

# Health Technology Assessment Policy and Methods Review

## Consultation 2 – February 2024

### Submission by:

#### Co-design Working Group; Enhanced Consumer Engagement Process

### Background

The [Co-design of an Enhanced Consumer Engagement Process](#) is one of the key commitments in the [2022-2027 Strategic Agreement](#) between the Commonwealth and Medicines Australia (clause 6.3.2).

The co-design aims to enhance how consumer and patient perspectives are captured in health technology assessment (HTA) and develop recommendations for system-wide enhancements that provide foundational support for consumers to engage in all aspects of the HTA process.

The co-design recommendations/enhancements aim to enable:

- Consumer access to earlier information about new health technologies,
- Improved understanding of consumer issues before a medicine is listed, and
- Consumer and patient perspectives in HTA that support HTA decision-making.

A proposal for a consumer-led co-design process was developed by consumer representatives. This was to ensure that consumers were instrumental in identifying and developing recommendations to elevate and integrate consumer evidence and engagement within the HTA process. In line with that proposal, a Co-design Working Group (CWG) was established in November 2023, consisting of consumer, industry and Department of Health and Aged Care representatives, and led by a consumer representative Chair. Additionally, an independent facilitator was engaged to develop and implement the project.

To date, the CWG has progressed the co-design project in line with the following design principles it developed to guide its work.

- Consumer evidence and experience is prioritised and integral in HTA processes.
- Recommendations to enhance consumer engagement must not delay access to medicines.
- Enhancements may be prioritised to achieve maximum impact through implementation.

The work has considered the health technology pathway from clinical trials and horizon scanning to Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) and HTA committee processes and post-market considerations. This has enabled the identification of activities along the health technology pathway where consumer engagement may currently occur, facilitating considerations of where and when enhancements could be applied to ensure earlier consumer access to information and earlier input of consumer evidence and experience.

Further to this, the CWG has developed draft recommendations on enhanced consumer engagement processes. It is currently finalising documents for an open consultation in March 2024, to seek input from the consumer sector and other stakeholders on the draft recommendations.

## Engagement with the HTA Policy and Methods Review Reference Committee

The CWG Chair and two members met with the HTA Policy and Methods Review (HTA Review) Reference Committee on 14 December 2023, to provide an update on the CWG's considerations. During this meeting, it was noted that there are significant synergies between these elements of the Strategic Agreement. More specifically, the policy and methods work of the Reference Committee may serve as enablers to the co-design work.

Further to review of feedback from the HTA Review Consultation 2, the CWG Chair would welcome a further opportunity to discuss the co-design work with the Reference Committee.

## HTA Review Options Paper

The CWG has discussed implementation considerations while developing draft recommendations for enhanced consumer engagement in HTA processes. Draft system-wide enhancement recommendations identified by the CWG may provide a foundation for implementing and enabling many of the other draft enhancement recommendations being developed, given their interrelated nature and potential flow-on-effects.

At its 29 January 2024 meeting, the CWG discussed the HTA Review Options Paper and noted that some proposed options within this may also support and enable the co-design work. It was therefore agreed that the CWG would provide this submission to the HTA Review to highlight the options which may best enable enhanced consumer engagement processes.

The CWG notes the following sections of the Options Paper which it has identified as aligning with the principles and considerations of co-design work to date.

### Section 1: *Transparency, communication, and stakeholder involvement in HTA*

1. Transparency and communication of HTA pathways, processes and decisions
  - 1.1. Transparency and communication of HTA pathways, processes and decisions
    - Publish plain language summaries.
    - Improvements to the HTA webpage including development of a dashboard.
  - 1.2. Consumer, clinician and other stakeholder engagement and consideration in HTA
    - Develop an engagement framework.
    - Strengthen consumer evidence.
  - 1.3. First Nations people involvement and consideration in HTA
    - First Nations peoples partnership in decision making.
    - Dedicated resource for HTA submissions and education.
  - 1.4. State and territory government collaboration in HTA
    - Health technologies that are jointly funded by the Commonwealth and state and territory governments (such as high cost, Highly Specialised Therapies) delivered to public hospital inpatients:
      - Horizon scanning, with inclusion of patient organisations.
      - Implementation requirements and initial implementation planning occurring simultaneously to the HTA, with stakeholders (including consumers, clinicians) identifying requirements for implementation.

### Section 3: *Methods for HTA for Australian Government Subsidy (technical methods)*

- 3.1. Determination of the Population, Intervention, Comparator, Outcome

- Increased early stakeholder input.
- 3.2. Clinical Evaluation Methods
  - Methods for the assessment of nonrandomised and observational evidence:
    - 5. Methods relating to the use of Real World Data (RWD) and Real World Evidence (RWE).

Section 5: *Futureproofing Australia's systems and processes*

- 5.2. Establishment of horizon scanning programs to address specific informational needs within HTA and the health system.
  - Horizon scanning to meet priority areas (including addressing equity and high unmet clinical need):
    - Establish an active horizon scanning process, open to the use of patient and clinician community partnerships.
    - Collaboration with Aboriginal Controlled Clinical Health Services.

The CWG thanks the Reference Committee for the opportunity of open consultation on the Options Paper.