

healthUPdate

27 April 2020

From the CEO



Preserving health advances after COVID

A hallmark of health reform has been how hard it is to bring change, even when it might be in the interests of patients and the nation.

Now with COVID-19 we are all dealing with change like we have never seen before. In the space of less than a month, the pandemic has prompted the introduction of telehealth, previously seen as a step too far, and accelerated the introduction of electronic prescribing. Then private hospitals did the improbable and agreed to curtail most elective surgery and partner with public hospitals to accommodate COVID patients. Hardly had that change bedded down then the elective restrictions eased this week as an unexpected downturn in COVID cases has paused, at this stage, the demand for emergency hospital beds.

Necessity has forced change in health where, by instinct, habit and structural barriers, doing things differently requires deadly evidence. CHF has taken an active part in calling for the big changes we have seen in recent weeks. But urgency has allowed little time for a consumer role in co-design of the new health arrangements.

We do need to see a stronger platform for consumers to participate in shaping these changes rather than just having “things done to them” in this highly charged, rapidly changing environment.

There are important lessons emerging from the COVID era which we as consumers can proclaim in advocating for consumer-centred advances.

They include:

- Pressing the “Health is Wealth” message. The COVID experience shows government the wisdom of embracing rather than cutting services
- Building on the moves to modernise Medicare - making patient safety and convenience a core consideration.
- Overcoming isolation, loneliness and mental distress. This is going to be huge and will demand more and better services.
- Taking Social Determinants of Health seriously – this is not a soft option. This means better ways to integrate health and social care services. Health is so much more than medical services
- Consumer experience and care preferences must be front and centre – there is still too much lip service to this.

If the experience exerted by COVID does nothing else it has presented one huge disruptor that should transition us from not just re-imagining health — as we did in [our *Shifting Gears* paper](#) — to actually recreating health care in three key areas of policy opportunity:

- The next stages of digital health
- The need to take a heightened interest in the social and economic determinants of health and have a plan

The need to tackle loneliness with a policy response, which is, again, where our social prescribing scheme idea comes into play.

Leanne Wells
Chief Executive Officer



We want to hear from you



COVID SPACE – a place for sharing stories

What’s happening in your home and community to beat COVID-19?

Share your story - tell us on **COVID SPACE**

We want to hear about the smart moves and fresh steps in your community to counter the virus.

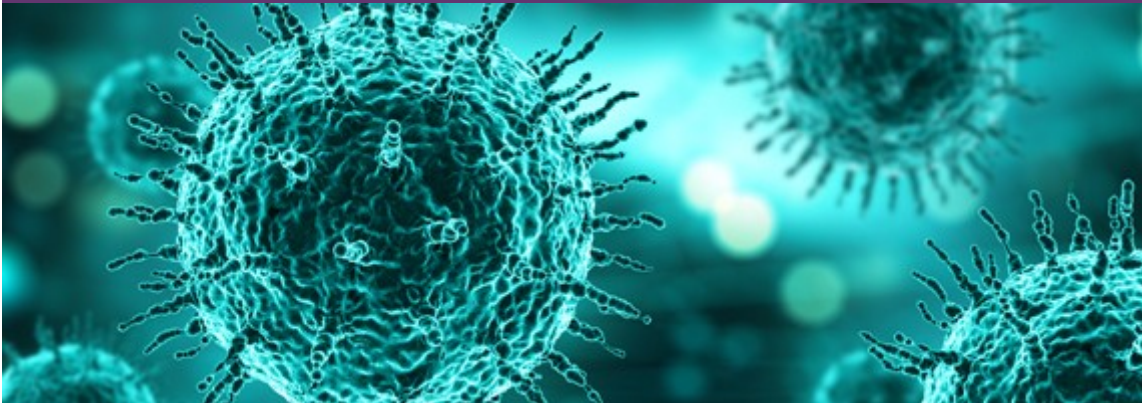
These could be new ideas from consumers to stem spread of infection, or innovations by doctors, nurses and clinics to increase access and improve care.

Sharing ideas that are making a difference where you live will help us all to beat the virus, increase access to care and calm our lives.

Email the Communications Team on Communications@chf.org.au or share your story with us on [Facebook](#)

EMAIL THE COMMUNICATIONS TEAM

Coronavirus



As always, CHF advocates caution in sharing information with your family, friends and colleagues without taking time to verify the source and its authenticity.

