

**Minutes of the  
Pharmac Consumer Advisory Committee (CAC) Meeting  
Wednesday 12 June 2024**

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

**Present:**

Robyn Manuel (Chair)  
Janfrie Wakim  
Jesse Davis  
Sione Vaka  
Mary Schnackenberg  
Hazel Heal  
Vivien Verheijen

**Pharmac staff in attendance**

Nicola Ngawati (Director, Equity and Engagement)  
Salī Salī (Manager, Equity and Engagement)  
Mako Osborne (Implementation Advisor)

**For relevant items**

Conal Edwards (Senior Therapeutic Group Manager)

**Apologies**

Nele Kalolo (Deputy Chair)  
Georgina Johnson

**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 April meeting were approved as a true record of discussion.

***Action items***

The action items were reviewed.

***Membership terms***

The membership terms were reviewed. It was noted that one member will be seeking reappointment.

## **2. CAC Chair update**

The Chair mentioned the appointment of the new Pharmac Board Chair and noted that Sione Vaka will be attending the June Board meeting in her place, as neither she nor the Deputy Chair is able to make it.

The Chair provided a summary of her experience at the Medicines Summit in April. This included discussions around collaboration and improving patient involvement in decision-making processes and addressing challenges in managing expectations and delays in healthcare decision-making.

## **3. Continuous Glucose Monitors (CGM) and Insulin Pumps update**

Senior Therapeutic Group Manager provided an update on the CGM and insulin pumps request for proposal consultation process and noted that the amount of feedback received meant there was a delay in the timeline.

Members noted that consumers don't always have a good understanding of government processes and implementing parameters would help manage public expectations in the case of delays.

Members recommended that Pharmac identify how many times consultations have been delayed in the past and how long for and use that information to provide the public with more details.

## **4. Cost Utility Analysis and Societal Perspectives conference learnings**

Hazel Heal provided the committee with her learnings from the cost utility analysis and societal perspectives conference she attended in Portugal.

Members recommended that societal costs (perspectives) and cost savings are included in Pharmac's economic analysis of each recommended health technology under investigation.

## **5. Getting meaningful patient input into Pharmacology and Therapeutics Advisory Committee (PTAC) and Specialist Advisory Committees (SACs)**

The Chair discussed consumer engagement in medicine evaluation, highlighting the importance of increasing patient feedback.

Members recommended that consumer members of PTAC/SACs meet regularly to discuss strategies to best support patient perspectives in their respective committees.

Members also recommended that meaningful patient input is included in PTAC and SAC assessment papers to support the consumer representatives on those committees, to provide best patient perspectives.

## **6. New members strategy**

Members discussed the draft interview questions guide and information sheet. Members suggested reducing the number of questions and bringing the Te Tiriti questions higher up in order.

Director Equity and Engagement noted the time commitment for being on the interview panel.

Members also suggested that the interview panel think about aspects to do with pastoral care, including how applicants might deal with distressing topics, and having clear guidance around interacting with media.

## **7. Patient advocacy group visit update**

Manger Equity and Engagement discussed developing clear guidelines for external groups to present and attend CAC meetings.

The Chair noted that she had been approached by an advocacy group interested in presenting to the committee.

## **8. Pharmac update and CAC Terms of Reference**

Director Equity and Engagement gave a verbal update:

- There is work underway on some Health Technology Assessment organisations, including the consumer engagement methods used by the Agency for Care Effectiveness (Singapore).
- Recruitment is underway to support the government services team. Staff are also in the final stages of recruitment for the Implementation Team leader and Principal advisor Engagement roles.
- Tui Taurua has been sent a leaving card and certificate from Pharmac and the Board, following her recent resignation.
- A mihi whakatau was held for the new Board Chair. The Communications team has developed an internal video to introduce the new Board Chair to staff. They will also be creating an external version.
- Minister Minister Seymour and Act MP Todd Stephenson visited the Pharmac offices to learn more about medical devices.
- The Equity policy has been finalised and approved by the Board.

The Chair noted that she will be meeting with the new Pharmac Board Chair.

## **Actions**

- (1) Send members document on the Singapore model.*
- (2) Send members external video of new Board Chair, once published.*
- (3) Send members the Equity policy, once published.*
- (4) Provide estimated time commitment for CAC Members re the interview panel*
- (5) Chair to advise CAC Members on recruitment panel*