



The Faces of HTA Reform

Real stories. Real people. Real reasons for change.

Why Health Technology Assessment (HTA) reform matters



Meet Peter



Patient Organisation: Lived Experience Australia Ltd



Condition: Schizophrenia

Peter is in his late 50s and lives with his wife and adult children. Peter loves going to movies, listening to music, and spending time with his beloved dog 'Mollie'.

Peter has lived with schizophrenia most of his adult life. He receives support from a GP, his wife, and a small NDIS package to help him with daily activities and getting out in the local community.

Peter has had several changes in anti-psychotic medications over the years, many causing significant side effects or serious physical health conditions such as glaucoma, gynecomastia and diabetes. Peter has tried newer medications, without success. Choice, trust and being listened to are important to Peter. Unfortunately, the medications that suit Peter aren't on the PBS.

1



THEIR STORY

Who is the patient?

Peter is a devoted husband and father. His faith and family are what matters most to him, and Peter is always willing to be a listening ear to friends and family who may be having a rough time. Peter's greatest hope is to be healthier and to contribute where he can to his family.

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Every bill matters for a person like Peter with severe mental health challenges, especially because they often experience multiple mental health and physical health conditions. Multiple disadvantages can make access to health care challenging and shorten their life expectancy by up to 20 years. HTA reform would help Peter's quality of life and that of his family.

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2



THEIR CHALLENGE

What barrier did they face because of the current HTA system?

Peter's psychiatrist recommended Zuclopenthixol tablets, but they weren't on the PBS, costing \$200-\$300 each month. Peter already takes several medications for his many physical health conditions, seeing several specialists, so every cost is significant.

Peter became seriously unwell, went to hospital, and lost trust in treatment and understanding of his illness. Peter switched to having a fortnightly Zuclopenthixol Depot (\$25 per month). His Depot dose recently increased but the 50mg/1ML nebulas are not on the PBS, adding \$100 per month. This leaves Peter with little money to improve his quality of life in his community beyond NDIS support visits.

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WHY HTA REFORM MATTERS TO ALL AUSTRALIANS

How would reform improve lives?

Reforming Australia's process for deciding what is funded and subsidised in healthcare (Health Technology Assessment) is in every Australian's interests. HTA reform is about creating a healthy, productive and vibrant Australia.

Across our country, out of sight and out of mind, Australians are facing unbearable decisions, loss and financial hardship when innovative treatments subsidised by programs like our Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme could make a difference. Help us reform HTA and the policies that guide investing in healthcare for all Australians by telling decision-makers that you back HTA reform and investing in health.



ABOUT OUR ORGANISATION

Lived Experience Australia is a national organisation for mental health consumers and carers, families and kin. We advocate for policies and systemic reform to improve mental health, suicide prevention, and psychosocial disability support services. Our research elevates Lived Experience voices.

OUR COMMUNITY

Our 'friends' include more than 14,000 people with lived experience of mental health challenges (consumers and family carers) across Australia.

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