

[Unsubscribe](#)[View in your browser](#)

Consumers  
Shaping  
Health



***News and views on health consumer issues - June 2019***

## **Minister Hunt makes a heartening start**

The early indications from the re-elected Federal Government encourage us to think that Health Minister Greg Hunt is planning to pursue at least two of our three top priorities.

We were heartened by Minister Hunt's comments at the post-election AMA National Conference when he signalled a commitment to a prevention partnership and a ten-year national primary healthcare plan as among his priorities during this term.

As it happened, we had already drafted - but at that stage not released - a media release pinpointing those two issues among our three top priorities. The third priority we have is for an expanded public dental scheme, proposals for which were included in the election pledges of both Labor and the Greens.

Of further encouragement to us is that CHF has received a separate indication recently that the Commonwealth Government may be taking greater interest in hearing CHF's views on health policy priorities with an early reach out from officials from the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet to meet.

We also welcome the appointment of Chris Bowen as Shadow Health Minister and thank Catherine King for her long service in the health portfolio. It is encouraging that Mr Bowen is wasting no time in setting out his aims. He has already stated that among his priority areas will be diabetes, obesity, Closing the Gap of Indigenous disadvantage, mental health and suicide prevention.

An aspect worth remembering is that in the past the Prime Minister, Scott Morrison, when he was Treasurer, strongly supported patient-centred integrated healthcare as a benefit to the health system and the economy. He cited a Productivity Commission report describing the fragmented health system and poor communication between different parts of the system.

So now is the time for us to have the health consumer voice heard in these early, formative days of the re-elected government. We need to build on the steps the Government has initiated in recent years on such initiatives as the Health Care Homes trial and budget measures to support more consumer-centred care for elderly patients.

As our latest edition of Health Voices highlighted, consumers can play a central, if sometimes "inconvenient guest" role in healthcare in promoting safety, quality and literacy, as [health consumer advocate Lynda Condon wrote](#).

**Leanne Wells**  
Chief Executive Officer

**News and Resources**



## The flu shot explained

April-June is a good time to get your flu shot in Australia. Learn more about the flu vaccine and why it is advisable to get it with this comprehensive resource by NPS Medicinewise.

[FIND OUT MORE](#)



## The healthy trio: safety, quality & literacy

Safety, quality and literacy perform together like a trio of musicians. As the authors in this issue of Health Voices describe, there are increasing examples of reciprocal benefits.

[READ HEALTH VOICES MAY 2019](#)



## Conversation starter kit

The aim of Choosing Wisely is to encourage better conversations between consumers and their healthcare providers about tests, treatments and procedures being recommended. This kit of resources has been created to support the delivery of Choosing Wisely's key messages.

It includes an introductory guide, presentation slides, a new video and links to a range of useful Choosing Wisely Australia resources.

[DOWNLOAD THE CONVERSATION STARTER KIT](#)



## Effective medicines are medicines that fit into YOUR daily routine

Medicines need to be taken for them to work. In the latest edition of Australian Prescriber, senior medicines information pharmacist Louise Grannell of Alfred Health, Melbourne, discusses when people should take their medicines. "Should a medicine be taken in the morning or evening, and with or without food? Most important is that it fit into your daily routine," says Grannell.

[READ THE FULL ARTICLE](#)

## Rural and Remote Special Interest Group

CHF is creating a Rural and Remote Special Interest Group to ensure we include the voices of rural and remote consumers in all our policy and advocacy work. We see this as a precursor to establishing a Rural and Remote Health Forum, which is a longer-term goal for CHF. The group will be co-facilitated by a CHF Secretariat member and a consumer, selected by members voting.

[LEARN MORE AND SUBMIT AN EOI](#)

## Events



### The Power of the Patient Voice

This unique and powerful seminar will enhance your understanding of the importance of patient voices in healthcare quality and safety. With over 40 years' experience as a patient advocate, Maureen explores the possibilities of including patients in medical research, her work on quality and safety, the pitfalls of informed consent and the power of patient narrative in healthcare.

**Date: 20 June 2019**

[LEARN MORE AND REGISTER](#)


PREVENTING OVERDIAGNOSIS  
5-7 December 2019 SYDNEY

ABSTRACTS /  
REGISTRATION OPEN

7<sup>th</sup> INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCE  
ON PREVENTING OVERDIAGNOSIS

#### Keynotes

BMJ Editor-in-chief,  
**Dr Fiona Godlee**

US National Cancer Institute,  
**Dr Barry Kramer**

Menzies Centre for Health Policy,  
**Professor Adam Elshaug**

Hong Kong Branch of the  
Chinese Cochrane Centre,  
**Professor Jin-ling Tang**

### Preventing Overdiagnosis 2019

The December conference in Sydney Australia will include a number of lively plenary debates about controversial and timely issues, involving high-profile players from across the healthcare landscape. There will be parallel and panel sessions covering themes such as Genomics and Commercial Determinants of Health and Overdiagnosis and the Media.

**Date: 5 - 7 December 2019**

[LEARN MORE AND REGISTER](#)

## Consultations and Surveys



### Share your views with the TGA

The Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) is seeking feedback from you and other health consumers in the 2019 TGA stakeholder survey. Your feedback will help the TGA to report on their performance and identify areas to improve.

The survey takes around five minutes to complete. Have your say before the survey closes on 5 July.

[SHARE YOUR VIEWS](#)

### Better Connections: Your health, your say

The Australian Digital Health Agency is facilitating a national conversation to develop a blueprint for a more modern, digitally connected health system. The *Better Connections: Your health, your say* conversation aims to capture the expectations and priorities of a better-connected healthcare system. Complete the survey to have your

say on what you want, need and expect from a modern, interconnected healthcare system that is focused on improving the health and wellbeing for all.

[COMPLETE THE SURVEY](#)

### Open Consultation – NSQHC Standards

The Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care (the Commission) is consulting on National Safety and Quality Primary Health Care Standards. Primary health care stakeholders and consumers are invited to participate in this process.

[LEARN MORE AND PARTICIPATE](#)

## CHF Media Releases

### Our congratulations come with three priorities for the re-elected government

The Government in its last term made encouraging steps towards improving the health system including in primary care and health insurance. Now we urge Mr Hunt and the Morrison Government to work with CHF and other national stakeholders to take further strides to build a health system that reflects 21st century needs.

[READ MORE](#)

### Election 2019 sparks a contest in health

CHF releases its scorecard on how the parties stack up in terms of policies focused on issues including patient leadership and self-management, primary care, First Nations health, prevention patient-centred issues.

[READ MORE](#)

[READ ALL MEDIA RELEASES & BLOGS](#)

## Benefits of Becoming a CHF Member

As a member of CHF you will be kept up to date on key health reform issues through our publications and member alerts. CHF membership enables you to influence the national health agenda by contributing to CHF surveys and polls, consultations and campaigns. Members can draw on CHF position statements, media releases and policy submissions to inform your work and advocacy.

[FIND OUT MORE ABOUT OUR MEMBERSHIP HERE](#)

Consumers Health Forum

7B/17 Napier Close,  
Deakin ACT 2600

02 6273 5444

info@chf.org.au



