

Health Technology Assessment (HTA) Consumer Consultative Committee Communiqué

The HTA Consumer Consultative Committee (CCC) met on Friday 13 November 2020 via videoconference. This was the 13th formal meeting of the HTA CCC.

Attendees

Attendees included consumer representatives from the Pharmaceutical Advisory Committee (PBAC), the Prostheses Listing Advisory Committee (PLAC) and the Medical Services Advisory Committee (MSAC) and their subcommittees as well as a consumer representative from the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) Advisory Committee on Medicines (ACM). The Drug Utilisation Sub-Committee (DUSC) consumer representative and mentee were also in attendance.

Departmental representatives at the meeting were from Consumer Evidence and Engagement Unit (CEEU) and the Office of Health Technology Assessment (OHTA) HTA Support Unit were also in attendance.

Outcomes

The Chair welcomed the commencement of the HTA consumer mentoring program pilot which had seen the recruitment of a consumer mentee to the DUSC committee.

The Chair provided an overview of activities since the last meeting CCC meeting noting various virtual presentations to consumer groups about the PBAC process, internal activities associated with PBAC streamlining pathways consultations and involvement with two Medical Research Future Fund (MRFF) projects looking at methodologies to measure quality of life in children.

Members also discussed issues that had been highlighted by consumer groups in submissions to the Senate Inquiry into the approval process for new drugs and novel technologies in Australia.

The Consumer Evidence Engagement Unit (CEEU) report included the PBAC Summary of Information for Health Consumer Organisations Project. This was piloted at the November PBAC meeting. A number of resources have been developed to go alongside the summary document and feedback is currently being gathered in order to inform the second pilot for the March 2021 PBAC meeting.

Consultation activities associated with the Review of the MSAC Technical Guidelines were also noted. The Department hosted a webinar for consumers in September 2020 on the guidelines which was attended by over 100 participants. Submissions to the consultation are now being reviewed by the Technical Reference Group and Steering Committee.

External engagement activities for 2021 were also discussed by the CCC.

Next meeting

The next meeting is provisionally planned to be held in Canberra on Friday 19th February. Followed by meetings in July and November 2021.

For more information please contact: htaconsumerengagement@health.gov.au