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# Newsletter

June 2019

Welcome to our first issue of the Youth Health Forum newsletter!

In the aftermath of the Federal Election, CHF has continued its work in advocating for a more cohesive health system by welcoming the returned government with three main asks: [primary health care reform](#), [a national prevention health strategy](#) and [greater investment in dental health care](#). These were drawn from [Making Health Better](#), our election priorities on which we had several opportunities to advocate during the election campaign.

As mentioned below, during the election campaign the Coalition pledged funding to support CHF's Youth Health Forum (YHF). This is important recognition that youth health has not received the attention it deserves and CHF will ensure that the YHF is actively engaged in mental health and other relevant policy.

To further recognise the importance of the youth consumer voice and the need to support emerging leaders in governance roles, the CHF Board is now seeking expressions of interest from participants in the YHF to join the CHF Board.

Read on to learn more, and if you have any feedback on this newsletter, we'd love to hear from you - please email our Digital Communications Coordinator, Ayesha at [a.inoon@chf.org.au](mailto:a.inoon@chf.org.au)

## News & Resources



### **Beyond the Emergency: A national study of ambulance responses to men's mental health**

Beyond the Emergency is a ground-breaking study of male mental health presentations to ambulance services. This wide-ranging research project – facilitated by Beyond Blue, funded by Movember Foundation, and led by Turning Point and Monash University, in partnership with ambulance services across Australia – includes new data about:

## Male self-harm and suicide

The scale and complexity of mental health issues among men in Australia

The need for more mental health training for paramedics

The relationship between alcohol/substance abuse and mental health issues

Perspectives of men affected by these issues

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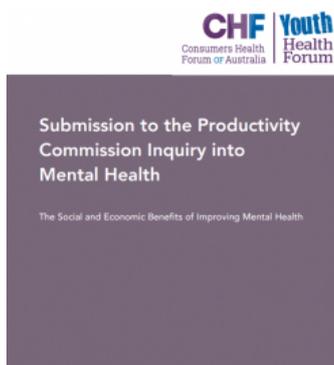


## Funding pledged for the Youth Health Forum

In May this year, the Liberal government pledged \$1 million over three years to the Consumers Health Forum (CHF) to support the roll of their Youth Health Forum. CHF welcomed this announcement, which is to support the implementation of the first National Action Plan for the Health of Children and Young People 2020-2030 which will improve children and young people's health by focusing on healthy upbringing, prevention, addressing risky behaviours and childhood mental health.

This action plan identifies the steps needed so our children and young people have the best start in life. The plan will be delivered in partnership with all levels of government as well as health professionals, parents and carers, and young people. It has a particular focus on young indigenous Australians, LGBTI+ young people and those experiencing difficult socioeconomic circumstances in rural and remote regions.

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## YHF Submission to the Productivity Commission Inquiry into Mental Health

In order to address the challenges faced by Young Australians suffering from, or at risk of developing mental health issues within the context of Improving Social and Economic Participation, the Youth Health Forum asked the Productivity Commission's Inquiry into Mental Health to consider their 12 recommendations.

[READ THE SUBMISSION](#)

## CHF Board Vacancy

Recognising that young people are the future of health, the CHF Board is committed

to strengthening the extent to which we can represent and advocate for youth health issues on our Board.

To ensure that our Board membership properly represents its stakeholders, the Board of CHF is calling for **Expressions of Interest from appropriately skilled members of the CHF Youth Health Forum** with a passion and commitment to make a real difference to fill an appointed vacancy which has become available on the Board.

Prospective applicants from the CHF Youth Health Forum, as youth leaders and advocates, will receive governance support and mentorship by Board Directors.

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## Rural & Remote Special Interest Group

We are 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, and we are keen to include more young voices in our Group.

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## Interviews to explore consumer experience of quality and safety in aged care

Do you care for someone who is elderly?

CHF are preparing a submission to the Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety and we want to include your views and lived experiences front and centre of our response. We are now seeking expressions of interest from people to participate in an interview about their experience of Quality and Safety in Aged Care.

CHF aim to develop a series of consumer case studies by collecting stories from patients, carers and/or family members to understand their experiences of aged care services and highlight the importance of quality and safety.

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## Name your newsletter!

What would you like your Youth Health Forum newsletter to be called? Send your ideas to our Digital Communications Coordinator Ayesha at [a.inoon@chf.org.au](mailto:a.inoon@chf.org.au)

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