

Minutes of the Consumer and Patient Working Group Meeting Thursday 7 May 2026

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

Present:

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

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:

Natalie McMurtry (Pharmac Chief Executive), Michael Johnson (Director Strategy, Policy and Performance), Nicola Ngawati (Director Equity & Engagement)

Apologies:

Gerard Rushton

1. Karakia and welcome

The meeting was opened by the Chair.

2. Minutes of previous meeting

Minutes approved.

Moved by: Tracy

Seconded by: Libby

3. Action items

Action items were noted.

The Chair provided an update on Action Item #102. It was noted that prioritisation processes are an important area of work. However, due to the 12-month timeframe of the CAP Working Group and other current priority areas, this work will not be progressed within the group's term. The Chair formally recommended that this be included in the future improvement programme in its first year.

4. Interest register

There were no updates to the interest register.

5. Future Consumer Advice Function

The group discussed Pharmac's future consumer advisory function, noting that the Consumer and Patient Working Group concludes on 30 June. It was also noted that there are currently multiple vacancies on the Consumer Advisory Committee (CAC), with further vacancies expected in late July as several members' terms come to an end.

Members discussed the potential purpose, responsibilities, relationship with the Board, and membership of a future consumer advisory function. It was noted that similar discussions are also being held with CAC members.

Members' feedback, including written input, will be considered by Pharmac's Senior Leadership Team and Board during May 2026.

The Reset Programme Team noted that there will be further opportunities for members to engage in this work in June and to provide advice and feedback on strengthening Pharmac's consumer advisory function.

Members expressed appreciation for the opportunity to share their views on this important matter directly with the Chief Executive.

Members emphasised the importance of maintaining the current momentum and ensuring that the partnership approach with consumers established through the Reset Programme is sustained and continues to develop.

6. General Business

The Chair provided an update on attendance at a recent patient advocacy event.

It was noted that there are only three remaining CAP Working Group meetings. Potential topics for upcoming meetings were discussed.

Close of meeting at 3.40pm.

The next meeting is on Thursday 21 May 2.00pm – 4.00pm to discuss societal impact work, consumer submitted applications, and pilots to reduce the application backlog.