



# Consumer Involvement in Research Working Group (CIRWG) Purpose Statement

## Background

There is increasing recognition of the value of lived experience experts by research funders, partners and the community and the necessity of involving consumers and the community in health and medical research.

The Consumer Involvement in Research Working Group (CIRWG) was formed in 2021 and comprises of members from each of the Faculty of Medicine organisational units:

- Frazer Institute
- UQ Centre for Clinical Research
- Child Health Research Centre
- School of Biomedical Sciences
- Centre for Health Services Research
- School of Public Health
- Mater Research Institute – UQ
- Medical School

## Mission

The CIRWG is dedicated to creating a collaborative, inclusive, and transformative research setting in partnership with consumers, promoting innovative research that solves real problems for real world setting.

## Purpose

Our purpose is to facilitate an equal partnership between academic expertise and lived experience experts by encouraging researchers and empowering consumers to actively participate in all stages of research.

Fostering a vibrant research culture that promotes consumer involvement with respect, diversity, and inclusion, in research (with reference to: [MRFF Principles for consumer involvement](#)).

## Objectives

Our objective is to support the involvement of consumers in health research to drive innovation and shaping a future where researchers and consumers collaborate as partners throughout the research journey.

The objectives of the CIRWG are to:

- Pursue the incorporation of consumer and community priorities and perspectives in all research.
- Foster consumer and community collaboration to ensure research is relevant, meaningful, and more likely to produce innovative solutions to real-world health challenges.
- Provide advice to Faculty of Medicine executive staff on emerging issues locally, nationally, and internationally in consumer and community involvement in health research.
- Advocate for the appreciation, acknowledgement, and remuneration of consumer contributions.
- Build consumer capacity for involvement in research through training courses and support. Build researcher capacity to effectively develop and maintain ongoing relationships with consumers and communities in their work.
- Contribute to the evidence supporting best-practice principles for consumer and community involvement in research.



- Progressing strategic projects, such as:
  - Co-design of a Living Framework for Consumer and Community Involvement in Health Research for the Faculty of Medicine.
  - Advocate for policies that prioritise consumer and community involvement in health research at all levels, from institutional guidelines to Faculty seed-funding initiatives.

## Membership

- A member representing each Faculty organisational unit, a HDR student, and a representative from the advancement team, with coordination and support provided by the Faculty Principal Project Officer.
- Invited consumer partners from the Faculty research community. An expression of interest and review process will be conducted. The consumer partner appointment is for two years.

## Meeting arrangements

The CIRWG will meet bimonthly, and all meetings will be via Zoom.

## Member obligations

- Attend scheduled CIRWG meetings (where possible). Where a member is unavailable to attend, they should email the Faculty Project Officer to advise they will not be attending.
- Contribute to respectful, open, and honest discussions, adhering to UQ values. Take a positive and constructive approach to group contributions and collaborations.
- CIRWG and Faculty of Medicine to support and remunerate consumer partners attending the meetings.
- Share resources agreed best practice, guidance, and relevant information with your Faculty organisational unit and the wider UQ community.

## Administration for meetings

The CIRWG will be organised by the Faculty project officer who is responsible for:

- Emailing the agenda to members prior to each meeting.
- Reminding members about meeting dates approximately one week in advance.
- Preparing and circulating minutes and recommendations to members after each meeting.
- Ensuring that any recommendations agreed by member consensus are acted upon.
- Deciding, as early as possible, if it is necessary to cancel or postpone a meeting and inform members as soon as possible.

## Amendment, modification, or variation

The Purpose Summary may be amended, varied, or modified after consultation with the CIRWG.

## Contact

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