

## Minutes of the Pharmac Consumer Advisory Committee (CAC) Meeting Wednesday 13 November 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  
Leo Junior Apaipo  
Pui-Yi Cheng  
Lucy Elwood

### **Pharmac staff in attendance**

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

### **For relevant items**

Sarah Fitt (Chief Executive)  
Trevor Simpson (Kaituruki Māori)  
Kamaea Wirepa (Principal Advisor Equity)  
Cushla Managh (Team Leader, Communications)  
Michael Johnson (Director Strategy, Policy and Performance)  
Brent McPherson (Manager, Strategic Planning and Performance)  
Robyn Harris (Team Leader, Implementation)

A mihi whakatau was held for new members Leo Junior Apaipo  
Pui-Yi Cheng and Lucy Elwood

### **Karakia and whakawhanaungatanga**

The meeting was opened with karakia and whakawhanaungatanga.

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

#### ***Interest register***

Noted.

### ***Notes from previous meeting***

Notes for the October meeting was approved as a true record of discussion.

### ***Action items***

The action items were reviewed.

### ***Membership terms***

Noted.

### ***Professional Development report back***

Three members noted their recent professional development activities.

## **2. CAC Chair update**

The Chair provided an update on the disestablishment of Te Rōpū, new funded medicines and applications, the Health Technology Assessment International 2025 conference and the farewell for the Pharmacology and Therapeutics committee Chair. The Chair also updated members on the consumer workshops held in November at the Board Chair's invitation and a meeting with the CEO of Rare Disorders and Pharmac staff.

Members raised concerns regarding the lack of Māori and Pacific voices at the consumer workshops.

## **3. Te Tiriti policy/Te Rōpū update**

Kaituruki Māori provided members with background behind the review of the Te Tiriti policy and noted the significant changes that were made.

Members appreciated the work done to update the policy in line with the Pae Ora Act but noted their disappointment of Article 4, wairuatanga, being removed. Members noted they would like to see this added back in.

Members sought clarity on how Pharmac utilises and measures mātauranga Māori as a knowledge system and how it influences decision-making.

Director Equity and Engagement noted there is on going work occurring in the implementation of the equity policy and mentioned that the Senior Leadership Team (SLT) have Te Tiriti accountabilities.

Kaituruki Māori updated members on the Board's decision to disestablish Te Rōpū and noted the work underway to fill that gap, including utilising existing relationships with Māori health bodies.

Principal Advisor Equity noted the progression of a cross agency equity working group.

### ***Actions:***

- (1) Provide members with an update on the SLT Te Tiriti accountabilities.*
- (2) Update members on the equity implementation plan, once it is ready.*

#### **4. Pacific health update**

Manager Equity and Engagement provided members with background on the Pacific Responsiveness Strategy and discussed the new approach to deliver it through the equity policy work.

Manager Equity and Engagement noted the next steps which include disseminating information to communicate the new direction of the Pacific Responsiveness Strategy.

Members raised concerns around cultural safety and emphasised the importance of progressing this work.

#### **5. Communications Discussion**

Team Leader, Communications provided members with an introduction to the Communications team and sought feedback on Pharmac's communications.

Members suggested allocating resource for staff to approach communities meaningfully and provide a consumer story to go to each Board meeting.

Member discussed Pharmac's public perception and shifting preconceptions and made specific suggestions. This included tailoring to communities, being sensitive and acknowledging the negative stories and thinking about ethnic diversity.

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

*(3) Members to send through anymore feedback on the communications discussion by the end of November.*

#### **6. Statement of Intent update**

Director, Strategy, Policy and Performance provided members with an update on the changes made on the Statement of Intent (SOI) since the last meeting.

Members sought clarity on the measurements. Manager, Strategic Planning and Performance noted that the SOI is high level more detail on performance measures is provided in the Statement of Performance Expectations.

#### **7. Trelegy Ellipta uptake analysis**

Implementation Advisor provided a presentation of the uptake of Trelegy Ellipta from May 2024 to September 2024.

Members were concerned at the low level of uptake for Māori and Pacific people, particularly taking into consideration how Māori and Pacific people are disproportionately affected by chronic obstructive pulmonary disease.

Members noted barriers to access which included spirometry testing and mismatched expectations of consumers vs healthcare professionals (HCPs). Members suggested targeting pulmonary rehabilitation centres to engage with patients and their whanau in their own space and having active general practitioners, noting the difficulty in seeing HCPs in rural areas.

## **8. Changes in prescribing for ADHD**

Team Leader, Implementation provided members with a presentation on ADHD in New Zealand and the changes in prescribing for ADHD medicines.

Members discussed their interest in seeing the refusal rate by locality, ethnicity and age and noted young Māori and Pacific boys not getting the support they need, as a big issue.

Members also discussed the differences in how ADHD is viewed in Mātauranga Māori or Kura kaupapa vs a mainstream, western view.

### ***Actions:***

*(4) Members to send through anymore feedback on the implementation items by the end of November.*

## **9. Pharmac verbal update**

Director Equity and Engagement gave a verbal update:

- 3 Tupu Toa interns join Pharmac on 18 November.
- Recruitment for a new CAC member is on pause, following direction from the Board Chair.
- Positive feedback was received from the first consumer workshop and a report will eventually be developed.
- Recruitment is underway for new PTAC members and a new Chair.
- The Board has commissioned an independent, external review to undertake a review of Pharmac's workplace culture.
- Pharmac's new kaumatua shared his knowledge of Te Ātiawa, the local iwi of the Wellington region, and the political landscape and dynamics of inter-iwi relations.
- Director Equity and Engagement attended the University of Otago School of Pharmacy Research symposium.

## **10. 2025 annual agenda planning**

Director Equity and Engagement gave an overview of the draft annual agenda for 2025.

### ***Actions:***

*(5) Members to send through feedback on the draft 2025 annual agenda by the end of November.*

## **11. Farewell for Sione Vaka**

A farewell was held for departing member, Sione Vaka.

Committee only time was held.