

**Minutes of the  
Pharmac Consumer Advisory Committee (CAC) Meeting  
Wednesday 14 February 2024**

The meeting was held via Zoom from 09:30 am.

**Present:**

Robyn Manuel (Chair)  
Nele Kalolo (Deputy Chair)  
Georgina Johnson  
Janfrie Wakim  
Hazel Heal  
Vivien Verheijen  
Tui Taurua  
Sione Vaka

**Observer**

Jesse Davis

**Pharmac staff in attendance**

Nicola Ngawati (Director, Equity and Engagement)  
Jannel Fisher (Manager, Public Affairs and Government Services)  
Mako Osborne (Graduate Implementation Advisor)

**For relevant items**

Hannah Arnold (Senior Implementation Advisor)  
Matt McKenzie (Therapeutic Group Manager)

**Apologies**

Mary Schnackenberg

**Karakia**

The meeting was opened with karakia.

**1. Interest register / notes from previous meeting / action items**

***Interest register***

Noted.

***Notes from previous meeting***

Notes for the November meeting were approved as a true record of discussion, following one edit.

## ***Action items***

The action items were reviewed.

### **2. CAC Chair update**

The Chair gave an update on the last Board meeting. This included the resignation of the Board Chair, the action plan to improve organisational culture, and the Equity Policy. The Chair discussed the prioritisation meeting in December and the Options for Investment list which remains over 100.

The Chair also noted that in June, there is a Health Technology meeting being held in Spain. The Chair noted that there is funding available from the Health Technology Assessment International.

### **3. Lenalidomide brand change and Pomalidomide new listing**

Senior Implementation Advisor and Therapeutics Group Manager provided an overview of the potential lenalidomide brand change and new listing for pomalidomide and sought feedback on the planned implementation approach.

Members noted the importance of supporting general practitioners, specialists and pharmacists to communicate the changes to patients, as they are a trusted face in the community. This was particularly emphasised for health practitioners in rural areas.

Members were pleased to see the language translations but noted it was important that translations still use plain language. Members recommended communicating through different forms of media, and for health practitioners to use personalised messaging to their patients.

Members recommended having a targeted approach based on locality of patients. Therapeutic Group Manager noted that they can monitor the locality of patients.

### **4. CAC name discussion**

In response to an earlier request from Members for advice on the possibility of renaming the committee, the Manager Public Affairs and Government Services provided further detail on the process.

Members agreed that their current priority should be on patient and community needs and to pause any renaming at this time.

#### ***Actions:***

*(1) Reconsider CAC name change in a years' time.*

### **5. CAC membership terms**

Manager Public Affairs and Government Services provided an overview of the current membership terms and approach for the upcoming recruitment process.

Members agreed to hold any recruitment process until the letter of expectations was received as it could include expectations around the patient voice. Members noted that it is useful that relevant processes/documents are ready as the recruitment process can take time.

Members noted disability as a priority for the committee.

**Actions:**

(2) *Provide an update on the Ministers Letter of Expectations at the next CAC meeting.*

## **6. Pharmac update and annual agenda discussion**

Director Equity and Engagement gave a verbal update:

- There is no update on a permanent Board Chair yet.
- The Senior Leadership Team approved the current draft Equity Policy and high-level implementation plan. This will be going to the February Board meeting for approval.
- As part of Pharmac's new engagement strategy, engagement training has been arranged for some kaimahi in March. This is through the International Association for Public Participation (IAP2) Essentials of Engagement course.
- The three TupuToa interns recently finished up at Pharmac and presented their projects to interested kaimahi.
- There have been a couple changes to the Equity and Engagement which includes new staff and acting Implementation Team Leader.
- Pharmac announced its funding testosterone gel without restrictions as an additional testosterone treatment for anyone who needs it.
- Acting Board Chair and Pharmac's Chief Executive recently met with Hon Dr Shane Reti, Minister of Health, and Hon David Seymour, Associate Health Minister (Pharmac) to discuss Pharmac's work.
- Pharmac released its Briefing to the incoming Minister.
- Work is underway with external consultants to enhance Pharmac's culture.
- Pharmac's OIA reporting showed that the average and median working days to respond to requests were 14 and 15, respectively. This is significantly down from the previous reporting period of 18.3 and 21 working days.
- Pharmac has joined the International Network of Agencies for Health Technology Assessment.
- A session on the Exceptions process will be held in March for CAC members.

Tui Taurua left the meeting at 10:50am.

Members asked about any pathways to progress from TupuToa interns to staff. Director Equity and Engagement noted that this has been discussed by SLT previously. Pharmac has information available on our website explaining the range of roles for pharmacists.

The Chair discussed the applications going to the Pharmacology and Therapeutics Advisory Committee (PTAC) this month and noted that PTAC will be completing equity training.

***Actions:***

*(3) Send members the website link to the Briefing to the incoming Minister.*

*(4) Send CAC Pharmac's press releases.*

The meeting was closed with a karakia.

Committee only time was held.