

Becoming a consumer partner in health research

What are the benefits of consumers getting involved in research?

You can:

- Improve the way research is conducted
- Ensure that what is being researched is truly meaningful and important
- Share the results more widely within the community
- Be supported to learn new skills
- "Give back" to the health system
- Improve the experience of care for people in the future as research is converted into practice

What skills do I need to have?

Your life experience relevant to the research topic and a willingness to engage productively with the research team are the most important things you can contribute. Any other specific knowledge or skills will be outlined by the research team.

What will I be expected to do?

There are many aspects of the research process you can be involved in. Below are some of the common activities

Research process	Example activities
Planning	Help decide what is important to research from your healthcare experiences Help to identify the priorities for research topics
Designing	Suggest ideas that could improve the way the study is conducted Offer ways to assist with attracting participants and review written materials, such as information and consent forms
Doing	Assist researchers to collect and analyse data Support researchers in conducting focus groups
Sharing	Assist in writing information and findings so that they are better conveyed to the community Share the results with community groups and your networks
Giving Feedback	Assist the researchers to understand what went well in the research and what could be improved for next time Assist in deciding the next research priorities

Where can I find out more information?

The Centre for Functioning and Health Research has six short modules to provide researchers and consumers with more information about consumer engagement in research.

How can I get involved?

If you would like to become involved in research, please contact the Metro South Consumer and Community Engagement Team at MSHconsumerpartnering@health.qld.gov.au