

Minutes of the Consumer and Patient Working Group Meeting Thursday 26 March 2026

The meeting was held online from 2.30pm to 4.30pm.

Present:

Rachel Smalley (Deputy Chair)
Tim Edmonds
Chris Higgins
Francesca Holloway
Trent Lash
Tracy Tierney
Deon York
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).

Pharmac staff attendees:

Caro De Luca (Expert Advisory Manager), Ben Campbell-Macdonald (Pharmaceutical Assessment Manager), Claire Pouwels (Pharmaceutical Funding Manager), Brent McPherson (Manager, Strategic Planning and Performance).

Apologies:

Malcolm Mulholland (Chair)
Gerard Rushton

1. Karakia and welcome

The meeting was opened by the Deputy Chair.

2. Minutes of previous meeting

Minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

- Moved by: Tracy
- Seconded by: Francesca

3. Action items

Action items were noted.

4. Interest register

No new declarations or changes were made.

5. Vision & Strategy update

Pharmac provided an update on its new vision and strategic priorities, noting that previous feedback from members had helped inform their development. These will guide Pharmac's work and will be reflected in statutory documents, including the Statement of Intent and Statement of Performance Expectations.

Members discussed and provided feedback on the updated vision and strategy. This included suggestions on strengthening the focus on patient outcomes, best practice and innovation, and improving access to medicines. Members also discussed how best to reflect health needs in the focus areas.

Agreed action:

- *Pharmac will further survey members to capture any additional feedback on the strategic priorities and focus areas.*

6. Prioritisation discussion

Pharmac provided an introductory overview of the medicines prioritisation process to support a shared understanding following questions raised at the Group's January workshop.

Members engaged in constructive discussion and sought clarification on a range of aspects of the prioritisation process including how lived experience and health need are considered, who is involved in decision-making, how bundling and procurement work, and how conflicts of interest are managed.

Members acknowledged the session as helpful and appreciated the opportunity to better understand the prioritisation process. Members will consider how Pharmac could better explain the current prioritisation process to support patient and advocacy group understanding.

Agreed actions:

- *Pharmac will provide members with further information on the "other groups" considered in the prioritisation process.*
- *Pharmac will follow up with members to identify what prioritisation information is most useful to update existing public information.*
- *The Deputy Chair will follow up with the Chair on future opportunities to discuss prioritisation.*

Close of meeting at 4.30pm.

The next meeting is on Thursday 9 April 2.00pm – 4.00pm to discuss how Pharmac manages vaccines.