

## Board update

**September 2018**

### **UPDATE Government de-funding of HCA**

Thank you for the overwhelming messages of support received from individuals and organisations across the state and nationally. We need your help to retain the independent voice of South Australian health consumers.

The HCA Board met last night. We have now received written confirmation of the announcement we first heard in the Budget lockup last Tuesday. You can view the letter [here](#).

The letter says consumer and community engagement is now to occur through the new local governing boards, who 'might choose to partner with HCA'. The boards are established 1 July 2019. The Minister's funding ceases 30 June 2018.

We have asked to meet with the Minister. We have questions for him. HCA wants to know:

1. Why has the Minister decided to stop funding the independent voice of South Australian consumers?
2. When government support for independent consumer voice is growing around the country, why is the Minister removing funding for South Australian consumers?
3. Who will gather and report on state-wide perspectives on SA Health issues? And make sure the people who are often not heard, are heard?
4. Who will support state-wide patient organisations when there are persistent and damaging errors that are not being fixed within local health networks?

We will let you know the answers we get.

You might want to ask your local member of parliament, the Minister, Premier and Treasurer some questions too. In fact we encourage it!

Current details of each electorates member of parliament are available [here](#). If you are unsure of your electorate you can find out the name of your electorate based on your suburb [here](#).

Let us know what you find out.

We also want to hear your feedback on the way we are responding to this decision. You can contact us by phone: 8231 4169 or email [info@hcasn.au](mailto:info@hcasn.au)

### **Join our social media campaign**

If you are on social media we encourage you to post your thoughts about the decision to defund HCA to our [Facebook page](#) wall or on Twitter and tag us using our twitter handle @HealthConsumers.

**Welcome new board member Danny Broderick**

The board was pleased to welcome our new sector representative, Danny Broderick to his first board meeting last night. You can read about Danny [here](#).

Watch this space for the call next week for nominations for election of directors at our Annual General Meeting on 19 November 2018.

**Membership**

HCA welcomes individual and organisational members. We encourage anyone who cares about the independent voice of consumers to consider joining now: Individual members can sign up [here](#).

Organisational members can sign up [here](#).

The membership fee is small but your support via membership is priceless.