

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

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

**Present:**

Robyn Manuel (Chair)  
Nele Kalolo (Deputy Chair)  
Jesse Davis  
Vivien Verheijen  
Leo Junior Apaipo  
Pui-Yi-Cheng  
Lucy Elwood  
Georgina Johnson

**Pharmac staff in attendance**

Nicola Ngawati (Director, Equity and Engagement)  
Mako Osborne (Implementation Advisor)  
Robyn Harris (Team Leader, Implementation)  
Ryan Perica (Principal Advisor, Engagement)  
Trevor Simpson (Kaituruki Māori – Director Māori)

**Apologies**

Hazel Heal  
Salī Salī (Manager, Equity and Engagement)

**Karakia**

The meeting was opened with karakia.

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

***Interest register***

Noted. Members to send through updated interests.

***Notes from previous meeting***

Notes for the February 2025 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***

The Chair encouraged members to consider becoming members of the Health Technology Assessment International (HTAi) and Patient and Citizens Interest Group.

### **2. CAC Chair and Deputy Chair update**

The Chair attended the Pharmacology Therapeutics Advisory Committee in February and acknowledged the recent medicines that have been funded following the budget uplift.

The Chair noted that there were differing views regarding the process of reviewing recommendations from the CAC Chair, concerning attendance at the Board meetings.

CAC member (who represented the Chair at the February Board meeting) provided an overview of the Board meeting which included the Minister visiting the Board, the approval of the updated CAC Terms of Reference and a report on societal impacts. The member noted that it would be useful for CAC to be across the societal impacts work as there will be consumer interest.

### **3. COPD update**

Team Leader Implementation provided an overview of the work being proposed to promote the new COPD data domain on the Health Quality and Safety Commission's (HQSC) Atlas of Healthcare Variation and sought advice on promoting the key messages to prescribers and patients.

Members suggested contacting general practitioner liaisons in each region to help disseminate information, engaging with genuine consumers in the earliest instance, and to focus efforts and investment in prevention promotion - particularly for smoking cessation. Members highlighted the importance of influencing change to environment.

Members also suggested developing a chart for consumers to see what their current medicines look like as individual inhalers versus what combination triple inhalers look like.

Members noted they could utilise the connections they have with relevant groups, if needed.

### **4. Consumer report discussion**

Director Equity and Engagement updated members on the progress of the consumer report.

Members noted their disappointment in being excluded from the consumer workshops and that the consumer report did not present new information beyond what had previously been shared with Pharmac by CAC.

Members noted that the report did not specifically address Te Tiriti or Māori perspectives. Members enquired about the process to ensure CAC would have opportunities to provide input and contribute to any proposed changes.

Principal Advisor, Engagement noted that staff are providing advice for next steps which include involving more diverse voices and CAC, but highlighted the report was part of an independent process.

Members were concerned about the perceptions of CAC in the report and noted they would have liked to have seen advice and work CAC has inputted into.

Principal Advisor, Engagement provided an update on the progress of the Consumer Quality Safety Marker.

## **5. Iwi Māori Partnership Board update**

Kaituruki Māori – Director Māori provided background on how the opportunity to attend an Iwi Māori Partnership Board (IMPB) hui with the Te Manawa Taki IMPB collective. Te Manawa Taki are a collective of 6 IMPB's across the mid-central region from Taranaki in the east to Te Tairāwhiti in the west. A brief explanation was provided about how the meeting developed and members were updated on the next steps. This included preparing a paper for the next meeting, outlining options of how we can work together.

Kaituruki Māori noted that it was a positive engagement opportunity for all involved.

Members were pleased to see progress and advised that Pharmac could provide more input into prevention and social/behavioural change. Members noted that social change was important and may have more of an impact than a clinical journey.

Kaituruki Māori provided an update on the Senior Leadership Team's Te Tiriti accountabilities, and noted they are being revised against the new Te Tiriti Policy.

## **6. Pharmac verbal update**

Director Equity and Engagement gave a verbal update:

- Recruitment is underway for two positions in the Equity and Engagement Directorate – Senior Advisor Implementation and Senior Advisor Government Services
- Director Equity and Engagement attended Te Oranga ki Ōtakou Freshers Hui to present to incoming Māori medical students to the University of Otago on Pharmac's work and place in the health system.
- Senior Advisor, Access Equity and Principal Advisor, Equity attended the West Coast Health patient journey workshop on barriers to access medicines and medical devices.
- The updated CAC Terms of Reference were approved by the Board.
- There has been a large number of enquiries in the last month, with high volumes of emails on Daratumumab and interest in the methylphenidate supply issue.
- Pharmac is expecting to issue a consultation on a proposal to improve access to treatments used in the management of trauma and medical emergencies in the community.
- Principal Advisor, Māori attended the Māori Pharmacists Association Hui-a-tau and presented the Hiwinui Heke awards.

**Actions**

*(1) Noting the time constraints, Director Equity and Engagement to provide the rest of the Pharmac verbal update via email.*

**7. Farewell for Nele Kalolo**

A farewell was held for departing member, Nele Kalolo.

Committee only time was held.