

**Minutes of the
Pharmac Consumer Advisory Committee (CAC) Meeting
Tuesday 10 June 2025**

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

Present:

Robyn Manuel (Chair)
Vivien Verheijen
LJ Apaipo
Hazel Heal
Georgina Johnson

Pharmac staff in attendance

Trevor Simpson (Kaituruki Māori – Director Māori)
Salī Salī (Manager, Equity and Engagement)
Mako Osborne (Implementation Advisor)
Jason Arnold (Principal Analyst)
Michael Johnson (Director, Strategy, Policy and Performance)
Jannel Fisher (Reset Programme Manager)

Apologies

Nicola Ngawati (Director, Equity and Engagement)
Pui-Yi-Cheng
Jesse Davis

Karakia

The meeting was opened with karakia.

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

Interest register

Noted.

Notes from previous meeting

Notes from the May 2025 meeting was approved as a true record of discussion, following minor amendments.

Action items

The action items were reviewed.

Membership terms

The membership terms were reviewed.

Professional development report back

No update.

2. CAC Chair update

The Chair provided an update on Pharmac's current consultations, including the proposal to support publicly funded medicines in private settings, the work being undertaken to monitor the potential impact of US tariffs on medicines in New Zealand and the faster release of provisional results from the Pharmacology and Therapeutics Advisory Committee.

The Chair discussed the Health Technology Assessment International (HTAi) 2025 annual meeting in Buenos Aires, Argentina and noted that she will be on the 'Indigenous peoples and health technology assessment – international action needed to improving equity' panel.

3. Uptake from budget uplift update

Members emphasised the importance of data collection and monitoring to identify gaps and to ensure people who need medicines the most, are being reached. Members noted that data collection should capture everything required, including demographics like ethnicity, deprivation and rurality, to inform Pharmac's work and address health disparities.

Members discussed addressing the needs of all communities including ethnic and migrant refugee populations and noted that Pharmac could utilise data from other agencies.

Members also mentioned that the whole sector needs to work together in this space to identify barriers and help increase access to good healthcare.

Members recommended that Pharmac allocate more resources to data collection and analysis.

4. Pharmac reset update

Members mentioned that resource will be necessary to properly induct a new consumer working group to Pharmac and sought clarity on the funding between CAC and the working group, and on the paused recruitment for CAC.

Members highlighted that genuine co-design with consumers is important and emphasised that the working group should be diverse and include Māori.

The Reset Programme Manager mentioned that they are looking at multiple streams for consumers to have a voice and noted that the working group will function on an operational level, advising on specific work and actions related to the 12-month reset programme.

Members discussed having a clear vision and strategy and the importance of seeing tangible change.

The Reset Programme Manager acknowledged that the process hasn't been ideal for CAC but noted Pharmac is committed to making progress and change and that the work will be measurable and reported on.

5. Pharmac verbal update

Kaituruki Māori – Director Māori gave a verbal update:

- Acknowledged the Chair's attendance on the indigenous panel at the HTAi annual meeting.

- Met with Tuwharetoa Māori Trust Board to share data insights and make steps towards building engagement.
- Internal consultation on the Māori directorate proposal has closed. Final decisions are expected early July.
- The Equity and Engagement Directorate is recruiting for a new Communications Advisor.
- Three staff members attended the NZ Society for the Study of Diabetes (NZSSD) Annual Scientific Meeting 2025 in Hamilton.
- A study presented at the NZSSD said that the Pharmac website offered the number one readability for information on insulin pumps and was in the top three for continuous glucose monitors.
- Team Leader Implementation attended the 'Not just a phase: Menopause in New Zealand' conference at Parliament.
- There were 315 general enquiries for May. The main themes included flu vaccine eligibility, Shingrix funding and funding applications, Paxlovid funding criteria, Molaxole supply issues, methylphenidate special authority criteria and concern that Pharmac funds medicines from an Israeli supplier.

Committee only time was held.