

One of the questions that was asked at the end of the teleconference where Jan Donovan represented the Chronic Illness Alliance, related to feedback from the Consumer representative on the PBAC. I believe that Mitch Messer is still the consumer rep. As a member of Consumers Health Forum he reported to the consumer movement through CHF. This is the most effective means of communication we have, but does have its limitations in that most people using the PBS do not belong to its membership.

People with chronic illnesses who are members of the various foundation are likely to hear news re the PBAC through newsletters via CHF but not necessarily and only when newsletter editors decide to include this information. However, as Mitch is no longer connected with CHF I do not believe that there are any ongoing reports.

One interesting solution to this issue could be links between the PBAC minutes (where appropriate) and the Medicare On-Line services that are now available. I believe there are now large numbers of people accessing Medicare services on-line. Also if the name of the current PBAC representative were there, it would give the community a conduit to the PBS and PBAC.

Christine

Dr Christine Walker
Chronic Illness Alliance