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Leanne Wells at the Partnering in Healthcare forum by Safer Care Victoria

Media response on election health policies highlights CHF focus

A focus of the early stages of the Federal election campaign has been on health issues, and importantly, what they might mean from a consumer perspective.

The attention on health has been prompted to an extent by Labor's big bang policies to counter out of pocket costs for cancer care and to fund a major expansion of public dental care to include pensioners.

These initiatives are good news and an encouraging response to issues that CHF has advocated on in recent years such as out of pocket costs and the call in our [Making Health Better](#) election priorities document for a big boost to dental care.

Our position on election health issues has been of keen interest to mainstream media, including [ABC television's 7.30 program](#), where I was able to emphasise the need for a better coordinated health system providing wrap-around care. [ABC online](#) also provided coverage of CHF's views.

In [The Australian](#), an oped article presented the CHF perspective in which I made the point that while we are seeing multi-billion dollar promises on health, the reality is that "we are getting piecemeal measures when what is needed is a holistic approach with overarching strategies reflecting all of the modern world's knowledge about the causes of ill health and our capacity to avoid ill health".

[Croakey](#) also published an opinion piece which provided the opportunity to expand on our three priority areas: childhood obesity, public dental services and primary health care.

And [Medical Republic](#) headlined CHF's appeal to political parties to get in front of an imminent health crisis by tackling childhood obesity, reforming primary care and boosting prevention.

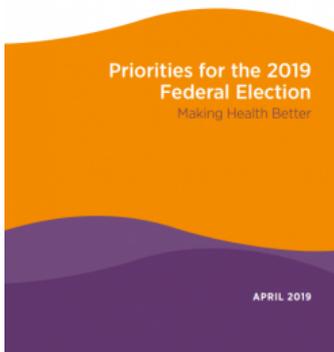
In expressing the CHF view to media, I sought to highlight the importance of the need for greater support for consumer involvement in design and direction of health services.

These reports are an encouraging sign that the consumer view on health care is being taken account of more often and more seriously. More than ever health care involves a partnership and design with consumers. That came through very strongly at the very well attended workshop organised by Safer Care Victoria this week.

This election campaign is providing plenty of content for us to take forward with whoever forms the next federal government.

Leanne Wells
Chief Executive Officer

News and Resources



Making Health Better: Priorities for the 2019 Federal Election

It is time for the health and social care system to innovate and improve at pace and do so with consumer and community insights deep at the heart of driving change.

In our Election Priorities, CHF focuses on critical areas for action that will move Australia towards a modern and sustainable health system that provides consumer choice and empowerment, supported by innovation, emerging evidence, and best practice.

[Read Making Health Better](#)



Anxiety: what you need to know

Did you know that anxiety is one of the chronic conditions most frequently managed by GPs? NPSMedicineWise has developed a new education program to improve the well-being and day-to-day functioning of people with anxiety.

[Find out more](#)



Prevention month

At the moment in Australia, more people are dying due to the use of some prescription pain and sedative medications than on our roads. Medication Dependence Prevention Month is an annual event to raise awareness about preventing medication harms and finding community support.

[Learn more](#)



Healthy Cover: a consumers' guide to the private health insurance changes

On 1 April 2019, private health insurance began the most extensive changes in recent years. CHF's Healthy Cover guide provides an easy-to-understand overview of the changes and helps you assess if your current cover suits your needs.

[Learn more](#)



Concerns about health practitioners

Do you have a concern about a health practitioner? Or are you a health practitioner who has had a notification made about you? The Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency has compiled resources to provide accessible information to help individuals to understand the way they manage concerns about health practitioners.

[Learn more](#)



Update - National Clinical Trials Governance Framework and NSQHS Standards

The Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care (the Commission) has developed the draft National Clinical Trials Governance Framework (the Governance Framework), on behalf of the Australian Government Department of Health and all state and territory health departments. This is a first step to a nationally consistent accreditation approach for health service organisations undertaking clinical trials.

[Read More](#)

National Health Survey: Health Literacy, 2018

A new national survey finds most Australians have a positive view of their own health literacy. However, the Australian Bureau of Statistics survey shows that in general, people with chronic illness or who are experiencing psychological distress are less likely to feel positive about their health literacy.

