

healthUPdate

27 November 2020 | Issue 20

From the CEO



High recognition for health consumer advocacy in civil society

The central theme of the Consumer Commission's report released this week has been the strengthening of consumer leadership and involvement in health decision-making. A feature proposal has been the recommendation for a Leadership Academy to equip consumers – particularly emerging consumer advocates – with the skills and knowledge they need to fulfill their roles with impact and influence. This would build on the existing depth and network of advocates around Australia to empower the consumer voice.

So it is encouraging to hear that the idea has drawn a positive if cautious response from the Secretary of the Department of Health, Brendan Murphy.

Dr Murphy, speaking at [CHF's Members' Forum](#) this week, said he had seen the Commission report and he recognised the importance of health consumer advocacy. There was "huge value" to civil society from having a strong health consumer voice, he said.

The health sphere sometimes needs to be reminded that the most important stakeholders in health are in fact consumers.

Asked by Leanne Wells about the possibility of Government support for the Commission's recommendation for an Academy, Dr Murphy said it was "an interesting idea". But a consideration of support would be a decision for the Government. "I'm quite attracted to the concept but I would need to think through the implications of it. It would need to be considered by Minister Hunt."

In a candid aside he also revealed that when asked during his job performance review to nominate external stakeholders to be part of the appraisal, he included an experienced consumer in the mix.

Of course, Dr Murphy's response on the Academy was a personal one and not necessarily a signal that would lead to a Government green light.

However, what is particularly encouraging is the thinking Dr Murphy conveyed in terms of the pivotal role for consumer involvement in health decision-making.

He spoke and took questions at the Forum, leaving the impression that he saw strong consumer health advocacy as something more than a recognition of consumers as stakeholders but also as offering valuable leadership and ideas to improve the health system.

The Commission's report, [Making Health Better Together](#), is an empowering testament to the positive lessons that have come out of the crisis that COVID-19 has visited upon us. We are learning that we can do better by working together in many fields of health and social care.

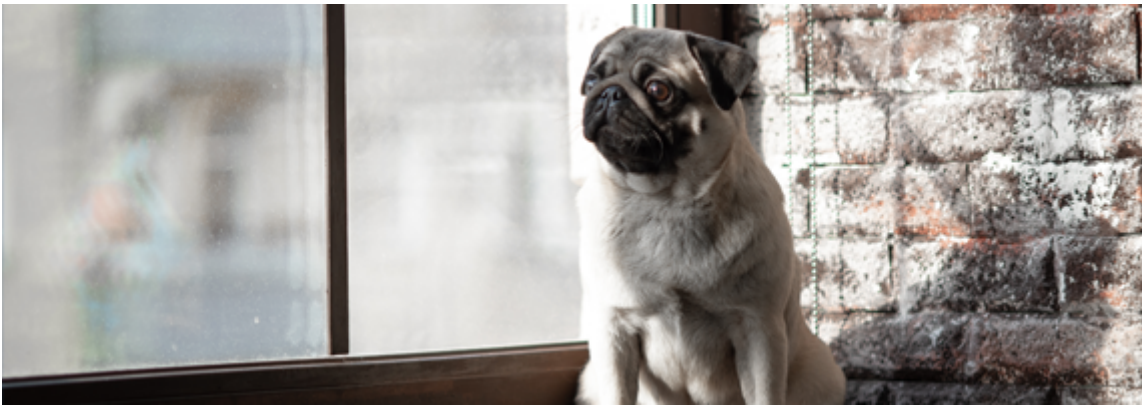
As it happens the report has come out just days after we released the latest edition of our ejournal [Health Voices](#) which gives us many examples of the way the COVID experience has stimulated fresh thinking with consumer perspectives.

So 2020 is drawing to a close for health consumers on a note of more optimism than we would have expected earlier in the year.

Leanne Wells
Chief Executive Officer



Missed out?



Did you miss the CHF Members Policy Forum?

Don't worry. If you missed the Members Policy Forum and would like to catch up you can find the replay on the member's portal on our website.

