

## Minutes of the Consumer and Patient Working Group Meeting Thursday 4 June 2026

The meeting was held online from 2.00pm to 3.40pm.

### **Present:**

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

### **Reset programme team:**

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

### **Pharmac staff attendees:**

Brent McPerson (Manager, Strategic Planning and Performance), Karl McDiarmid (Programme Director, Programme Delivery Office)

### **Apologies:**

Chris Higgins

#### **1. Karakia and welcome**

The meeting was opened by the Chair.

#### **2. Minutes of previous meeting**

Minutes approved. A motion was carried to make two minor additions to the minutes regarding consumer applications to provide further clarity.

Moved by: Libby

Seconded by: Trent

#### **3. Action items**

Action items were noted.

#### **4. Interest register**

There were no updates to the interest register.

#### **5. Budget 2026 update**

Pharmac provided an update on Budget 2026 and responded to members' questions regarding Pharmac's two budget appropriations: the medicines budget and the operational budget.

Members noted they had provided suggestions to strengthen Pharmac's budget bid and queried whether Budget 2026 information would again be proactively released this year.

#### *Agreed action:*

- *Pharmac to follow up on plans for the proactive release of Budget 2026 information*

## 6. Future 4-year improvement programme

Pharmac facilitated a discussion on the 4-year Timely Assessment Improvement Programme and provided members with an overview of the programme, including the proposed deliverables for year one.

Pharmac discussed how the working group, alongside Pharmac's other advisory groups, has helped shape the direction of the programme. Members endorsed the proposed direction for year one of the Timely Assessment Improvement Programme.

Members discussed the use of the term "timely", noting that while timeliness is important, transparency and trust are equally important objectives of the programme. Pharmac acknowledged this feedback and advised that a clearer programme aim and description would be developed to better reflect these broader objectives.

Members also discussed the importance of establishing clear measures of success for the programme over the four-year period. Pharmac noted that this will be a focus of a workshop at the next Working Group meeting.

Pharmac discussed next steps and advised that a Programme Delivery Office is being established to support programme implementation. The Interim Consumer Transition Committee will support the design and delivery of the Timely Assessment Improvement Programme.

### *Agreed actions:*

- *Ensure trust and transparency are reflected in the programme aim and descriptor.*
- *Update the programme approach slide in the Timely Assessment Improvement Programme presentation to replace "stabilising" with "enhancing".*

## 7. Consumer Advisory Function review update

Pharmac advised that the Board has agreed to replace the current Consumer Advisory Committee (CAC) with a new Community and Patient Advisory Committee (CPAC). While the new committee is being established, an Interim Consumer Transition Committee will be formed, comprising members from both CAC and the Working Group.

Members noted that feedback from their networks indicates a strong sense of optimism about the future of the consumer advisory function within Pharmac.

Pharmac confirmed that the process for establishing the new committee will be open and transparent, with members of the committee to be appointed by the Pharmac Board.

The Working Group will discuss the proposed membership matrix for the new Community and Patient Advisory Committee at its next meeting.

## 8. General business

Pharmac updated Working Group members on the Statement of Intent (SOI) and Statement of Performance Expectations (SPE) and thanked members for their second round of feedback. Pharmac noted that several changes had been made as a result of the Working Group's input.

Close of meeting at 3.40pm.

*The next meeting is on Thursday 18 June 9.00pm – 4.00pm to discuss the consumer advisory function, embedding lived experiencing, future 4-year improvement programme and the evaluation of the reset programme.*