

Australian Guidance on Reimbursing for Health Consumer Involvement Activities

Research4Me's Position Statement

When it comes to involving people in research, reimbursing and compensating people for their expenses, effort and the value of their experience is a sign of respect. Not doing so creates the environment where only the voices that have financial capacity can get involved, leaving those unable to afford to get involved without a voice and potential skew to the views shared.

Patients and carers may not have a medical or scientific degree, but in many cases, their 'health knowledge, experience and networks' have come at great personal toll and cost, both financial, emotional and personal. Those involving people in their work should respect and budget for accessing that experience, to minimise adding additional burden to those involved.

At a minimum, aim to reimburse people's actual costs. Beyond that, we strongly encourage consideration is given to payment for the time and value of the experience that will help shape the success of the activity or project being undertaken, as well as other considerations like childcare, stationery, IT resources, phone, etc, that may make involvement more inclusive.

Once offered, the choice should always remain that of the person getting involved whether or not to accept the reimbursement/payment, taking into consideration their own personal circumstances.

All parties making and receiving payments should be transparent about the transactions to maintain trust and acknowledge potential conflicts of interest (perceived or real) from outsiders.

Australian Resources and Guidelines to help answer the question: What payment is appropriate?

Applicability	Organisation	Link
National	Medicines Australia	https://medicinesaustralia.com.au/about-us/corporate-policy/policy-and-remuneration/
	CHF	https://chf.org.au/guidelines-consumer-representatives/you-start/your-entitlements-consumer-representative
NSW	HCNSW	http://www.hcnsw.org.au/pages/remuneration.htmlWA
	NSW Government	https://www.psc.nsw.gov.au/policy---legislation/nsw-government-boards-and-committees
WA	HCC	https://www.hconc.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/SAA_09_CCE_Consumer-and-Community-Engagement-PAYMENT-SUMMARY-Oct-2018.pdf
ACT	HCCA	https://www.hcca.org.au/health-services/reimbursement/
SA	HCASA	https://www.hcasa.asn.au/your-available-documents/920-hcasa-sitting-fees-position-statement-2019/file
QLD	HCQ	http://www.hcq.org.au/for-consumer-representatives/resources/
VIC	Health Issues Centre	https://www.healthissuescentre.org.au/images/uploads/hic-publications/Paying-and-reimbursing-consumers-position-statement.pdf