That way, you can follow the launch of the CHF [Consumer Commission Report](#), hear the Secretary of the Department of Health, Dr Brendan Murphy in conversation with CHF members, and follow through the presentation from researchers from Australian Institute of Health Innovation at Macquarie University - led by Professor Jeffery Braithwaite and Prof Frances Rapport, A/Prof Yvonne Zurynski and Gaston Arnolda.

[WATCH THE REPLAY](#)

CHF Submissions

CHF is an active contributor to the health policy agenda in Australia. The aim of CHF's policy activities is to ensure that the consumer perspective is considered and consumer needs are addressed in the development and review of national health policies and reforms.

We made recent submissions to the data sharing legislation, the National Preventative Health Strategy, the National Statement on Ethics in Human Research and more ...

[FIND CHF SUBMISSIONS](#)

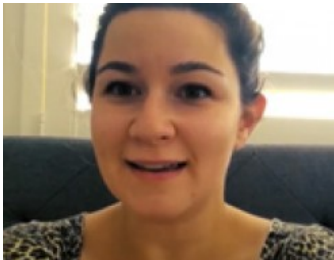


Join Us

Join us to save lives and
improve the health of Australians.

Join Us - call for research stories

Join Us is the national health research register, a [simple online register](#) that helps researchers prevent, treat and find cures for disease. The George Institute is now looking for consumers who have participated in health or medical research to share their stories about the benefits and importance of participating in such research activities. If you would like to share your experiences please contact Angela Hehir at ahehir@georgeinstitute.org.au



Community video for #CHF Big Ideas

Here's a how community-based, participatory video is used to showcase voices and ideas. We are thrilled the with videos that have been submitted so far in the #CHF Big Ideas Forum

[WATCH THE VIDEO](#)

Career opportunity



We're hiring

We're looking for an influencer to come and work at as the National Coordinator for our Youth Health Forum. The role will work with #young people to shape policy, learn leadership skills and implement 'incubator projects'. Closes this week.

[FIND OUT MORE](#)

Webinars

CHF Summit 2021



The banner features the CHF logo on the left, which includes the text 'CHF Consumers Health Forum of Australia Consumers shaping health'. The main title 'Consumers as leaders in healthcare' is written in large white letters on a purple background. To the right, there is a graphic of four interlocking gears in orange and purple, each containing a white icon: a person reading, a doctor and patient, a heart with a cross, and a person in a wheelchair. Below the gears, the text 'CHF SUMMIT 2021' is written in orange and purple, followed by 'Shifting Gears' in large purple letters. At the bottom, an orange bar contains the dates '18-19 March 2021' in white.

CHF Summit 2021 - Shifting Gears

18 - 19 March 2021

Australasia's inaugural consumer health summit will be a virtual event, putting this high impact event in reach of a wider audience within Australia, New Zealand and worldwide.

Consumers as leaders in healthcare will be a central theme of this first Australian and New Zealand Consumer Experience and Leadership in Health Summit.

Successful health strategies, policies, research and programs depend on consumers involvement at each stage of development.

Register now - Early Bird closes 21 December

CHF Summit 2021: Shifting Gears will draw together consumers and other leaders from the health sector, to explore the latest research and developments which drive health towards a consumer-centred culture.

Principal Sponsors of the Shifting Gears summit: Australian Commission for Safety and Quality in Health Care, Australian Department of Health, Australian Digital Health Agency and NSW Health.

Conference website



Masterclass on co-design

A pre-conference masterclass in experience based co-design.

Capturing experiences of care

This masterclass will expose you to the practices and benefits involved in experience based patient experience and co-design.

The Masterclass will be delivered by **Dr Lynne Maher**, recognised in many places worldwide for her work on patient experience and co-design, creativity and innovation and sustainability for improvement.

Pre-conference masterclass



Australian Clinical Trials Alliance

The Australian Clinical Trials Alliance, of which CHF is a member organisation, has recently put out a Position Statement about increasing the awareness of, involvement in and access to clinical trials for people from culturally and linguistically diverse platforms. You can find the [Position Statement](#) on the website as part of their ongoing [Clinical Trial Diversity project](#).

