

Minutes of the Consumer and Patient Working Group Meeting Thursday 18 December 2025

The meeting was held online from 2.00pm to 3.00pm.

Present:

Malcolm Mulholland (Chair)
Rachel Smalley (Deputy Chair)
Libby Burgess
Tim Edmonds
Chris Higgins
Trent Lash
Gerard Rushton
Tracy Tierney
Francesca Holloway

Reset Programme Team:

Jannel Fisher (Reset Programme Manager), Sarona Iosefa (Reset Programme Engagement Lead), Sam McCarthy (Reset Programme Project Manager), Becky Littlewood (Reset Programme Coordinator)

Pharmac staff in attendance:

Cushla Managh (Acting Manager Public Affairs and Government Services), Michael Johnson (Director Strategy, Policy and Performance), Ryan Perica (Manager, External Engagement)

Apologies:

Deon York

1. Karakia and welcome

Opening by the Chair

2. Minutes of previous meeting

Minutes of the previous meeting minutes were approved.

- Moved by: Chris
- Seconded by: Francesca

3. Action items

A member requested to see the draft agenda for the in-person workshop scheduled for 29 January 2026. The Chair confirmed that he and the Deputy Chair have discussed the workshop approach and agreed the draft agenda can be shared with the wider group.

Agreed actions:

- The Reset Programme team to circulate the draft agenda to all members.

4. Interest register

Malcolm, Chris and Trent updated their declarations.

5. Pae Ora legislation update

The Director Strategy, Policy and Performance gave an update on the Pae Ora legislation. The discussion covered the roles of the Health Select Committee, the Ministry of Health and Ministers in progressing the bill.

6. Joined-up communications update

Members received drafts of the updated draft communications strategy and the draft communications team guidance document. Initial comments were shared, and members have access to shared documents to provide feedback.

Agreed actions:

- Members to review the draft communications strategy and draft communications team guidance document.
- Members to provide feedback or suggested changes in the shared Teams document by 26 January 2026.

7. Engagement guide update

Work continues on developing a shared engagement resource, supported by Deon and Malcolm. Members highlighted the importance of clearly showing the impact of consumer input in the guide. The resource will be a collaborative effort between Pharmac and the working group, with a preference for a shared document that everyone can contribute to.

Agreed actions:

- The Reset Programme Team to share the draft engagement guide outline through the Teams channel
- Members to provide feedback on the draft engagement guide outline by 26 January 2026.

8. General business

It was confirmed that the solutions provided during the recent Options for Investment list (OFI) consultation are being actively considered and will inform the next steps.

Pharmac staff expressed their appreciation for the hard work and commitment of the working group over the past six months, acknowledging the collaborative effort and valuable contributions made by members.

In closing, Chris extended his thanks to Malcolm for his leadership as Chair and acknowledged the positive and inclusive way he has guided discussions. He also expressed appreciation to Rachel for her support as Deputy Chair.

Close of meeting at 3.10pm

Next meeting is 2.00pm – 4.00pm on Thursday 15 January to discuss the exceptional circumstances framework.