

Western Australian Health Translation Network

Consumer and Community Involvement Research Fellowship

Expression of Interest

Applications close 9.00am AWST, Monday 11 September 2023

1. Background

The [Western Australian Health Translation Network](#) (WAHTN) is a state-wide collaborative network of WA's universities, medical research institutes, public and private hospitals, PathWest and the WA Department of Health. WAHTN advances the translation of evidence-based health and medical research into changes in policy, practice, training and innovation, to benefit the health and wellbeing of all Western Australians. The coming together of these major stakeholders provides an opportunity to achieve a co-operative approach to setting research priorities and translating research findings and discoveries. The principal role of WAHTN is to enable, facilitate and support these multi-dimensional and multi-layered processes.

WAHTN's vision is to ensure health and medical research is continuously and rapidly translated into healthcare in order to create a sustainable, evidence-based, high-quality health system. WAHTN aims to connect health and medical clinicians, researchers and community to innovate for better health and to bring together all key stakeholders within WA who have an interest in improving health through research.

WAHTN is accredited by the National Health and Medical Research Council as a Research Translation Centre and collaborates nationally with all other Centres through the [Australian Health Research Alliance](#) (AHRA).

2. Consumer and Community Involvement (CCI)

WAHTN is committed to advancing consumer and community involvement across health and research sectors. Consumer Involvement brings a unique perspective to all areas of research including planning, policy, funding, evaluation and reporting, as well as participation in the research project. Extensive research in Australia and internationally provides compelling evidence that the involvement of consumers in health and medical research achieves many benefits. WAHTN believes that, as primary stakeholders, consumers have an inherent right to be involved in health and medical research and should be encouraged, supported and given opportunities to do so.

WAHTN's work on CCI is focused in the following areas:

- WAHTN [Community and Consumer Involvement Program](#) (CCIProgram)
- Supporting the consumer involvement component of the Future Health Research Innovation (FHRI) Fund Grant Scheme
- CCI Handbook
- CCI International Alliance (details coming soon)

WAHTN is collaborating nationally through the [AHRA CCI Initiative](#) to strengthen consumer and community involvement in research. AHRA has received a grant from the Medical Research Future Fund (MRFF) Consumer-led Grant Scheme to undertake a project titled *Consumer and Community Involvement Implementation Research for Impact* (CCIRI).

AHRA Research Translation Centres leading this research include Monash Partners Academic Health Science Centre (Monash Partners), WAHTN, and Maridulu Budyari Gumal Sydney Partnership for Health, Education, Research and Enterprise (SPHERE), together with the Consumers Health Forum of Australia.

3. Consumer and Community Involvement Implementation Research for Impact (CCIRI)

CCI in research is a policy priority, yet it is in its relative infancy in Australia. Models, frameworks, tools and resources do exist; however, these are poorly accessible and alone do not change attitudes, behaviours and uptake of CCI at the individual or systems level. NHMRC accredited Research Translation Centres have partnered across Centres with consumers, researchers and health professionals to co-design a vision and principles for meaningful, empowered CCI, with evidence synthesis, joint vision, recommendations, priorities and progress. The CCIRI project will deliver on the shared vision and priorities through five research streams co-led and co-designed at all levels and stages with consumers and researchers. These include:

- Building a network to support consumer and community involvement.
- Developing an innovative digital knowledge and practice hub for tools and resources (CCI Knowledge Hub).
- Generating new knowledge to enable behavioural change towards consumer and community involvement.
- Introducing implementation resources to enable national scale-up.
- Engaging under-represented community groups in health research, including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

4. WAHTN Consumer and Community Involvement Research Fellowship Opportunity

Description

WAHTN presents an opportunity to submit an Expression of Interest for the **WAHTN Consumer and Community Involvement Research Fellowship**. The Fellowship is for 12 months at 0.5FTE - 0.6FTE, providing protected time to support the development of future research leaders in consumer and community involvement. Salary is commensurate with Academic level A or B.

The Research Fellow will be required to undertake an independent evaluation of the WAHTN Consumer and Community Involvement Program (CCIProgram). The outcomes of the evaluation will inform a number of research streams in the CCIRI project, including the development of a national network for consumer and community involvement.