[GO TO THE PROJECT WEBSITE](#)



Rural and Remote families with chronic kidney disease

Study into financial impact of CKD

The focus of this study, from the University of Sydney, is on those who are on dialysis or have a kidney transplant. If you or a family member have been diagnosed with Chronic Kidney disease Stages 3-5, you are eligible to participate. The survey will take about 25 minutes to complete and can be done on a mobile phone if needed. The survey will be open until the 31st of December 2020 (one survey per family).

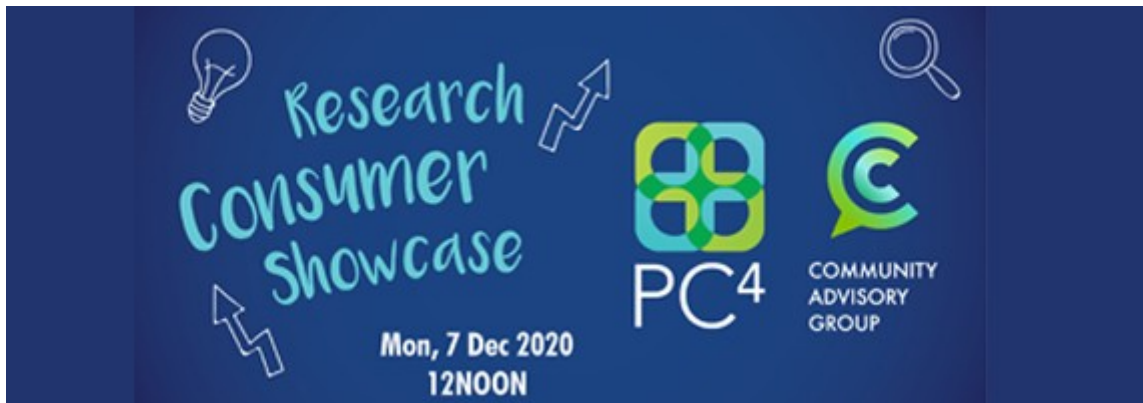
Share the link to the survey:

https://sydney.au1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_3w4DyVXh6UZQZMN

The researchers hope this project will help improve the lives of people living in rural and remote communities who require dialysis or a kidney transplant.

If you have any questions or concerns please contact: Nicole Scholes-Robertson on email: nicole.scholes-robertson@sydney.edu.au

GO TO THE SURVEY



PC4 Research Consumer Showcase

The PC4 (Primary Care Collaborative Cancer Clinical Trials Group) Research Consumer Showcase webinar is free event for the consumer community to connect and learn about PC4 supported research.

PC4 welcome all consumers to attend this webinar on PC4 supported research on 7 Dec 2020. We look forward to hearing from PC4's Director, Prof Jon Emery, PC4's Research Coordinator, Ms Paige Druce and Dr Emma Kemp, a PC4 training award recipient.

These presentations will highlight new research about bowel cancer risk and screening, emerging biomarkers to diagnose GI cancers and breast cancer survivorship.

Contact: Mairead McNamara | Research Support Officer
Email: mairread.mcnamara@unimelb.edu.au

REGISTER

ABS: release of Patient Experiences survey findings



Patient Experiences in Australia: Summary of Findings

The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) has released the *Patient Experiences in Australia: Summary of Findings, 2019-20* publication. The survey is conducted annually and collects data on access and barriers to a range of health care services. The publication contains data on access and

barriers to, and experiences of, healthcare services including GPs, specialists, dental professionals, hospitals and EDs

The ABS has also published the 2021 Census topics and release plan on the its website. The publication outlines what information will be collected in the 2021 Census and when, what and how the data will be released.

New Census questions

The ABS will introduce new questions in the 2021 Census on long-term health conditions, such as arthritis, asthma and diabetes and service within the Australian Defence Force. Information on long-term health conditions will inform preventive health programs and funding for local services, and assist decision making for health authorities, researchers, policy makers, communicators and educators. The inclusion of the Australian Defence Force service topic will provide a better understanding of the circumstances of Australia's veteran community.

