

First Nations Community Champions Co-design Project – Genetic Healthcare



Are you a First Nations person living in Queensland and interested in an exciting opportunity to develop genomics & genetics resources?

This is an opportunity to partner with Queensland Health, Health Consumers Queensland & CQUniversity to build community awareness and health literacy by developing genomics and genetic healthcare resources.

We are looking for 10 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people from across Queensland to act as Community Champions.

To learn more about genomics and why it's important, we encourage you to watch this short video – [Your Blood, Your Story](#).

Genes, DNA & Genetic Healthcare

DNA holds your family history [stories] in your blood and your body. These are passed on to you through your parents, grandparents and ancestors. Everyone has their own unique DNA.

DNA is the recipe for genes and holds the instructions on how your body works. Genes are arranged within the DNA in most cells in your body. Some differences in the arrangement or structure of these genes can cause illness, cancer other conditions. We can tell a lot about you by reading your gene stories.

Health services are moving towards using your DNA stories to look at which treatments will work better for you. The more DNA stories they read, the better treatment they can design.

Your Role as a Community Champion

What is involved?

Over a 12 month period, Community Champions will:

- Participate in 6 online focus groups facilitated by Greg Pratt, a leading First Nations genomics researcher, where you will:
 - Learn about genetics and genomics.
 - Co-design resources to support community awareness of genetics and genomics.
- Promote the developed resource/s with your community to increase health literacy and awareness of genomics, and then come back to tell us what the community is saying.

What skills do you need to be a Community Champion?

You do not need any formal qualifications to become a Community Champion. We are looking for consumers and community members across Queensland who:

- Are passionate about sharing information with their community to increase health literacy and improve health outcomes.
- Have an interest in genetic healthcare.
- Have access to a computer, laptop or phone to attend online focus groups and review necessary information prior to and during the sessions.

Remuneration and Support

- Community Champions will be paid for their time and contribution [in line with HCO rates, which can be found here.](#)
- Community Champions will be supported throughout the project and are encouraged to reach out to the Project Team at any time.

Where to find more information

Terms of Reference

For more details about the project, including further information about the role and responsibilities of Community Champions, please see the attached [Terms of Reference](#).

Information Sessions

We will be holding 2 Information Sessions for interested applicants to learn more about the project and the role of Community Champions. Sessions will be approximately 30 minutes.

Dates:

1. **Tuesday 8th October – 10am**
2. **Thursday 10th October – 2pm**

Please Note

- During these sessions the project team will be available to answer questions about the project.
- While we will be providing general information, we may not be able to answer specific questions about genomics and genetic healthcare.
- Attendance at an Information Session is voluntary and is not a requirement to apply for the role.

To register to attend an Information Session – [Complete form here.](#)

Introducing the Project Team

Greg Pratt is a Principal Research Fellow at CQUniversity and will be leading and advising on the project. Greg is a descendant of the Quandamooka people of Moreton Bay and grew up with the Ghughu Yalanghi people of Cape York. He has led extensive consultations across QLD; developing guidelines, health literacy resources and healthcare frameworks for genomics.

Candice Field & Heidi Jones are Engagement Advisors at Health Consumers Queensland and will be leading and supporting the project.

Chelsea Gourgaud is a Principal Engagement Advisor of the Genomics Program within Queensland Health who will be supporting the project.

Apply to be a First Nations Community Champion for this project

- Please complete the [Application Form here](#).
- Applications close **Sunday 27th October**.

If you need any support to apply, we encourage you to call or email us and we will get in touch with you.

Contact Us

We welcome any questions! Please reach out to Candice Field or Heidi Jones at HCQ, on (07) 3012 9090 or email info@hcq.org.au.