

CONSUMER AND COMMUNITY REVIEWERS

What is a consumer and community reviewer?

This is a one-off activity where a consumer or community member provides feedback on a document or research idea. Involving consumers or community members in reviewing documents or ideas can assist in ensuring they are easily understood. It can also be very helpful in 'detecting' jargon and acronyms.

What does a consumer/community reviewer group do?

Consumer and community reviewers may review a number of documents, including:

- *Information sheets:* Written information explaining the research project given to research participants.
- *Consent forms:* A form signed by a research participant confirming agreement to take part in a project. It also provides evidence that the participant fully understands what they are being asked to do in the research.
- *Plain language summaries:* Summaries of the research written in a way that is easily understood by everyone (not using scientific or specialised language). They can be used to let the community know about the research or applying for funding..
- *Grant/funding applications:* Reviewers can be involved in assessing grant or funding applications.
- Pamphlets and brochures
- Reports and documents about the dissemination of research results
- Presentations to community groups

What are the costs involved with a consumer/community review?

We advocate for honorarium payments for consumer/community reviewers at a rate of \$37.50 per hour (*please refer to our honorarium payment guidelines*). We recommend allowing two hours for a review of documents, however this may vary depending on the size and scope of the document – the CCIP can assist you with deciding this. (*please refer to our honorarium payment guidelines*).

Consumer and community reviewer in practice

Michaela, a community member with a lived experience of cancer, has assisted Harry Perkins Institute of Medical Research researcher Andrew Woo with a number of grant applications. In particular, she has reviewed his application to the Cancer Council where she provided feedback on the plain language summary as well as the CCI criteria. She assisted Andrew in conveying the significance of the project to the community, and added to his plan for ongoing community involvement. Michaela was happy to be named on the grant application as a qualified Consumer Representative, and if Andrew's project is successfully funded, she will continue to work with him to provide input from a community perspective.

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