

Queensland Health Consumers Collaborative

COMMUNIQUÉ

No. 8 - September 2018

Welcome to the Queensland Health Consumers Collaborative (Collaborative) newsletter. The Communique is a means for the Collaborative to inform the community of their role and ongoing progress.

The Queensland Health Consumers Collaborative is a joint initiative between Health Consumers Queensland and Queensland Health. This strategic, high level Collaborative is informing embedding of consumer partnerships at every level of planning, policy, delivery, monitoring and evaluation of services provided by Hospital and Health Services and the Department of Health. The Queensland Health Consumers Collaborative is chaired by Health Consumers Queensland, which is funded by the Queensland Government.

Vale: Doug Porter

It is with heavy hearts that we acknowledge the passing of Doug Porter – our friend, collaborative member and active consumer advocate.

Doug was a member of the Queensland Health Consumer Collaborative since it began. He played a vital role in shaping our health care system and his legacy will certainly live on as we remember our friend and colleague.

On behalf of the Collaborative, we send our heartfelt support to Doug's wife Katrina and family.



The Collaborative: 2018 Annual Forum



Collaborative members were out in force at this year's Health Consumers Queensland Annual Forum in Brisbane on 4 and 5 June.

Sharon Boyce delivered the Discovering DisAbility and Diversity workshop which involved participants immersing themselves in various simulations to experience disability and diversity firsthand.

Well done Sharon on presenting such an insightful session.

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For more information on the Collaborative and its work, please contact Jo Smethurst, Senior Engagement Advisor - Health Consumers

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We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians on whose land we deliver a service and pay our respects to the Elders past, present and future.

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Annual Forum Consumer Reference Group

Health Consumers Queensland thanks the Collaborative members who helped make this year's Annual Forum such a successful and well-attended event.

Sharon Boyce, Keren Pointon and Lis Miller, together with staff members Chelsea Gourgaud and Michael Taylor, formed the Annual Forum Consumer Reference Group.

The group assisted in the selection and recommendation of abstracts and Consumer Award winners, as well as providing input into the agenda and two-day program.

Health Consumers Queensland thanks Sharon, Keren and Lis for their insights and ideas and appreciates their support in helping to plan the 2018 Annual Forum.

Innovation and research

The August meeting of the Collaborative welcomed a number of guest speakers. One of those was Brian McEvoy, Director, Health Innovation, Investment and Research Office, Office of the Director-General, Department of Health.

Brian provided an overview of who the office is and what their role entails, which is to encourage health and medical research and engage with national and international partners to convert Queensland's health expertise.

Discussion around recent funding for new fellowship programs with a clear focus on translation into clinical practice and improve health outcomes followed. Collaborative members were keen to explore opportunities for consumers and carers to participate and to ensure this involvement occurred early in the life of the project.

My Health Record update

Australian Digital Health Agency's Liz Jones provided a detailed update on the My Health Record, including early advice that the opt-out process was being extended to 15 November 2018 (instead of the original mid-October).

Again there was great interest and conversation around this topic with Collaborative members keen to better understand the pros and cons of having a digital health record.

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Liz discussed what community engagement was happening, and how efforts were continuing to ensure vulnerable people were being assisted to better understand the process and whether opting-out was the right choice for them.

eHealth Queensland's Project Director Melissa McKnight also shared an update on how Queensland Health and the Hospital and Health Services (HHS) were tracking with their involvement in the roll-out of the My Health Record statewide.

Wrap up

The May meeting of the Collaborative focused on the National Disability Insurance Scheme and its relationship with health. An update was provided on work on-going in this space as well as information about the Medical Aids Subsidy Scheme (MASS) survey.

Progress of the statewide Consumer Advisory Group (CAG) Chairs Network was also discussed, as part of the Collaborative's work plan.

The first statewide meeting was hosted during the Health Consumers Queensland Annual Forum with 20 representatives attending, including Paul Woodhouse, Chair of Chairs, who attended as an observer.

The meeting was seen as a very positive session and an opportunity to share what is working well in different services, as well as to encourage better information sharing between HHS CAG Chairs.

What's next

The next and final Collaborative meeting for 2018 will be held on 7 November. Topics for the next meeting will be determined soon but will focus on priorities outlined in the Collaborative's work plan.

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