Two focus group opportunities to hear from consumers with health conditions requiring ongoing medication

Closing date: 2pm, Thursday 9th September 2021

**Health Consumers Queensland** has two opportunities for health consumers with chronic or long-term conditions to participate in an online focus group. We are seeking six consumers for each one-hour focus group.

The focus groups will be held online via Zoom on:

Monday 6th September - *This focus group has now been filled.*

Monday 13th September - 1.00pm – 2.00pm

Purpose

People with health conditions that are treated by doctors are often prescribed medicines based on a doctor’s treatment decision. In most cases, a person, must have a prescription from their doctor, or other authorised prescriber, to obtain the prescription medicine from a pharmacy.

Depending on the type of medicine, and the patient’s medical condition, one prescription may allow for up to 6 - 12 months’ supply of a medicine. When the pharmacist supplies the medicine, they will explain how much of the medicine to take, when to take it and for how long it should be taken. There will also be a label on the medicine with instructions about how to take it.

In certain circumstances people who have ongoing needs to take medicines for their health condition find they have run out of their prescription medicines, and they have trouble getting access to their prescribing doctor for an appointment. This may happen, for example, in emergency situations such as natural disasters, COVID-19 lockdowns or if a person is travelling in other parts of Queensland.

Ongoing management of health conditions could require continued treatment with medicine and stopping some medicines suddenly can be dangerous. So, it is important for some conditions that people continue to take their prescription medicines, even without a review by a doctor. Alternatively, there can be changes in a person’s health condition, and treatment with prescription medicines might not be further required, or a change in the dose or type of medicine could be justified – in these cases ongoing treatment not supported by medical review, might also pose a health risk.

Queensland Health are keen to hear from health consumers who have chronic or long-term conditions that requires ongoing medication, about their experience and thoughts on having the ability to access a three-day emergency medicine supply from a pharmacist.

Queensland Health will use this information to better understand the benefits, concerns and risks for health consumers requiring timely access to their medications, whilst continuing to access appropriate and regular reviews by your doctor.

Remuneration

Consumers will be remunerated with a $40 gift voucher for their time in line with [Health Consumers Queensland’s remuneration position statement](http://www.hcq.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2015/12/Consumer-Remuneration-Rates-Dec-2015.pdf).

How to apply

**Please complete this consumer application form and return to****projects @hcq.org.au**by 2pm, Thursday 9th September 2021.

For assistance, please contact Health Consumers Queensland via projects@hcq.org.au or by phone on 07 3012 9090.

**Consumer Application Form**

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Full name:

Preferred phone number:

Email:

Postal address:

Postcode:

**Please confirm that you are available to attend:**

[ ]  Monday 13th September - 1.00pm – 2.00pm

Please highlight any group you identify as being a part of:

* Living with a disability/chronic condition
* On regular medication for a chronic or long-term condition (e.g., blood pressure, cholesterol etc.)
* Physically isolated or transport disadvantaged
* Culturally or linguistically diverse
* From a non-English speaking background
* LGBTIQ+

Do you identify as: Aboriginal | Torres Strait Islander | Both | Prefer not to state

Are you a: Consumer | Carer

Age range: 16-24 25-29 30-39 40-49 50-59 60-69 70+

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Gender:** |  Male | Female | Intersex | Other | Prefer not to state |