

**Minutes of the
Pharmac Consumer Advisory Committee (CAC) Meeting
Wednesday 17 April 2024**

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

Present:

Robyn Manuel (Chair)
Nele Kalolo (Deputy Chair)
Janfrie Wakim
Jesse Davis
Sione Vaka
Mary Schnackenberg

Pharmac staff in attendance

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

For relevant items

Robyn Harris (Acting Team Leader, Implementation)
Michael Johnson (Director, Strategy, Policy and Performance)
Brent McPherson (Manager, Strategic Planning and Performance)

Apologies

Georgina Johnson
Hazel Heal
Vivien Verheijen

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 March meeting were approved as a true record of discussion.

Action items

The action items were reviewed.

Membership terms

The membership terms were reviewed.

2. CAC Chair update

The Chair provided an update of the previous Board meeting which included a focus on incorporating consumer input within Pharmac's assessment and decision-making process and that a new Board Chair has not yet been appointed.

The Chair noted that Pharmac is seeking feedback on a funding proposal for continuous glucose monitors, insulin pumps and insulin pump consumables.

The Chair also noted that she had received an official invitation to the medicines summit at the end of April, which is being organised by Medicines NZ together with Patient Voice Aotearoa and hosted by the Associate Minister of Health (Pharmac).

3. Responsible use update

Acting Team leader, Implementation provided members with an update on Pharmac's responsible use plan.

Members recommended organisations to consult with in the development of the new responsible use work plan. This included Moana Connect, Etu Pasifika, Vaka Tautua, urban and rural Māori health providers, refugee communities and NZEI. Members also suggested connecting with community-based organisations and leaders as they have trusted relationships and closer, face to face interactions with patients.

Members suggested bringing consumer and patient voices into the Responsible Use Advisory Group. Members noted that this could be a CAC member so that there is a better relationship and access between the committees.

Members also noted that creating good resources for patients is important.

4. Strategic planning and priorities

Manager, Strategic Planning and Priorities provided members with an update on the Government's priorities, and what it could mean for Pharmac's future strategic direction and priorities.

Director, Strategy, Policy and Planning noted that they expect to receive the Government's Letter of Expectations end of April – early May, which will help provide more clarity on this work.

Director, Strategy, Policy and Planning also noted that the Government's priorities align well with Pharmac's current priorities, particularly around improving access, timeliness and assessment and decision-making.

Members recommended having strong language to reflect Pharmac's commitment and obligation to Te Tiriti and Pae Ora.

Members noted they would like to be involved in this work once Pharmac has more clarity.

Actions

(1) Add strategic planning and priorities to the May agenda.

5. New members discussion

The Chair noted Tui Taurua's recent resignation, bringing the committee's vacancies to three.

Director, Equity and Engagement noted that members advice and input on the consumer group landscape domestically would be useful as part of the wider preparations for the next round of recruitment. The Chair advised that it should be Pharmac led.

6. Pharmac update and annual agenda

Director Equity and Engagement gave a verbal update:

- The contract of Government Services advisor is ending and a short term secondee is joining the Government Services team.
- Pharmac will be attending the New Zealand Medicine Access Summit at the end of April.
- The Medical Device Funding team has been working with Health New Zealand to look at opportunities to standardise the use of products across regions and get the best deal based on Pharmac's agreements.
- Pharmac had another anti-racism workshop with Dr Heather Came-Friar for all staff.
- Pharmac has issued a request for proposals asking suppliers to bid for the supply of oestradiol gel in New Zealand.
- Pharmac is seeking feedback on a funding proposal for continuous glucose monitors, insulin pumps and insulin pump consumables.
- Pharmac has decided to fund several medicines and widen access to two others. This included funding a maintenance treatment for ovarian cancer, the first single triple therapy inhaler and a treatment for human immunodeficiency virus and widening access to mepolizumab and the shingles vaccine.

Members asked what support is being provided for Māori and Pacific Peoples in regard to the single triple therapy inhaler. Acting Team Leader, Implementation noted that there is work underway to create targeted patient resources.

Members asked for an update on the Pacific Responsiveness Strategy following the resignation of Principal Advisor – Pacific and highlighted the importance of this work.

Actions

(1) Set up a meeting between Nele Kalolo, Sione Vaka and Manager, Equity and Engagement at the May face to face meeting.

Committee only time was held.