

## Community Advisory Council communiqué

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### November 2024

The Community Advisory Council (CAC) met face to face and virtually on **Thursday 21 November and Friday, 22 November 2024**. This communiqué highlights key discussions and considerations from the meeting.

The Chair welcomed members to the meeting and acknowledged the Traditional Owners of the lands on which the meeting was being held and paid respect to their Elders, past and present.

Matters that were considered and discussed by Council members included:

- Dawson review on the National Scheme
- Members noted CAC members' reports – feedback from projects and committees.

### Dawson review update

The Ahpra submission on the review will be completed before the end of the year and Sue Dawson will have her recommendations paper ready by February 2025.

Members noted that the Ahpra Board are still considering the letter the CAC sent to the CEO in October 2024 with the list of recommendations for immediate action for community engagement.

### 2025 meeting dates

Members noted some amendments to the 2025 meeting dates. Members further noted that the February meeting will include an additional day to include a training and professional development day for all CAC members.

### CAC induction, development and training

Members noted a paper provided with an overview of topics to be covered on the training day at the February 2025 meeting.

### Rapid review into the use of the title oral surgeon

Deb Frew (independent review) provided members with an update and presentation with an overview due to legislative amendments and other reviews that have recommended restricting the title 'surgeon' to medical practitioners with specialist qualifications in surgery, questions have unsurprisingly been raised about the title 'oral surgeon' and Health Ministers have requested advice from Ahpra.

Members were asked to provide guidance and feedback on the review.

### Advanced practice paramedics

Members:

1. noted an update on the research and engagement to date on this consultation, and
2. provided feedback on the proposed regulatory model.

## **Chiropractic Board of Australia and Osteopathy Board of Australia: preliminary confidential consultation - proposed options for Guidelines on clinical records**

Members noted an update that the Chiropractic Board of Australia and Osteopathy Board of Australia are undertaking separate but parallel preliminary consultations on the proposed options for Guidelines for clinical record keeping for chiropractors (ChiroBA) Guidelines on clinical records (OsteoBA).

Members provided feedback and noted the challenge in balancing the retirement of an overly prescriptive guide to record keeping with one that may be too loose in managing risk to the public.

### **National Prescribing Competencies Framework**

Members:

1. noted the update and presentation provided by Amel Toubani,
2. noted the updates regarding the framework review project,
3. noted the preliminary consultation pack which includes the draft revised framework for consultation
4. provided feedback below on the draft revised framework, and
5. provided advice on groups or bodies to consult as part of the upcoming public consultation in early 2025. With the inclusion of cohorts of consumers including persons with mental illness, children, elderly in aged care facilities, patients with chronic illness who are reliant on consistent prescriptions, and it is very important for them to be given a voice in this consultation.

### **CEO update**

Members noted the CEO update in the meeting pack and the verbal update from CEO Martin Fletcher highlighting:

#### **Dawson Review**

The Ahpra Board and National Boards have provided a joint submission to the first consultation paper of the Review of the Complexity in the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme (the Dawson Review). Our joint submission includes 27 proposals covering the four key themes of:

- stewardship and governance
- operational accountability and efficiency
- a coherent and responsive complaints system
- scope and expansion of the National Scheme.

The Chair and members thanked Martin for initiating the inclusion of the Community voice within the scheme and backing the continued presence of the CAC. Members wished Martin well in his new role.

### **Education modules (multi-profession and nursing and midwifery specific)**

Members noted a clip of the university based educational modules that included real case studies, explaining the professionalism that is expected of Medical Practitioners. The four modules were well received and were recently tested with the final year students and interns.

In April a paper was presented to all the Boards to see if they would be interested in combining a multi professional video. It was agreed to have a set of Nursing and Midwifery due to the specifics of the themes and a multi professional video.

Members agreed they would like to be involved on this project with Hamza Vayani being nominated to be on the working group. which plans to meet quarterly.

Members suggested that the case studies for the multi professional videos include patients of need such as babies, persons with mental illness, disability or chronic illness, the queer community, elderly and rural and remote communities to make it be more relatable.

Members proposed that aged care be included in the NMBA videos.

#### **Community Advisory Council**

## Health Consumers Queensland new CEO

Pat provided an update advising that she and Heather had met the new CEO of Health Consumers Queensland who was keen for ongoing connection and offered that he would consider having a CRM for use of out-reaching to other-than-Queensland consumer stakeholders.

## Review of CAC engagement with National Scheme working, reference or other groups 2024 - A framework for determining what type of community member to select for project and working groups

Members discussed the need for there to be additional staff to help with the CAC engagement with National Scheme working, reference or other groups. Pat advised that in the letter written to Martin there was a recommendation to invest in a senior secretariat and project support team for the CAC as this is necessary to manage workload, progress CAC initiated projects, assist with facilitating links with critical stakeholders. This would be supported by the work that has come out of the Accreditation Committee and the Community Engagement Strategy which refers to the IAP2 framework. In being able to deliver the strategy to its full potential, additional resources are required.

Members agreed a new process for managing consultations. Any incoming consultation will be circulated to all members within 24 hours of receipt to allow members to nominate themselves to complete and provide their feedback on them. If insufficient members nominate then the Chair will allocate consultations for review to selected members.

The Chair also advised that the core business of the CAC is to review the standards and guidelines, however the consistent recommendations on most consultations is to broaden the communities consulted and reduce the language complexity of the document. A goal for 2025 is to help develop a guide for the National Boards on how to revamp their consultations to address these ongoing issues. The advantage, if this could occur, would be more time for the CAC to undertake other consumer focus work.

Please advise the Community Advisory Council if you have any emerging topics for discussion for their upcoming meetings.

The next meeting of the Community Advisory Council is confirmed for 12 February 2025 (training day) 13 and 14 February 2025 in Melbourne.

## Patricia Hall

Chair