

## Minutes of the Consumer and Patient Working Group Meeting Thursday 23 April 2026

The meeting was held online from 2.00pm to 4.00pm.

### Present:

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

### Reset programme team:

Jannel Fisher (Reset Programme Manager), Sam McCarthy (Reset Programme Project Manager), Becky Littlewood (Reset Programme Coordinator), Ross Henderson (Engagement Lead), Danielle Campbell (Reset Programme Project Manager)

### Pharmac staff attendees:

Brent McPherson (Manager, Strategy Planning and Performance), Caro De Luca (Expert Advisory Manager), Ben Campbell-Macdonald (Pharmaceutical Assessment Manager), Melissa Copland (Clinical Lead, Medicines Management)

### Apologies:

Deon York

#### 1. Karakia and welcome

The meeting was opened by the Chair.

#### 2. Minutes of previous meeting

A motion was carried to include an additional point in the vaccine-related section of the minutes: *the process for funding vaccines, and Pharmac's role in that funding process, will be revisited as part of the future work programme.*

- Moved by: Malcolm
- Seconded by: Gerard
- Abstention: Tracy (not in attendance at previous meeting)

#### 3. Action items

Action items were noted.

#### 4. Interest register

The interest register was updated with the latest member information.

#### 5. Vision & Strategy – accountability measures

Pharmac provided an update on the Vision and Strategy work and sought members' feedback on two key planning documents. The Statement of Intent (SOI) sets out Pharmac's medium-term strategic focus, while the Statement of Performance Expectations (SPE) outlines commitments and performance measures for the coming year.

It was noted that not all information is confirmed at this stage, including the outcome of Budget 2026. Members were reminded that the SOI and SPE are accountability documents, and Pharmac is required to deliver on what is included in them. As such, the documents must reflect commitments that are realistic, resourced, and deliverable.

Members discussed the proposed deliverables and performance measures and made suggestions to improve readability and engagement, including the development of a “plan on a page.”

Members acknowledged the inclusive approach and progress made to date in making the planning documents more outcome and patient-focused.

*Agreed actions:*

- The member survey will be kept open for an extra week to capture any additional feedback.
- Pharmac will share further supporting information about the purpose of the SOI and SPE to help inform member feedback.

## **6. Application timeframes**

Pharmac provided an update on progress regarding the potential introduction of target timeframes for the advice and assessment model. Pharmac outlined potential options for how timeframe targets could be introduced, measured, and reported. Members discussed these options and provided feedback on the proposed approaches.

Working Group feedback will be considered by the Senior Leadership Team alongside feedback received from other stakeholder groups.

## **7. General business**

The Chair confirmed acceptance of Rachel Smalley’s (Deputy Chair) resignation and expressed appreciation for her valuable contributions to the group

Members discussed opportunities for future engagement with pharmaceutical companies as a collective group.

Members also acknowledged positive interactions with Pharmac in relation to both the annual tender process and the exceptional circumstances review process.

Close of meeting at 4.00pm.

*The next meeting is on Thursday 7 May 2.00pm – 4.00pm to discuss the future consumer advice function.*