

Areas for consumer involvement in research



Consumers can be involved in diverse ways depending on the type of research. Some of these are outlined below.

Type of research	Key characteristics	Potential areas of consumer involvement
Bio Medical	Laboratory-based Complex Controlled experimental designs Molecular, cellular	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ethics member of a steering committee member of the project team communicating results broadly, in ways that are meaningful to consumers and community members
Clinical research	Laboratory based and/or human subjects Controlled experimental Designs Quantitative methods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ethics ownership or access to human tissue samples identifying areas for further research advocacy communicating results to participants and wider community in consumer-friendly ways member of a steering committee member of the project team
Public health/ Population Health research	Study of communities or populations Social setting Focus on epidemiology, health promotion and prevention, social and behavioural sciences, population based health interventions Quantitative and qualitative methods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> identifying gaps in current knowledge identifying need contributing consumer focussed research advocacy informing policy development assisting/collaborating in research processes networking support and liaison communicating results translating results into practice member of a steering committee member of the project team
Health Services, Health Economics & Social research	Study of health-related institutions, including their operation within the broader system Systems/policy focus Complex social settings Quantitative and qualitative methods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> identifying breakdown in systems feedback about quality, relevance and appropriateness of services collaboration in research processes contributing consumer focussed research research subjects member of a steering committee member of the project team providing consumer perspective on system issues networking support and liaison advocacy communicating results implementing results

Source: National Health and Medical Research Council [NHMRC] and Consumers Health Forum of Australia [CHF], 2004. Resource Pack for Consumer and Community Participation in Health and Medical Research. Canberra. Pp. 15-16

See ['The principles and indicators of successful consumer involvement in NHS research'](#)

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