

Family Engagement in Research Course 2024

The Family Engagement in Research (FER) course is a 9-week (32 hour) online course offered by [Healthy Trajectories](#) in partnership with [CanChild Centre for Childhood Disability Research](#), McMaster University.

The FER course covers principles and frameworks of family engagement in research alongside discussions of the practicalities and challenges of research partnership.

The course design and content aim to create a supportive environment to share ideas, experiences and practical strategies to help learners develop confidence and competence in the theory and practice of family engagement in research.

A unique component of the FER course is that individuals with lived experience of disability and researchers collaborate in small groups to create a Knowledge Translation (KT) tool highlighting best practices in FER.



Course Background

Since 2018, the FER course offered through McMaster University has equipped researchers and family members from 18 countries with the knowledge, skills, and confidence to partner together in child and youth health and disability research.

Our [Healthy Trajectories team](#) have completed this FER course and been trained by our colleagues at CanChild to deliver the course in Australia, tailored to our Australian researchers and family engagement partners.

We delivered our first course with the guidance of CanChild in 2023.



Who is this course for?

Consumers

People with lived/living experience of child/youth-onset disability or other chronic health conditions (as a young adult or parent/caregiver) who are currently involved or would like to become involved in research as a family engagement partner (consumer).

Researchers

People working or aspiring to work in the field of child and youth health and disability research who would like to know how to partner with consumers genuinely and effectively in their research.

Our unique FER course

- Brings together family engagement partners (consumers) and researchers to share their experiences and knowledge and learn side-by-side how to effectively engage in genuinely collaborative research.
- Is co-facilitated by researchers and family engagement partners who each have more than 10 years' experience partnering in research.
- Gives you access to the most relevant literature, tools, and resources.
- Provides you with McMaster University certified micro-credential, upon successful completion.
- Is the only program in Australia that offers this depth and extent of learning in family engagement in research.
- Is specifically tailored for Australian researchers and family engagement partners.



Key Dates

Applications open	8 April 2024, 9am
Early-bird discount ends	3 May 2024, 5pm
Applications close	31 May 2024, 5pm
Notification of outcome	14 June 2024, 5pm

**All times are AEST*

Dates not right for you this year?
[Subscribe to the Healthy Trajectories newsletter](#) to stay up to date with future course offerings.



Course Overview

The course is delivered over 9 weeks in Term 3 of the Australian school year.

There is an expectation that course participants will attend four 2-hour online sessions and commit to group work and independent guided learning outside the virtual sessions.

Participants have the choice of attending the online sessions on either a Wednesday or a Thursday, 10:00am to 12:00noon AEST (and you don't need to attend the same day each week).

The estimated course work time commitment is 3-4 hours per week.

Session	Week beginning	Topic
1*	22 July 2024	What do we mean by Family Engagement in Research (FER)?
2	29 July 2024	Why is FER important?
3*	5 August 2024	Building an integrated research team including the different roles and responsibilities
4*	12 August 2024	Inclusion, accessibility, and ethics of family engagement in research
5	19 August 2024	Barriers and facilitators to family engagement
6	26 August 2024	Evaluation of family engagement activities
7	2 September 2024	Building a community for family-researcher partnerships
8	9 September 2024	Group work to finalise KT Tools
9*	16 September 2024	Project (KT Tool) presentations and course wrap-up

*Online group session this week.

What last year's participants said

"Amazing instructors! I loved that there were so many of them, from so many perspectives. Thank you for making that a priority in your delivery of this course!"

"Meeting new people, learning about family partnerships, small group activities, whole group discussions – I learnt so much listening to more experienced researchers and amazing family engagement partners (consumers)."

"I enjoyed how the instructors integrated all content (e.g., readings, Zoom session content, simulations). It was clear how the information related to our course objectives. I liked how additional resources were provided if we wanted to learn more."

"I had some prior experience but it was interesting to take on the diversity of viewpoints and read some good literature."

Course Fees

Early-bird price	\$650.00
Full price	\$850.00

Early bird registration closes on 3 May 2024 at 5pm (AEST)

A limited number of funded places will be offered, with preference given to those with lived/living experience of child/youth-onset disability or other chronic health conditions.

If you are a researcher who would like to sponsor a family engagement partner (consumer) to participate in this course, [please get in touch by email](#).

Application Process

Applications open Monday 8 April 2024.

[Complete the online application form](#) and submit before 5pm on Friday 31 May 2024 (AEST) to be considered for the 2024 cohort.

The Family Engagement in Research Course was developed in 2018 by Andrea Cross, Connie Putterman, Donna Thomson, Dayle McCauley, Patty Solomon, and Jan Willem Gorter at CanChild Centre for Childhood Disability Research at McMaster University. Course development was funded by Kids Brain Health Network.

© Cross, A., Putterman, C., Thomson, D., McCauley D., Solomon, P., Gorter, JW. (2023). Family Engagement in Research Course. CanChild, McMaster University. Hamilton, Ontario.

scan to apply



Unsure about whether this course is right for you? Have questions about the course and/or application process? Wish to discuss individual accessibility requirements or supports to help you participate?

Please do not hesitate to reach out to us by email or phone to discuss more.

healthy-trajectories@unimelb.edu.au

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