Our knowledge and understanding about COVID-19 is changing so rapidly that even news articles can be out-of-date.

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

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

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

DEPT OF HEALTH WEBSITE

Resources and information

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

Department of Health

Factsheet - [Home Medicines Services information for consumers](#)

[Infection control training](#) - 30-minute online training module for health care workers in all settings. It covers the fundamentals of infection prevention and control for COVID-19. This training is recommended as a useful resource for everyone.

Resources for [Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and remote communities](#)

Translated resources for [people in migrant communities](#)

NHMRC Partnership Centre for Health System Sustainability provides easy to [follow guides on telehealth](#) for consumers. See the [telehealth consumer advice](#) and [video guide factsheets](#).

Healthdirect Australia

[Symptom checker](#)

World Health Organisation

[Handy mythbusters](#)

Australia at Home

['Like a Virus' - Disinformation in the Age of COVID-19](#) - where do conspiracy theories come from and how do they spread?

[Debt or Destitution - the hard choices facing Australia](#) - what are some viable models to rebuild Australia? And how could economics that puts wellbeing first change the game forever?

Join the Youth Health Forum



Expressions of Interest are invited to join the Youth Health Forum

- Are you aged 18 – 30?
- Do you use the health and social care system or help someone who does?
- Would you like to work with a diverse group of young people?
- Do you have ideas about how we could change health and wellbeing services?

- Are you interested in gaining leadership, advocacy and policy skills? COVID-19 is disrupting the world as we know it and will force us to reimagine the services we want in the future. Do you want to have a voice in shaping that?

Applications will close in Sunday 3 May 2020.

FIND OUT MORE

National Consumer Opportunity



Lead a virtual consultation with your community

CHF has been engaged and funded by NPS MedicineWise as the lead agency to carry out a research project that will contribute to improving consumer health literacy as it relates to quality use of medicines.

CHF and NPS MedicineWise want to ensure consumer views are central to this project and highlight real world insights from “grass-roots consumers”. We are undertaking a series of (up to 20) Virtual Consumer Discussions across the country to hear from consumers about what matters to them when it comes to medicines and health literacy.

CHF is offering consumers and carers from across Australia the opportunity to host and facilitate a virtual discussion with their local community on quality use of medicines and health literacy, including what consumers want/need to know about medicines as well as what encourages consumer adherence.

If you have any questions, please contact **Leanne Kelly**, Quality Use of Medicines Lead, email: l.kelly@chf.org.au.

Applications close 8 May 2020

FIND OUT MORE

Consultations and surveys

Australia's Health Panel



Australia's Health Panel allows 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 members. Our current survey is open and asks for your views on telehealth services in Australia.

COMPLETE THE SURVEY

Your mental health and COVID-19



Researchers from Monash School of Public Health invite you to participate in a survey on COVID-19 and mental health. If you live in Australia and are aged over 18 years, please record your responses as soon as you can. The short survey is [available here](#) and will take about ten minutes to complete.

Check back in two months, and again in four months, to provide updates on how you are coping.

There is a longer Monash University survey, [you can do so here](#) which will take 30–40 minutes.

COMPLETE THE SURVEY

Media releases

[Elective surgery restart vindicates anti-COVID strategy.](#)

The staged return of some elective surgery next week announced today by the Prime

Minister is not only great news for many patients on waiting lists but also a vindication of the cautious measures [MEDIA RELEASE: 21 APR 2020](#)

[Non-COVID patients also need care](#)

Patients in need of routine care for chronic and other conditions should feel they can see the doctor and not be dissuaded by fear [MEDIA RELEASE: 16 APR 2020](#)

Editorial



Health care rush may guide future of care

The rush of developments in health care triggered by COVID-19 is opening up significant changes in the health workforce ...

[READ MORE](#)



Understanding young people's thinking about COVID-19

Early messaging gave young people a false sense of security. Only once they realised their role as a carrier, many started to pay attention to the health advice ...

[READ MORE](#)

[All Media Releases and Blogposts](#)



CT:IQ launches Early Phase Trials Best Practice Checklist

The CT:IQ [Early Phase Best Practice Checklist](#) aims to support Australian research sites to conduct high-quality early phase clinical trials.

CT:IQ welcomes feedback with a view to improvements for future versions. There is a draw for three **\$100 gift vouchers** for feedback provided by **Friday 1 May 2020**.

