

Budgeting for Consumer Involvement

Budget and resource items that need to be considered for grant applications and research activity planning

Key tips before you start

- Successfully involving consumers in your project is possible - but needs to be budgeted for from the beginning
- Ideally, you will involve consumers in all stages of the research cycle (see Figure)
- It is nearly always important to have more than one consumer involved
- Some items will always be required (in **bold** below), others are desirable or only required some of the time or for some projects



EXAMPLES of collaborative activities

- Identify priorities
- Generate questions
- Co-develop study materials
- Select, pilot materials
- Consider feasibility
- Develop recruitment strategies
- Promote the study
- Deliver, co-deliver interventions
- Support participants for retention
- Collect data
- Data analysis
- Data interpretations
- Identify stakeholders to target
- Identify strategies for communication
- Co-produce materials
- Do knowledge translation
- Co-author papers and presentations

Payment for consumer **TIME** for

- **Orientation to research**
- **Orientation to the project**
- Training for skills or knowledge (research / project specific)
- **Preparing for meetings or work tasks**
- **Attending meetings**
- **Work outside meetings** (e.g., co-create / advise on study or dissemination materials)
- Conference attendance
- Travel time



COST of researcher supports to consumers

- Time for consumer liaison role
- Time to prepare materials to reach, onboard and orient consumers
- Creation of accessible materials to support diverse involvement (plain language, easy language, language translations)

Additional **CONSIDERATIONS**

Ask about payment preferences

- e.g., invoice as contractor, employee, gift voucher, no payment, partial payment, conference registration

Consider constraints on consumer receipt of money

- e.g., if on government benefits

Know your organisation's approaches to payment

- Flexibility is needed
- Identify and use local payment guidelines for hourly rates

Recognise contributions in other ways

- e.g., letter of reference, authorship on dissemination products, papers, presentations

Payment for consumer **SUPPORTS**

- Support worker time
- Childcare costs
- Access to internet
- Travel or car parking costs
- Accommodation (eg rural / remote partners; conferences)
- Refreshments / meals