



NACE Consumer Involvement Statement for Grant Applications

V1.0 August 2025

The National Allergy Centre of Excellence (NACE) is committed to embedding consumer and community involvement across all stages of allergy research – from concept and design through to implementation, analysis, and translation. For us, consumers and community are defined as those with a lived experience of allergy and or caring for those with allergy.

We recognise that meaningful partnerships with consumers and community enhance the relevance, quality, and impact of research; build trust and support the real-world translation of findings. Our approach is strongly aligned with the principles outlined in the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) [Draft Statement on Consumer Involvement](#) and Medical Research Future Fund's (MRFF) [Principles of Consumer Involvement published](#) in 2023.

Please note that meaningful consumer engagement takes time and should be considered as early as possible in the research and grant application process. If you wish to seek consumer input into your research project or grant through the [NACE Consumer Engagement Register](#), please allow a minimum of 4–6 weeks for coordination and feedback.

This NACE resource provides practical guidance on how researchers can incorporate these principles into NHMRC-funded projects and beyond, drawing on NACE's established structures and support systems to deliver high-quality, impactful, and consumer-centred research.

Please don't hesitate to reach out to the NACE team at nace@mcri.edu.au for further information on the [NACE Consumer Engagement Register](#) process.



Recommended inclusions	Advice for researchers	Example
INTRODUCTION		
Opening paragraph	Provide an opening statement about the importance of consumer involvement in the study design and delivery, and the long-term impact/translation of the research. Include reference to any consumer and community involvement activities to date and how these have informed the design and delivery of the study.	The <insert name of study> study is grounded in a deep commitment to consumer and community involvement that is embedded at every stage of the research lifecycle. This will improve the research by <insert how e.g. promoting recruitment, building social license of the research, promoting the findings, maximising translation>.
PROCESSES		
Identify consumer roles in the research	Provide names or specify the types of consumers and the nature of their involvement. Outline their expected time commitment, authority in the project and any honorarium or benefit. Remember to build the costs for this in your research budget.	We will include <insert number> people/groups with experience of <insert specific experience e.g. allergy type (food), role type (parent), location (rural, Victoria), identity (LGBTIQ+, first generation migrant)>. They will be involved throughout the research and will receive payment according to the NACE Consumer cost model.



Recommended inclusions	Advice for researchers	Example
Investigator team	Consider the inclusion of consumers as Investigators from project inception. This will support both meaningful consumer involvement and continuity within the project. Provide the process of identification and/or names.	To ensure the <insert name of study> centres consumer involvement in research a consumer representative will be included as a study Investigator. (Detail how the consumer investigator has/will be identified and include name if possible. Outline responsibilities of investigators).
Process of recruitment	Avoid ad hoc recruitment. Describe using trusted networks such as peak consumer bodies. Explain how equity and diversity are embedded in your approach. Refer to any existing relationships with groups and networks.	Consumers will be recruited via the NACE Consumer Engagement Register. We will purposefully recruit people who can bring relevant and diverse lived experience to our research.
Capacity building	Describe your plan for orienting consumers to the evidence, the research process, specific terms and background evidence. Demonstrate co-development of ways of working, mentoring and consumer professional development plans.	We will provide consumers with an on-line presentation and briefing paper using lay language to describe the research purpose, methods and expected outcomes/impact. The briefing will also cover key aspects of the research team and process e.g. CI/AI and student roles, ethics, reporting, data, governance, and confidentiality. Consumers will be invited to participate in <insert detail e.g. CI/AI meetings > of the research.

CONCRETE ACTION PLAN AND TIMELINE



<p>Consumer involvement plan</p>	<p>A concise, clear, staged outline of when and how consumers will contribute across the research lifecycle is required.</p> <p>Demonstrate continuity and not just one-off input; specify the timepoints and types of planned contact and have a plan for ‘closing the loop’ with the participating consumers – inform them on how their involvement has impacted the research and its design.</p>	<p>Planning Phase (Months x–y): We will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish a co-design working group through <partnering organisation/s e.g. Allergy & Anaphylaxis Australia, National Allergy Council or NACE CAG representatives>. • Co-design accessible tools that explain the existing evidence and how/what this research adds (e.g. a resource booklet, video, or animation. These can be produced very cheaply now using AI tools such as Canva and Biteable). • Seek input on ethics, including co-designing accessible participant information and consent forms. • Circulate a summary information sheet to the participating consumers at X <insert timepoint/s> outlining the impact of their input on the study design and implementation. <p>Implementation Phase (Months xx–yy):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consumers will be invited to participate in ongoing engagement with investigators to troubleshoot barriers to recruitment/consent and to inform data analysis and interpretation of results. Involvement will be through online meetings and the completion of targeted questionnaires. <p>Post-implementation Phase (Months xxx–yyy):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We will co-design dissemination of findings (e.g. summary videos, infographics, briefings to <insert details e.g. schools, service providers>). Seek opportunities to participate as authors on manuscripts and co-present at conferences where appropriate.
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