

## **Health Technology Assessment (HTA) Consumer Consultative Committee Communique**

The HTA Consumer Consultative Committee (the Committee) met on 29 August 2017. The Committee was established on 1 March 2017.

### **Attendees**

Chair: Jo Watson. Consumer representatives from Pharmaceutical Advisory Committee (PBAC), Medical Services Advisory Committee (MSAC), Prostheses Listing Advisory Committee (PLAC) and their Sub committees. Department of Health representatives were also in attendance.

### **Purpose**

To progress the activities of the work plan for 2017, towards supporting optimal consumer engagement and participation in the HTA processes of the Australian Government.

The meeting was an opportunity to discuss outcomes of the HTA workshop held with patient representatives on 4 August 2017. At the workshop, the Committee members sought feedback from users of the consumer input processes across the HTA committees. The Committee members also discussed priority issues for the improvement and development of patient engagement opportunities for the future work of the Committee, in partnership with the Department of Health.

The Committee meeting was also an opportunity for the Department to outline the implementation of a new Office of HTA, which will bring together assessment processes for Government reimbursement into one area.

Finally, the Committee took the opportunity to farewell the Deputy Secretary, Andrew Stuart, who was retiring from the Department of Health. The Committee acknowledged his support and leadership that led to the establishment of the Committee, and for his collaboration with many of the members over the past years.

### **Outcomes**

The Committee agreed to continue to work on the committee's agreed work plan priorities, including the provision of information and HTA education opportunities for the relevant patient organisations and groups, and improving consumer engagement in HTA processes.

It was noted that the Chair of the Committee is invited to attend the National HTA Chairs Committee meeting in December 2017 to discuss these matters with the Chairs of the principal HTA committees.

The Committee has commenced working with the Department of Health to contribute to a project focused on improving the accessibility / understanding of Departmental Public Summary Documents, and another project focused on information needs for consumers to support better understanding of out-of-pocket costs to patients.

Finally, the Committee is now progressing two more activities for 2017 specifically a Research Roundtable focused on various methodologies for patient input in HTA, and a HTA workshop for patient representatives on the fundamentals of HTA for medicines and devices.

### **Next steps**

The next Committee meeting is scheduled for 13 October 2017, in Canberra.