

ENGAGING CLINICIANS AND CONSUMERS IN THE DESIGN AND IMPLEMENTATION OF A NATIONAL EDUCATION PROGRAM FOR INFLAMMATORY ARTHRITIS

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Aim

- ▶ The use of biologics in the management of inflammatory conditions such as inflammatory arthritis has increased substantially in recent years.
- ▶ The Targeted Therapies Alliance, a consortium of nine organisations representing specialists, pharmacists, consumers and research experts, was formed with the aim to design and implement a three-year national multi-disciplinary education program.
- ▶ The program aims to:
 - achieve better patient health outcomes
 - support optimal use of biological disease-modifying antirheumatic drugs (bDMARDs) and other specialised medicines
 - contribute to Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) sustainability.

Methods

- ▶ Rheumatologists and patients were involved early in key opinion leader interviews, surveys, and focus groups to inform program design.
- ▶ Expert working groups and review panels guided the selection, scoping and development of numerous rheumatology resources.
- ▶ Feedback from a wide range of rheumatologists and patients were incorporated through development, user testing and stakeholder panels.

Results

- ▶ Consortium members were involved in the development of program objectives (Box 1) and selection of resources for development.
- ▶ 33 rheumatologists were engaged 64 times across the program in the development and implementation of 23 evidence-based resources.
- ▶ 14 rheumatologists participated in 7 different expert working groups and panels over-seeing the development of these resources.
- ▶ Approximately 14,000 views of the national living guidelines and over 5000 downloads of the rheumatology resources to date.

Box 1: Program objectives

- 1) optimise first-line conventional synthetic DMARD therapy;
- 2) optimise first-choice of biological and targeted synthetic DMARD (b/tsDMARD);
- 3) optimise biosimilar prescribing and dispensing;
- 4) optimise b/tsDMARD dosage for patients in remission and low disease activity; and
- 5) optimise glucocorticoid and analgesic use.

Conclusions

- ▶ A multidisciplinary design process has been effective in developing a national education program for rheumatologists and their patients.

Further information

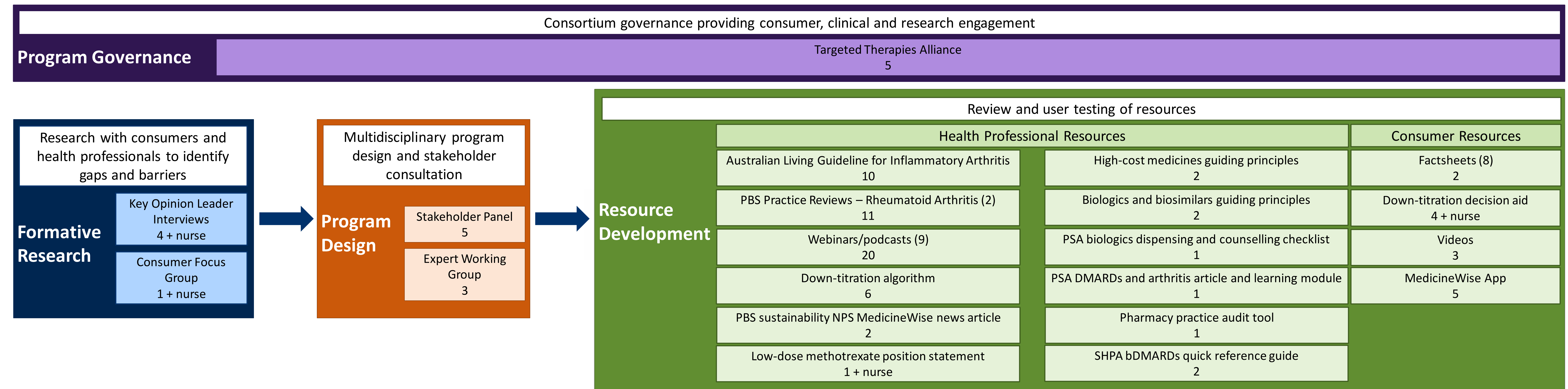
- ▶ Where to access these resources: <https://www.nps.org.au/bdmards>



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Figure 1: Number of rheumatologists involved at each stage of program development



PBS: Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme; PSA: Pharmaceutical Society of Australia; SHPA: Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia; (b)DMARDs: (biological) disease-modifying antirheumatic drugs

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Helping consumers and health professionals make safe and wise therapeutic decisions about biological disease-modifying antirheumatic drugs (bDMARDs) and other specialised medicines. Funded by the Australian Government Department of Health through the Value in Prescribing bDMARDs Program Grant.

