease, it's time for our health system to keep pace with changing healthcare needs and community expectations. This week's [ABC 7.30 four-part series on health](#) shines the light on the pressure points in our system and where change is needed.

CHF welcomed Health Minister Greg Hunt's announcement of a 10-year plan to transform Australia's primary health care system as well as his commitment to a long term national preventive health strategy, both of which were among the top three priorities put forward to the re-elected government by CHF. But the focus needs to be on implementation and real investment if the intractable issues covered in the 7.30 special report are to be addressed.

As the government formulates its strategies, it is clear that there is a need for a more flexible approach to primary care that takes into consideration the underlying causes of ill health which are often determined by social circumstances such as whether people have stable employment, housing and relationships.

CHF recently completed a survey which showed that Australians with chronic illnesses have high levels of activation (a patient's knowledge, skill and confidence to manage their health) and that those with the highest levels of activation had better self-reported outcomes and experiences in the healthcare system. The survey demonstrates that primary care reform needs to be comprehensive and not limited to a change in funding arrangements, although these are essential for change.

Consumers can be supported to play a more active role in managing their health through measures such as self-management support, access to service navigators and social prescribing – a way of linking patients in primary care with sources of support within the community which is widely used in the UK and would be worth examining in the Australian context. We will be advocating for such measures to be featured in the primary care and prevention plans.

By supporting consumers to self-manage their own health we can reduce pressure on primary care, reduce avoidable hospitalisations and most importantly, improve health and wellbeing outcomes for consumers.

**Leanne Wells**  
Chief Executive Officer

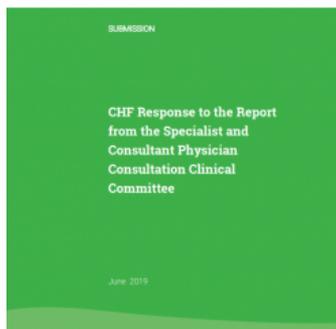
## **News and Resources**



## Fake practitioners face jail and hefty fines as new regulatory powers come into force

From today, the law is getting tougher on people who pretend to be a registered health practitioner. The penalty for anyone prosecuted by the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) under the National Law for these offences now include bigger fines and the prospect of prison time.

[LEARN MORE](#)



## Response to the Specialist and Consultant Physician Consultation Clinical Committee Report

CHF believes if implemented the recommended changes to the specialist and consultant physician items in the MBS would greatly simplify arrangements and make them easier for consumers to understand and navigate.

[READ THE SUBMISSION](#)



## Diabetes, lung cancer, acne and depression medicines listed on the PBS

The Australian Government will provide affordable access to four new medicines through Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS), helping patients living with debilitating and often life threatening conditions.

[LEARN MORE](#)

Making  
Connections  
with your  
Mental Health  
and Wellbeing



## Making connections with your mental health and wellbeing

The National Mental Health Commission wishes to consult and engage with all Australians on the 2030 Vision for Mental Health. The Connections project is a nation-wide conversation about the future of mental health and suicide prevention in Australia. As part of Connections, the Commission will be visiting 23 communities across Australia

[LEARN MORE](#)



## Anxiety disorders: use of evidence based treatments

An interdisciplinary panel discusses assessment and management of anxiety disorders and how to help patients get the most out of psychological treatment.

[WATCH HERE](#)



## Buying medicines and medical devices online

Medicines bought online may not have been assessed by the TGA. Learn more about the risks of buying medicines and medical devices online.

[LEARN MORE](#)

## Consultations and Surveys



### Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety

CHF is preparing a submission to the Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety and we want to include your views and lived experience front and centre of our response. We have developed a survey with questions relating to different sections of the Terms of Reference. If you have any questions please contact our Safety and Quality Policy Officer, Leanne Kelly at [l.kelly@chf.org.au](mailto:l.kelly@chf.org.au)  
**Closing: Sunday 18 August 2019**

[COMPLETE SURVEY](#)

### Interviews to explore consumer experience of quality and

## safety in aged care

We are also seeking expressions of interest from people to participate in an interview about their experience of Quality and Safety in Aged Care. We are looking for people who are over 18 years and are a consumer who uses aged care services (such as residential or community/home care) OR carer and/or family member of those who use/d aged care services.

[LEARN MORE AND APPLY](#)

## National Safety and Quality Primary Health Care Standards

### *Consumers' Survey*

The Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care (the Commission) is consulting on National Safety and Quality Primary Health Care Standards between May - July 2019. ***This survey is designed to be filled out by people who access primary health care services (e.g. consumers, carers).*** Please write about your experiences accessing allied health services.

**This survey is open until the end of July 2019.**

[DO THE SURVEY](#)

### *Consumer Workshop in Broken Hill*

**Tuesday 16 July 2019 11:45 am – 2:00 pm**

This informal and interactive workshop will ask participants to discuss the safety and quality issues for patients in primary health care, and what needs to be in place to provide safe and high quality care.

[REGISTER FOR THE WORKSHOP](#)

## Events



### **Advance care planning seminar**

Advance Care Planning Australia (ACPA) is holding a seminar in Melbourne to support healthcare leaders and practitioners deliver well-coordinated and patient-centred advance care planning in Victoria, on Friday 9 August, 2019.

[REGISTER](#)

## Rural and Remote Special Interest Group

CHF is creating a Rural and Remote Special Interest Group to ensure we include the voices of rural and remote consumers in all our policy and advocacy work. We see this as a precursor to establishing a Rural and Remote Health Forum, which is a longer-term goal for CHF. Applicants will be chosen through an expression of interest process.

[LEARN MORE AND SUBMIT AN EOI](#)

## CHF Media Releases and Blogs

### From wealth to health – welcome to Chris Bowen

The Consumers Health Forum welcomes the new Shadow Health Minister, Chris Bowen, and thanks Catherine King for her commitment to consumers during her long service in the shadow health portfolio.

[READ MORE](#)

### Ageism in health and caring to make a difference

The Consumers Health Forum supports the principle that older people are full citizens and should have access to the full range of health care – regardless of where they are living.

[READ MORE](#)

### In memory of Bob Hawke, it's time for Medicare II

If a latter-day Bob Hawke were to introduce a universal health insurance scheme now, it would look little like the Medicare of today. It is time for Medicare II.

[READ MORE](#)

[READ ALL MEDIA RELEASES & BLOGS](#)

## Benefits of Becoming a CHF Member

As a member of CHF you will be kept up to date on key health reform issues through our publications and member alerts. CHF membership enables you to influence the national health agenda by contributing to CHF surveys and polls, consultations and campaigns. Members can draw on CHF position statements, media releases and policy submissions to inform your work and advocacy.

[FIND OUT MORE ABOUT OUR MEMBERSHIP HERE](#)

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