

**Minutes of the
Pharmac Consumer Advisory Committee (CAC) Meeting
Wednesday 12 February 2025**

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

Present:

Robyn Manuel (Chair)
Nele Kalolo (Deputy Chair)
Jesse Davis
Hazel Heal
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)
Casie Hanrahan (Senior Implementation Advisor)
Kamaea Wirepa (Principal Advisor Equity)
Mark Rahman (Senior Advisor Access Equity)

External presenters

DJ Adams (Senior Consumer Advisor, Health Quality and Safety Commission)
Hariata Bell (Māori Health and Consumer Advisor, Health Quality and Safety Commission)

Apologies

Georgina Johnson
Ryan Perica (Principal Engagement Advisor)

Karakia

The meeting was opened with karakia.

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

Interest register

Noted. Interests updated.

Notes from previous meeting

Notes for the November 2024 meeting was approved as a true record of discussion.

Action items

The action items were reviewed.

Membership terms

The membership terms were reviewed.

Professional development report back

Two members provided an overview of their most recent professional development activities.

Actions

(1) *Correct dates on action items.*

2. CAC Chair and Deputy Chair update

The Chair discussed the upcoming February Board meeting and Pharmacology Therapeutics Advisory Committee (PTAC) meeting, including the items that will be discussed. The Chair also noted the recruitment underway for new PTAC members and mentioned that a lot of Specialist Advisory Committees (SACs) have met.

The Deputy Chair provided an overview of the Pasifika Medical Association conference. The Deputy Chair highlighted that Pacific stakeholders are interested in building connections with Pharmac and noted the importance of maintaining these relationships.

The Deputy Chair noted her resignation to CAC. Her last day will be 3 April 2025.

3. Liraglutide update

Senior Implementation Advisor provided background on the global supply issue affecting GLP-1 agonists, primarily liraglutide (Victoza), and sought feedback on implementation activities regarding the removal of the 'no new patients' restriction from liraglutide (Victoza).

Members suggested simplified, straightforward messaging and utilising different communication channels, noting the importance of communicating to General Practitioners. Members also suggested adding a note on Medtech for dulaglutide (Trulicity) to notify prescribers about the restriction removal, and that while dulaglutide is not available for new patients, liraglutide is now an available as alternative GLP-1 agonist for people with type 2 diabetes to start taking.

Members noted that it would be helpful if Pharmac had information available on why there are supply issues, what that can mean for those privately funding medicines, and what people can do if these medicines are unavailable.

Members noted the biggest Te Ao Māori event occurring in February, Te Matatini, as a good way to get messaging to Māori.

4. Equity team update

Manager, Equity and Engagement provided members with an overview of the current work priorities in the Equity team. This included upcoming Board papers and planning for the external equity working group and Consumer Quality Safety Marker.

Members asked if the Equity team is approached for advice, particularly for papers that go to PTAC and SAC's, for input in the 'need' area of the Factors for Consideration.

Manager, Equity and Engagement noted that the team is being proactive in this space to provide advice at every step.

Members noted the lack of Pacific members on the committee following the resignation of the Deputy Chair. Members are fully supportive of progressing the recruitment for CAC and recommended that this be expedited.

5. Disability update

Principal Advisor Equity provided members with an update on the work occurring in the disability space and discussed the proposed approach to build knowledge of this community. The update included early engagement with Whaikaha and the Ministry of Health's disability health team for feedback on the paper before approval by the Senior Leadership Team.

Members noted the importance of having someone who can speak from a disability point of view and recommended that this be taken into consideration in any future recruitment of CAC members. It was also noted the importance of building relationships with the disability community to inform a work programme.

Robyn Manuel left the meeting at 10:30am due to a travel commitment.

6. HQSC Consumer Code review

Health Quality and Safety Commission, DJ Adams and Hariata Bell introduced themselves and provided an overview of the Consumer Code review.

Members suggested simplifying the code, using plain language and providing a contact on the code for those with questions. Members also noted it was important to create awareness of the code as there is some confusion due to there being multiple different 'codes' being used in the health sector.

Members were happy to see the Code available in multiple Pacific languages and in different accessible formats. Members noted they would like to see former refugee communities addressed in the code as part of equity.

DJ Adams and Hariata Bell discussed the timeline for the review and provided an overview of the engagement activities that have been done as part of the review, which included consumer workshops.

7. Pharmac verbal update

Director Equity and Engagement gave a verbal update:

- Pharmac announced it will be funding medicines for liver, ovarian and neuroendocrine cancers.
- The upcoming February Board meeting will discuss the consumer workshops, independent culture review report and the updated CAC Terms of Reference.

Pharmac has received its provisional report from the Ombudsman's investigation into OIA timeliness. Pharmac have 31 action points and are currently developing an action plan to address all points.

- Pharmac opened consultation on its comprehensive list of medical devices used by public hospitals as it works to improve the way medical devices are managed in New Zealand.
- The three TupuToa interns presented the findings of their respective projects on Monday and have now finished their internship with Pharmac.
- Director Equity and Engagement will be visiting the Ōtākou marae in Dunedin to meet the rōpū that looks after the medical students at Otago University.

Members noted their interest in reading the consumer workshop report.

Committee only time was held.