

CONSUMER AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT (CCI) AT A STRATEGIC LEVEL

Why should CCI be included at a strategic level?

Having consumers and community members involved at a strategic level can often bring a new and different perspective.

What does CCI at a strategic level look like?

CCI at a strategic level could involve having one or more consumers or community members on a steering group, advisory council or board:

- *Steering groups:* Groups of stakeholders who steer and influence the research project, program, or organisation. They often have more involvement than a reference group or advisory group, which only provide advice. A steering group can consist of stakeholders such as researchers, clinicians, members of non-government organisations.
- *Advisory Councils:* Provide advice at a strategic level across the organisation. Council membership usually includes consumers, community members, researchers and management.
- *Board:* A board is responsible for the overall governance, management and strategic direction of the organisation.

What are the costs involved with CCI at a strategic level?

We advocate for honorarium payments for consumer and community members at a rate of \$37.50 per hour, however sitting fees on steering groups, councils and boards may vary (*please refer to our honorarium payment guidelines*).

CCI at a strategic level in practice

Curtin University's Faculty of Health Sciences instigated a Faculty research Strategy Committee and included a consumer on the group to inform strategic decisions that would influence increased consumer and community involvement (CCI). One of the first discussions involved the opportunity to remove one of the most common barriers to involving consumers in the initial stages of research, how to pay consumers before you have received any funding for your project. Curtin approved the formation of an Involvement Bank, that was part funded by each school within the faculty and then match with Faculty funding. Processes were developed, with the support of the consumer, allowing PhD students and early career researchers to access up to \$200 per project to involve consumers in their work from the earliest possible stage.

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