[Learn more](#)

Partnering in healthcare: A framework for better care and outcomes



The 'Better Together' forum hosted over 100 consumers at the two day event, with many attending from rural and regional Victoria

On 29-30 April, [Safer Care Victoria](#) held the inaugural '*Partnering in healthcare: Better together forum*', celebrating involving consumers in their own healthcare. The main purpose of this event was to launch Victoria's new [Partnering in healthcare: a framework for better care and outcomes](#). This document outlines a new approach to partnership and consumer participation which aims to help Victorian health services deliver higher quality care that is safe, person-and family-centred, equitable and clinically effective.

Both the Partnering in healthcare framework and forum were awarded the [#withconsumers tick](#) by the Consumers Health Forum of Australia. This accreditation is a useful guide for planning meaningful consumer participation, and achieving accreditation recognises SCV's commitment to integrating consumer experiences and insights across all levels of their work.

The framework consists of five domains where work could improve consumer experience and outcomes: Personalised and holistic, Working together, Shared decision-making, Equity and inclusion and Effective communication.

There were more than 300 attendees, with more than a third of those being consumer representatives currently working within the Victorian health system. The sold-out event attracted registrations from across the state, including medical practitioners,

patient safety leads, healthcare leaders and policy makers and consumer representatives.

With an understanding of the barriers that can face health consumer representatives in 'having a voice' at these types of events, SCV supported more than 100 consumers to participate in the forum. Around 40 consumers also had roles in the forum as key note speakers, session hosts, peer supports and social media ambassadors.

(Use password SaferCare19 to access the link below)

[CLICK HERE TO ACCESS PRESENTATIONS AND INFORMATION ON THE FORUM](#)

Events



International Tracheostomy Symposium (ITS)

The Organising Committee of the 5th International Tracheostomy Symposium (ITS) is pleased to invite you to participate in this exciting event on **Friday 11 October in Melbourne**. The International Tracheostomy Symposium (ITS) is increasingly recognised as the premier event for tracheostomy specialists, doctors, nurses, allied health professionals, patients and families to grow and learn together.

[LEARN MORE AND REGISTER](#)



Preventing Overdiagnosis 2019

The December conference in Sydney Australia will include a number of lively plenary debates about controversial and timely issues, involving high-profile players from across the healthcare landscape. There will be parallel and panel sessions covering themes such as Genomics and Commercial Determinants of Health and Overdiagnosis and the Media.

Date: 5 - 7 December 2019

[LEARN MORE AND REGISTER](#)

Consultations and Surveys



April 2019 Survey - Making Health Better: Priorities for the 2019 Federal Election

Have you joined Australia's Health Panel, a CHF initiative that helps your voice be heard on the national stage? In the current survey we would like to gauge your thoughts on the CHF Election Priorities for the upcoming Federal election.

JOIN AND TAKE THE SURVEY



Mission Australia Youth Survey

The Mission Australia Youth Survey is Australia's largest online youth survey, providing a platform for young people aged 15 to 19 to 'speak up' about the issues that really concern them. Each year, the Youth Survey gives valuable insights into the lives of young Australians and an understanding of their aspirations, values, concerns and ambitions.

JOIN AND TAKE THE SURVEY



Have your say - Home Care Packages Program Manual

The department is developing a Home Care Packages Program Manual (the Manual) for approved home care providers and consumers. This is in response to feedback from the sector about wanting to have one place to find information on the Home Care Packages Program.

TAKE THE SURVEY

Media Releases

[Health literacy good, but if you are ill, not so much](#)

[Labor's dental pledge a much-needed step forward](#)

[Greens policy offers healthy ideals](#)

[Making health better: priorities for the 2019 Federal election](#)

[Labor's plan to lessen medical bill shock](#)

[Leading health organisations representing GPs and patients call for patient safety to always be put above pharmacy profits](#)

[Time for all Australians to recognise the place of the First Nations peoples](#)

Blogs



New reports identify key election health issues

Two recurring concerns were raised by respondents to a recent consumer health sentiment survey conducted by the Consumers Health Forum. These concerns were cost and uncertainty – issues often reflected in debate about the health policies announced so far in this federal election campaign.

[Read more](#)

Preventive measures the most effective health policy prescription

Health is once again a target for billions of taxpayer dollars in election promises that may soothe but never heal community concerns.

There has been no shortage of diagnoses about what ails the health system. A feature of Australia's health policy in the past decade has been the preponderance of probes into various elements of the health sector, ranging from system-wide inquiries to more focused reviews of troubled areas.

[Read more](#)

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 membership here.](#)

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