The Research Fellow will be an integral member of the WAHTN team and work in close collaboration with Monash Partners to support the CCIRI research project. Additionally, the Research Fellow is required to undertake the following:

- Conduct an independent comprehensive evaluation of the WAHTN CCIProgram.
- Support the co-design of CCI Network and Knowledge Hub implementation resources.
- Support the co-design of the CCI Knowledge Hub evaluation.
- Engage collaboratively to conduct high-quality research activities to support the CCIRI project.
- Work collaboratively with all project partners and stakeholders.
- Widely communicate outputs to stakeholders and the community and contribute to reports and research outputs as required.

This opportunity is a first for the WA research sector and will enable a researcher with a current WA academic appointment to directly focus on consumer involvement in research. The Fellowship will also contribute to individual capacity building together with the associated School, Institution and wider WA research sector.

Who Should Apply?

The Fellowship provides support for early to mid-career (5-15 years post primary degree) health care professionals (e.g., medical specialists, general practitioners, public health practitioners, physiotherapists, nurses, midwives, radiologists, and other allied health providers), health service managers, health researchers and health systems personnel.

Fractional Employment

It is expected that the successful applicant will devote between 0.5FTE to 0.6FTE to achieving the outcomes of the Fellowship. Applicants may, for their non-fellowship time, be employed in a part-time capacity ranging from 0.1 to 0.4 FTE. Days and hours of work are negotiable and will be mutually agreed.

Assessment Criteria

- Current WA academic appointment.
- Applicants will be assessed against their research, clinical and industry track record, relative to opportunity, and career aspirations.
- Experience with evaluation and qualitative research and methods.
- Leadership and prior project implementation experience is advantageous.
- CCI experience and knowledge is highly desirable.
- Organisational and time management skills, including the ability to set priorities, manage time, plan work to meet deadlines and work effectively under pressure.
- People and communication skills including relationship building, cooperation, conflict resolution, influencing others and facilitating open discussions.
- A broad understanding of the Australian health system.

Support and Training

The Fellow will have key internal relationships with the WAHTN CCIProgram team and will be directly supported by the Head of the CCIProgram. A close collaboration will be developed with the Monash Partners CCI team and CCI Knowledge Hub Project Team.

Key external relationships will be fostered with the AHRA Translation Centres and CCIRI Steering Committee.

The Fellow will be provided with a desk at the WAHTN CCIProgram office, located within the Harry Perkins Institute building in Nedlands.

Eligibility Criteria

Applicants must fulfil the following eligibility criteria at the time of application:

- Applicants must, for all of their non-fellowship time, be employed by a [WAHTN Partner Organisation](#).
- Applicants will at the time of application hold, as a minimum, a relevant Bachelor's degree or tertiary qualification.
- Post graduate degrees and relevant accreditations will be advantageous in peer review.
- Funding for the Fellow will be administered through a Funding Agreement with The University of Western Australia, which is the Centre Agent for WAHTN, and the Fellow's Partner Organisation.
- To achieve the requirements of the Fellowship, funding will be for a period of 12 months at a range of 0.5FTE to 0.6FTE.

Application and Selection Process

Applicants must use the **Consumer and Community Involvement Research Fellowship Expression of Interest Form** and:

- Address all questions within the word limits using 10pt font.
- Be completed, signed and submitted by the Applicant.
- Combine and submit the Application Form and the Applicant's CV as a single PDF.

Applications must be submitted via email to Deb Langridge, Head, CCIProgram debra.langridge@uwa.edu.au by **9.00am, Monday 11 September 2023**. Please direct any further enquiries to Deb Langridge on the email address listed above or phone 08 6151 1031.

WAHTN reserves the right to only fund applications of a suitable standard and to adjust the funding to the Fellowships accordingly.

Expression of Interest applications will be treated in confidence, reviewed by an independent panel and assessed against the eligibility criteria. Suitable candidates will be shortlisted for an interview as part of the selection process. The panel will recommend the preferred applicant to WAHTN. All Applicants will be notified in writing within six weeks of the application closing date.