More detailed information about the plans for 2021 Census data products will be released in early 2022. If you have any feedback on the above, please contact health@abs.gov.au

MORE INFORMATION

Australia's Health Panel



Australia's Health Panel

Australia's Health Panel is a way for consumers to comment on health policy and issues, and offer feedback on trends and discussions.

Join **Australia's Health Panel** and have your say on today's issues in health care. Please share details about Australia's Health Panel with your networks.

See [Australia's Health Panel results](#)

JOIN AUSTRALIA'S HEALTH PANEL

A summary of our recent webinars for health care consumers

- Self-care... patient power - a webinar will be on self-care and self-management and follow-up on the Mitchell Institute's national blueprint for support and development of self-care released on 7 Oct 2020 [watch replay](#).
- Patients, partners in health – significant trends for change, with increasing acceptance of patients being engaged as partners with clinicians. What does this mean for Australia's approach? [watch replay](#).
- Social prescribing, the referral of patients to non-medical activities to supplement conventional care - webinar on successful trials in Canada and Australia [watch replay](#).
- A celebration of the learnings from the National Collaborative Pairs program [watch replay](#).
- Script change - electronic prescribing and the consumer ... [watch replay](#).
- Not Going Viral - consideration of future-focused health policy post COVID with Deputy Chief Medical Officers Dr Nic Coatsworth and Prof Michael Kidd [watch replay](#).
- Telehealth in Primary Care [watch replay](#).
- The National Health Information Strategy - what is it, and does it mean for consumers [watch replay](#).

CHF YOUTUBE CHANNEL

Media releases and editorial

[Call for Academy to empower consumer voice](#)

Australians' experience with COVID-19 has stimulated more active consumer and community involvement in health care decision-making, [MEDIA RELEASE: 23 NOV 2020](#)

[COVID and the plague of ideas that has sparked change](#)

Australians' experience with COVID-19 has stimulated more active consumer and community involvement in health care decision-making, [MEDIA RELEASE: 18 NOV 2020](#)

[Mental health report needs action now](#)

CHF supports the final report of the Productivity Commission on Mental Health and urges governments to implement the findings as a comprehensive package [MEDIA RELEASE SE: 17 NOV 2020](#)

[Win-win-win for health and consumers on climate](#)

The potential of a shift to cleaner and cheaper sources of renewable energy offers a watershed opportunity for Australia's economy and health [MEDIA RELEASE SE: 16 NOV 2020](#)

All Media Releases and editorial



COVID and the plague of ideas

Australians' experience with COVID-19 has stimulated more active consumer and community involvement in health care decision-making. Authors in the November edition of *Health Voices* covered a range of diverse development propelled by the forces of the epidemic.

Health Voices
Issue 27 | Nov 2020

[READ MOIRE](#)

Resources and Information for COVID-19



Use **Healthdirect Australia**, the Australian Government Health advice portal for consumers, for [information on Coronavirus information, symptom checker](#) and helpline: 1800 022 222.

Turn to the website of the [Department of Health](#) to find the most recent, verified information, posted daily.

Use the [World Health Organisation](#) website to verify accuracy of health advice.

Be Health Aware - [CHF portal for health resources](#)

Consumer program



Consumer reports

CHF expects and appreciates reports from CHF nominated consumers. These reports help keep CHF informed of consumer work. Consumer reports can be made online, via email, mail or phone. CHF thanks the following consumers for keeping us up to date on their work.

Melissa Cadzow, ACSQHC - Patient Safety Reporting Advisory Committee

Jacqueline Lesage, AIHW - National Asthma and Other Chronic Respiratory Conditions Monitoring Advisory Group

Consumer representative vacancies

CHF nominates consumer representatives to high level committees and those related to funded priority areas. Calls for nominations are made via *Health Update* and the CHF website. Not all opportunities are advertised due to time limitations or because CHF decides to target invitations due to the specific work or strategic nature of the work involved.

More information about all the opportunities below can be found on our Consumer opportunities webpage.

If you have any questions, please contact the person listed or alternatively, our Consumer and Member Relationship Coordinator, **Ghislaine Martin**, on 02 6273 5444 or email g.martin@chf.org.au.

