

# Consumers in Research Startup Grant Guidelines

Metro North Research is committed to creating a supportive environment for research and maximising opportunities for our researchers. The Consumers in Research Startup Grant aims to provide financial support for consumer leadership, co-design and partnership in research project development at Metro North Health.

## Introduction

A key objective of the **Consumers in Research Startup Grant** scheme is to facilitate increased consumer partnership in Metro North Health research studies from the time of study conception and initial development, such as consumer involvement as an investigator or advisor, leading to better study design, including research grant submissions that have had consumer partnership in their development.

As defined by Health Consumers Queensland, consumers are people who use, or are potential users, of health organisations including their family and carers. For the purposes of this grant scheme, a consumer is not a Metro North Health staff member, however, may be a Metro North Health consumer representative. It is intended that this grant scheme will enable consumer participation at the highest levels of involvement in research, such as consumer leadership and consumer participation, where consumers are responsible for leading major activities associated with the project or have shared responsibilities with other members of the research team.

## Funding

The **Consumers in Research Startup Grant** scheme provides funding for consumer reimbursement of up to \$785 per project.

Expenditure of the **Consumers in Research Startup Grant** must be used for consumer reimbursement in the study design phase of the project, i.e. prior to Site Specific Authorisation or Quality Improvement study approval to proceed.

Consumer reimbursement must follow the Metro North Health [‘Partnering with consumers – reimbursement and payment’](#) Procedure. Co-design activities may be funded as special payments, i.e. activities where a significant amount of preparation, data analysis, and reading is anticipated.

## Eligibility

The lead applicant must meet the following eligibility criteria to apply for a **Consumers in Research Startup Grant**:

- Be a Metro North Health staff member\* with a minimum appointment of 0.2 FTE
- Plan to be an investigator on a proposed
  - (a) research project that will be submitted for Human Research Ethics Committee [HREC] review and Site Specific Assessment (SSA) authorisation (if required) as per the Metro North Health [“Research”](#) Procedure
  - or
  - (b) quality improvement study that will be submitted for an exemption of HREC review (note: eligible quality improvement studies must be conducted at Metro North Health).

*\* RBWH staff members are excluded from this particular scheme and should instead apply to the RBWH-specific scheme, details of which can be found here: [Consumers in Research Guidelines and Application](#). Consideration may be given to applications from RBWH staff only if the funds for the RBWH-specific scheme have been exhausted.*

For applications involving multi-institutional research collaborations, evidence must be provided that the proposed research project will involve or benefit Metro North Health patients, consumers or staff (note: multi-institutional collaborations may be awarded partial funding).

Successful applicants will be required to ensure consumers are set up for payment via S4Hana before submitting a completed [Consumer Engagement Expense Claim Form](#) via the Metro North Research Grants Officer for financial

approval. The Research Grants Officer will complete the finance section (only) and return the form via email to the project team to submit to QH Invoices for processing of payment to consumer. Any relevant documentation or set up in S4Hana for the consumer is the responsibility of the successful applicant / project team.

Grant recipients will be required to submit a report on the project status at 12 months from approval of funding.

Applications can be submitted at any time to Metro North Research, and a decision will be made as soon as possible. Metro North Research are the decision-makers for all applications received (excluding where direct conflicts of interest exist) and no further correspondence will be entered into once a final decision has been made.

## How to apply

Visit the Metro North Health **Consumers in Research Startup Grant** website

<https://metronorth.health.qld.gov.au/research/grants/consumers-in-research> and complete the online application form via the SmartyGrants platform.

If you have any queries relating to the **Consumers in Research Startup Grant** scheme, please email [MetroNorthResearch-Grants@health.qld.gov.au](mailto:MetroNorthResearch-Grants@health.qld.gov.au) or contact the Research Grants Officer on (07) 3647 9635.