

CONSUMER AND COMMUNITY RESEARCHERS

What are consumer and community researchers?

Consumer and community researchers are people who have been trained to work with researchers to conduct all or part of the research.

What do consumer and community researchers do?

Consumer and community researchers may:

- Assist in the development of the methodology of the study
- Conduct interviews with study participants (often other consumers or community members)
- Co-facilitate focus groups
- Analyse results of interviews or questionnaires

When should I use a consumer and community researcher?

This method can be very useful for working with specific groups such as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander people or ethnic communities.

What are the costs involved with consumer and community researchers?

We advocate for honorarium payments for consumer and community members at a rate of \$37.50 per hour, however it is common for consumer and community researchers to be contracted or employed by organisations, and rates and conditions will be vary depending on the employer (*please refer to our honorarium payment guidelines*).

Consumer and community researchers in practice

Researchers at UWA undertook a project to better understand the issue of domestic violence in African communities by immersing themselves in the communities and asking questions. They soon realised it wasn't appropriate for them to conduct the interviews with community members, as they didn't speak the language and weren't aware of the culture. So, the researchers worked with community groups to educate African women to become community researchers. They conducted qualitative interviews, assisted with the analysis of the interview data, and disseminated the research findings within their communities.

Contact us

 cciprogram.org

 admin@cciprogram.org

 08 6151 1071

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