



Consumer and Community Participation Fact Sheet M10: Writing Grant Applications

Why involve consumers and community members in writing grant applications?

- Funding bodies such as the National Health and Medical Research Council and the Cancer Council NSW require researchers to state in the grant application how they intend to involve consumers and community members in their project.
- Consumers and community members can make valuable contributions and add a different perspective to other stakeholders in the development of a grant application.
- It is integral to high level consumer and community participation.
- It demonstrates the openness and transparency of the project.
- Its a good way of ensuring participation from an early stage.

Deciding if consumers and community members of steering groups can also be participants in the research can be a dilemma. It is important for each research project to consider issues about ethics, confidentiality and bias.

How can consumers and community members be involved?

Consumers and community members can be involved in writing grant applications by:

- Being co-applicants on the grant application.
- Reading through and commenting on the application so that amendments can be made prior to final application.
- Helping to write the plain language summary.
- Planning the proposed consumer and community participation activities.

Practical issues

- Identify consumers and community members to assist in writing the grant application.
- Draft an outline of the participation activities for discussion with the consumers and community members. They can then help with developing a plan for the participation activities.
- Discuss what support will be needed and/or offered, see other Consumer and Community Participation Fact Sheets (M02 - M12) for more information on consumer and community participation.
- Meet or be in contact with the consumers and community members frequently throughout the grant writing process.
- Being clear about roles and expectations from the outset may avoid problems along the way.
- Payment of expenses and/or honorarium should be discussed.



On the grant application remember to include:

- Details of the groups who worked on the grant application should be included , remember to check they are happy to be named.
- Details on meetings researchers had with consumer and community groups.
- The levels and methods of participation to be used in each stage of the research project.
- A budget for the consumer and community participation activities.

Community members met with researchers from the Telethon Kids Institute to learn about the current research being done in the Developmental Pathways Project. This project involves 12 Western Australian government agencies and industry partners and is looking at health and wellbeing in children. The meeting also discussed community priorities for future research projects. The feedback from this meeting had a two-fold positive outcome i.e. the inclusion of community suggestions such as questions about appropriateness of services and service use into the grant application, and the addition of the WA Department of Housing to the government agencies involved in the project.