[FIND OUT MORE](#)



Online chair yoga class

Classes will be held from 11am-noon (AEST) on Tues and Thurs throughout April.

The classes are free to all frontline healthcare workers.

Others are asked to contribute \$5 per class, which will go towards Croakey Health Media public interest journalism.

[FIND OUT MORE](#)

Conferences and workshops



Summit - Shifting gears

The **CHF Summit: Shifting Gears** has been postponed until **18-19 March 2021** due to the COVID-19 pandemic. We look forward to welcoming you to our rescheduled conference in March 2021.

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

The summit will offer the opportunity for both organisations and consumers to come together to explore, discuss and grow the concept and practice of consumer-centred care, and be at the forefront of system change.

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

CHF SUMMIT 2021

Consumer Representatives Program

Consumer Representative Appointments



Consumer Representative Reports

CHF expects and appreciates reports from CHF nominated consumer representatives. These reports help keep CHF informed of consumer representative work.

Consumer representative reports can be made online, via email, mail or phone. CHF thanks the following consumer representatives for keeping us up to date on their work.

Geraldine Robertson, MBS Review - Diagnostic Imaging Implementation Liaison 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 *healthUPdate* and the CHF website. Not all opportunities are advertised due to time limitations or because CHF decides to target invitations due to the specific work or strategic nature of the work involved.

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

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

[SEE ALL OUR CONSUMER REP VACANCIES](#)

Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (ATAGI)

Department of Health

The Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (ATAGI) provides advice to the Minister for Health on the Immunise Australia Program and other related issues.

ATAGI advises the Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee on matters relating to the ongoing strength of evidence pertaining to existing, new and emerging vaccines in relation to their effectiveness and use in Australian populations. It produces the Australian Immunisation Handbook for the approval of the National Health and Medical Research Council.

CHF thanks consumer representative, Debra Petrys, for her work over many years in providing a consumer perspective to this important work.

The appointment is for a three-year term from June 2020 to June 2023. CHF invites expressions of interest from experienced consumer representatives. The Department of Health will cover travel costs and sitting fees for this work.

Please contact **Ghislaine Martin** on 02 6273 5444 or via email at g.martin@chf.org.au should you have any queries.

Expressions of interest close 17 May 2020 (midnight AEDT).

[MORE INFORMATION](#)

National Goals of Care Collaborative Steering Committee

Western Australian Department of Health

The Australian Digital Health Agency (the Agency) is partnering with the Western Australian Department of Health to establish and lead the National Goals of Care Collaborative (the Collaborative).

The national project (National Goals of Care Collaborative) aims to make Advance Care Planning (ACP) and Goals of Care (GoC) documents useful and accessible to health care professionals across Australia, through the use of the My Health Record System.

As part of the project, the Department of Health Western Australia will demonstrate the benefits of safe and secure sharing of Goals of Care clinical documents in My Health Record in several health services in Western Australia (WA).

The National Goals of Care Collaborative Steering Committee will lead the ACP and GoPC MHR Project nationally, to ensure Project outcomes align with national initiatives and include interjurisdictional benefits.

The appointment will run from 28 May 2020 to 30 June 2020 with the possibility of the work being extended to June 2021. The Department of Health Western Australia will pay sitting fees at remuneration tribunal rates for this important work.

Please contact [Ghislaine Martin](#) on 02 6273 5444 or via email at g.martin@chf.org.au should you have any queries.

Expressions of interest close 17 May 2020 (midnight AEDT).

[MORE INFORMATION](#)

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

[BECOME A MEMBER](#)

Other Consumer Representative Vacancies

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

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

CHF is not currently advertising any consumer representative opportunities.

Opioid Deprescribing Guideline Development Group

University of Sydney

The University of Sydney requires a consumer representative to join their Opioid Deprescribing Guideline Development Group.

The Opioid Deprescribing Guideline Development Group has been established to develop evidence-based deprescribing guidelines for opioid analgesics and a pilot strategy for the implementation of opioid deprescribing guidelines.

Members will need to:

- Attend meetings on an as-needed basis
- Contribute to guideline development and implementation
- Understand and adhere to agreed methods of communication, document generation and review

The appointment is for an eighteen months term from 27 May 2020 to December 2021.

Please contact **Aili Langford** on 0428 566 658, or email aili.langford@sydney.edu.au should you have any queries.

Expressions of interest close at midnight AEST on Sunday 17 May 2020

[MORE INFORMATION](#)



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