

Minutes of the Pharmac Consumer Advisory Committee (CAC) Meeting Wednesday 10 July 2024

The meeting was held Level 9, 40 Mercer St, Wellington.

Present

Robyn Manuel (Chair)
Nele Kalolo (Deputy Chair)
Hazel Heal
Georgina Johnson
Mary Schnackenberg
Sione Vaka
Vivien Verheijen

Apologies

Jesse Davis
Janfrie Wakim

Pharmac staff in attendance

Paula Bennet (Pharmac Board Chair)
Nicola Ngawati (Director, Equity and Engagement)
Salī Salī (Manager, Equity and Engagement)
Mako Osborne (Implementation Advisor)

For relevant items

Sarah Fitt (Chief Executive)
Scott Austin (Service Designer, Medical Devices Programme Delivery)
Megan Nagel (Engagement Lead, Medical Devices Programme Delivery)
Leanne Manson (Principal Advisor Te Whaioranga)
Hera Pore (Senior Lead Māori)
Michael Johnson (Director Strategy, Policy and Performance)
Robyn Harris (Team Leader Implementation)
Caroline De Luca (Manager Expert Advisory)

Karakia and mihi for new member

The meeting was opened with karakia and whakawhanaungatanga with the Pharmac Board Chair.

1. Action items / notes from previous meeting / interest register

Interest register

Two members raised conflicts of interest.

Notes from previous meeting

Notes for the June meeting was approved as a true record of discussion. It was noted that future recommendations be better highlighted in the minutes.

Action items

The action items were reviewed.

Membership terms

Noted.

2. CAC Chair update

The Chair provided an overview of her experience attending the Health Technology Assessment International (HTAi) 2024 conference in Seville. The conference focused on opportunities and challenges for growing valuable networks and how collaboration could support the evaluation on innovative healthcare solutions. The Chair noted that she was on a panel called 'patient and citizen involvement in health technology assessment', alongside consumer representatives from Australia and the Philippines.

Key takeaways from the event included the learning curve for consumers sitting on health technology committees and experiencing imposter syndrome. The Chair recommended that consumer members on Pharmac committees have the opportunity to meet.

3. Service design for medical devices

Engagement Lead and Service Designer, Medical Devices Programme Delivery provided an update on the medical devices programme and an overview of the approach to service design, including next steps.

There was discussion on how different perspectives and values are considered in service design. Members also noted the challenges for Primary Health Organisations in funding devices, the discharge process from hospitals including the lack of accessible information for patients about their new devices, and the lack of regulation.

Members were interested in data, particularly by region, to help better understand connections with diseases and the devices being used to treat/support whānau.

Service Designer noted that there is interest in building device tracking into the service design.

Actions:

(1) Send members the service design for medical devices presentation.

4. Te Whaioranga strategy update

Principal Advisor Te Whaioranga provided an update on Pharmac's Te Whaioranga strategy - Māori responsiveness strategy.

Members suggested implementing measurements to monitor and report back on progress.

Principal Advisor Te Whaioranga noted that the team is pushing for an external, independent review of the strategy. Members raised concerns around the timing of the review, noting the impact it may have on Māori staff.

Members discussed the low percentage of Māori on Pharmac's advisory committees and what can be done to increase the number and better reflect the population. Members suggested a targeted approach for recruitment, including utilising connections, doing webinars, using more inviting language, and involving the PTAC Chair.

Members also noted the need for Pacific and Tangata Whaikaha representatives.

5. Equity team update (verbal)

Manager, Equity and Engagement provided an update on the Equity team and the work that's underway. This included the development of an equity implementation plan and recruitment of a Principal Advisor Equity.

Some members raised concerns on the Pacific Advisor role not being filled, and cultural loading on staff.

Manager, Equity and Engagement noted that a Board paper is in development to update the Board on Pharmac's Pacific health approach.

Actions:

(2) *Send members the resources being used for the internal webinars on the equity implementation plan.*

6. Strategic planning and priorities update (verbal)

Director, Strategy, Policy and Performance provided an update on the Letter of Expectations (LOE) and accountability documents and discussed next steps.

Director, Strategy, Policy and Performance noted that the Board will be meeting to discuss the LOE, following which a written response from the Board Chair will be provided to the Minister outlining how we will meet expectations and report on progress. He also noted that we had been asked in the LOE to refresh our Statement of Intent (SOI), which sets out Pharmac's strategic objectives for the next three years, to reflect Government priorities and expectations.

Director, Strategy, Policy and Performance noted that they would engage with CAC on the SOI at a later date.

7. Farewell for leaving members

A farewell was held for departing CAC members Mary Schnackenberg and Janfrie Wakim.

8. Implementation update

Team Leader, Implementation provided members with an update on Pharmac's responsible use work and asked members to consider:

- Where they saw the biggest need in how our funded medicines are used in the community.
- What responsible use activities may be most important to consumers.
- How CAC can assist.

Members suggested using data to evaluate and monitor how pharmaceuticals are being used in the community, by ethnicity, region/area, and the impact.

Members noted health literacy and costs as issues for concern when dealing with accessibility and suggested supporting community driven approaches.

9. Overview of medicines assessment process

Manager Expert Advisory presented on enhancing consumer input into Pharmac's advice and assessment work. This included the steps to assess a funding application, the people involved and where and how consumers and patients input into this work.

Members discussed ways the process could be more efficient, including whether Pharmac can be proactive with proposals. Manager Expert Advisory noted that, where need is identified, Pharmac is proactive, however this depends on available resource.

Members recommended that Pharmac try a different approach and look at diseases/therapeutic groups rather than one medicine at a time. Members suggested that Pharmac could pilot a programme to attain whether this approach would be effective.

Members discussed how Pharmac can improve supporting consumer members across Pharmac's advisory committees and noted that CAC would be happy to provide support.

10. Pharmac update & annual agenda discussion

Director Equity and Engagement gave a verbal update:

- Update on CAC recruitment, including the vacancy closing and next steps.
- Kura Moeahu is starting his tenure as Pharmac's new Kaumatua in mid-July.
- The CE and Pharmac staff joined Minister Seymour at Parliament to answer questions for the Health Select Committee as part of a parliamentary process called "scrutiny weeks."
- The Minister of Health, Hon Dr Shane Reti, released The Government Policy Statement (GPS) on Health 2024-27.
- Several staff from across Pharmac headed to Auckland to attend the 2024 Medical Technology Association of New Zealand (MTANZ) conference.

Manager, Equity and Engagement updated on arrangements for the recruitment of new CAC members which is underway.

Committee only time was held.