

**Minutes of the
Consumer and Patient Working Group Meeting
Thursday 28 August 2025**

The meeting was held online from 2pm to 3.30pm.

Present:

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

Pharmac staff in attendance:

Jannel Fisher (Reset Programme Manager)
Sarona Iosefa (Reset Programme Engagement Lead)

Karakia and welcome

Opening by the Chair

1. Minutes of previous meeting

Minutes of the previous meeting minutes were approved.

- Moved by: Gerard
- Seconded by: Deon

2. Action items

Action register reviewed and completed actions were noted.

Agreed actions:

- Chris Higgins to engage with the Reset Programme team regarding the potential sharing of rare disorder contacts.

3. Interest register

No new declarations or changes were made. Members requested that the interest register be shared with the working group, which was unanimously supported.

Agreed actions:

- The interest register to be included in future meeting packs.

4. Future 90-day plan actions

Members discussed the prioritisation of actions for future 90-day plans. Key discussion points included:

- Many actions are interconnected and may span multiple quarters.
- Understanding the planned work to improve Health Technology Assessment (HTA) processes this year is essential to focus efforts effectively.

- The Working Group's role is to define what "good" looks like and support Pharmac in implementing improvements.
- The 90-day plans must be developed collaboratively with Pharmac to ensure alignment, feasibility, and adequate resourcing.

The group reviewed a list of potential actions, drawn from previous meetings and Pharmac's planned work. Members agreed to continue refining these actions.

There were mixed views on the usefulness of the proposed prioritisation tool, particularly regarding its assessment of effort and influence. However, it was agreed that the tool provides a useful starting point. Each member will use the tool individually, and results will be discussed collectively.

It was noted that the 90-day planning process is iterative and will be regularly reviewed by the working group.

Agreed actions:

- Pharmac to create a shared document for members to propose additional actions.
- The shared document will include:
 - Intended changes
 - Key considerations
 - Member feedback on the prioritisation tool
- Members to contribute to the shared document by 10pm, Wednesday 3 September.
- Pharmac to distribute the action list and prioritisation tool to members by Thursday 4 September.
- Members to complete the prioritisation exercise by 10pm, Monday 8 September.
- Pharmac to compile the results and present them under General Business at the next meeting on 11 September.

5. General business

The Working Group inquired whether the advice Pharmac provided to the Minister regarding potential changes to the Pae Ora Act would be proactively released. The Reset Programme Manager advised that the Minister requires time to consider the advice. It will be shared with members as soon as it is appropriate to do so.

The Medicines Strategy was discussed. Members agreed that this matter should be progressed independently by their respective communities, outside of the Pharmac work programme.

Members discussed the importance of ensuring Pharmac's performance measures reflect the patient voice. The Reset Programme Manager advised that the upcoming discussion on Pharmac's Vision and Strategic Priorities at the next meeting would be the appropriate forum to explore this further.

6. Meeting key messages

Members are encouraged to engage with their wider networks to discuss the proposed future action items and the prioritisation tool.

Close of meeting at 3.30pm

Next meeting is 2.00pm – 4.00pm on Thursday 11 September to discuss Pharmac's vision.