

Incorporating Consumer and Community Involvement in Seed Grant Applications

Tips for Success

- Please note Consumer and Community Involvement is about consumers/community members working in partnership with researchers to shape decisions about research priorities, policy and practise, and having an active role in the research process.
- Involvement isn't participation (such as data gathering from people / experiments, observational studies, surveys and focus groups, blood and tissue samples) nor engagement (interacting with community and providing information about the research and is usually a one-way conversation).
- Preferably there should be a Chief Investigator that represents the needs of consumers, community and end-users.
- Include a separate section on Consumer and Community Involvement in the application (towards the front 😊) which covers the following:
 - Describe how the consumer Chief Investigator will fulfill their role.
 - How will the Consumer and Community Involvement program be integrated into the project governance structure.
 - Provide details of how the Consumer and Community Involvement program will be established, and the expected amount of diversity of individuals and communities.
 - Explain the approach of the Consumer and Community Involvement. For instance, individual consumers, a consumer panel, a co-design workshops, or focus groups with consumer representatives. Remember, one size does not fit all.
 - Budget for remunerating the consumers for the duration of the project. This could be an hourly rate or a gift card. Note that some consumers may contribute "in kind". Health Consumers NSW has a consumer and community involvement remuneration and reimbursement guide on their website.
[Remuneration and Reimbursement of Health Consumers - Health Consumers NSW \(hcnsw.org.au\)](https://hcnsw.org.au/remuneration-and-reimbursement-of-health-consumers)
 - Be prepared to provide training for the consumers and possibly researchers. Health Consumers NSW offers a free introductory online course about consumer involvement in health and medical research suitable for consumer and community representatives as well as researchers.
[Joint training for researchers and consumers in research - Health Consumers NSW \(hcnsw.org.au\)](https://hcnsw.org.au/joint-training-for-researchers-and-consumers-in-research)
 - Contribution of consumers to preparing lay summaries and the dissemination of the results of the research project to consumers, community and end-users.
- Pathway to Impact
 - Consumers are passionate about contributing to research that will have a positive impact on the needs of communities and end users. With that in mind, it is important there is a viable plan for the outcomes of the research to be translated into practise.