The Algorithm Will See You Now Expert Reference Group

The Australian Centre for Health Engagement, Evidence and Values, University of Wollongong

The Australian Centre for Health Engagement, Evidence and Values at the University of Wollongong is a specialist team which offers a combination of values-oriented social research, deliberation and public engagement.

The Algorithm Will See You Now is a NHMRC funded research project focused on the ethical, legal and social implications of using artificial intelligence for screening and diagnosis, using breast screening and cardiovascular disease diagnosis as case studies. The role of the expert reference group is to provide guidance on the actions and trajectory of the research.

Expressions of interest close at midnight AEDT on Sunday 29 November 2020.

[MORE INFORMATION](#)

Direct-to-Consumer Genetic Testing Drafting Committee

National Pathology Accreditation Advisory Council

The National Pathology Accreditation Advisory Council (NPAAC) advises the Commonwealth, state and territory health ministers on matters relating

to the accreditation of pathology laboratories. NPAAC plays a key role in ensuring the quality of Australian pathology services and is responsible for the development and maintenance of standards and guidelines for pathology practices.

Medical testing occurring outside the normal doctor-patient relationship and/or outside the regulated pathology accreditation system has the potential to place patients at risk. NPAAC continues to support the need for strategies to address any risks associated with direct to consumer testing (DTC), and, in particular, direct to consumer genetic testing (DTC-GT).

The Department of Health is seeking consumers for possible appointment to the NPAAC - Direct-to-Consumer Genetic Testing Drafting Committee. CHF invites expressions of interest from consumers with knowledge of Direct-to-Consumer Genetic Testing or knowledge of consumer issues relating to genetic testing. Applicants will also have a knowledge of the [pathology accreditation framework](#). The final decision on the appointment will be at the discretion of the Minister for Health, the Hon Greg Hunt MP.

Expressions of interest close at midnight AEDT on Sunday 06 December 2020.

[MORE INFORMATION](#)

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Medicines Committee

National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation and Medicines Australia

The National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (NACCHO) is the national leadership body for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health in Australia and Medicines Australia (MA) leads the research-based medicines industry of Australia.

NACCHO and Medicines Australia have established a Committee to lead and support medicine related measures that improve health outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander clients and communities.

The Committee is now recruiting for Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander consumer representatives. Interested consumers will have some experience with the medicines industry, the health system/policy and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander consumer issues.

Expressions of interest close at midnight AEDT on Sunday 13 December 2020.

[MORE INFORMATION](#)

Full details of committee vacancies are only accessible on our website by our members and consumer representatives. If you do not have access and would like to apply, please contact Ghislaine Martin on 02 6273 5444 or g.martin@chf.org.au.

[SEE ALL CONSUMER REP OPPORTUNITES](#)

Other Consumer Representative Vacancies

This section is for consumer representative opportunities that CHF does not provide nominations for. Members can work directly with other stakeholders to nominate consumer representatives to committees that are of interest to them.

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

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Advisory Committee

Speech Pathology Australia

Speech Pathology Australia have established the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Advisory Committee to ensure that the values of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in relation to culture, language, land and history are embedded in the values and business of the organisation. The Committee will provide an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples 'lens' to the strategic and operational functions of the Association.

Speech Pathology Australia is seeking interest from an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander consumer advocate with an interest in and experience of speech pathology services.

Contact Cori Williams at Speech Pathology Australia on 0417 933 548 should you have any queries.

Expressions of interest close at COB on Friday 18 December 2020.

[MORE INFORMATION](#)

Ethics Committee

The Royal Australasian College of Physicians

The Royal Australasian College of Physicians (RACP) is seeking consumer representation for the [RACP Ethics Committee](#). The Ethics Committee (EC) provides the RACP Board with advice in areas that raise ethical considerations in the context of policy and advocacy, education, clinical practice and the health of the community, research and financial investment.

Expressions of interest close at COB on Monday 4 January 2021.

[MORE INFORMATION](#)

[BECOME A MEMBER](#)



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[Unsubscribe](#) or email us info@chf.org.au | Tel: 02 6273 5444