

# Terms of Reference

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## *First Nations Genomics Community Champions Engagement Project*

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### **Purpose**

The Office of Research and Innovation Genomics Program within Queensland Health (QH) will work with Health Consumers Queensland (HCQ) and Central Queensland University (CQU) to:

- Build knowledge and awareness of genomics and increase health literacy in community through the use of First Nations Community Champions.
- Partner with First Nations consumers and communities to inform and shape a co-designed resource
- Ensure genuine consumer engagement happens, led by First Nations staff.

### **Background**

The Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Healthcare states that 60% of Australians have a low health literacy or health understanding. We know that low health literacy is associated with higher use of health services and low level of knowledge among consumers which leads to poorer health outcomes.

The health Literacy model aims to build knowledge and awareness before accessing healthcare to become a more informed health consumer, to be able to make more informed decisions about genetic healthcare. This has been an effective model to share information with peers and community.

Based on evidence from National and International health promotion initiatives, the Community Champion model builds and spreads community awareness and increases health literacy in community.

### **Objectives**

1. To enable First Nations Community Champions to build their knowledge of genes, genetic testing and accessing genomic healthcare.
2. To hear directly from First Nations consumers and community about their lived experience or potential use of genomics and genetic services.
3. To co-design and develop resource/s together for First Nations people.
4. To provide an inclusive and supportive mechanism to share information in a culturally safe and appropriate way.
5. To empower community with information to increase access and equity.

## Membership

- The project group will include staff from QH, HCQ and CQU, as well as up to 10 First Nations Community Champions from across Queensland.
- Community Champions are selected based on suitability for the role, as per the requirements outlined in the Expression of Interest and application form.
- Community Champions are appointed as individuals, not as representatives of an organisation or geographic location.
- The duration of the project is 12 months and project group members are asked to commit to this timeline as much as can be reasonably expected.

## Conflict of interest

Members of the project group must declare any conflicts of interest whether actual, potential, apparent, or appear likely to arise, and manage those in consultation with project staff.

## Community Champion Role and Responsibilities

- Participate in 6 online focus groups between November 2024 and April 2025, where you will:
  - Learn about genetics and genomics
  - Share your thoughts and experiences
  - Co-design one or multiple resources to support community awareness of genetics and genomics.
- Share the co-designed resource/s with your community to increase First Nations community health literacy and awareness of genomics, as well as gaining feedback on the community's response to the resource/s and genomics in general (approximately June / July 2025).
- Complete a survey and participate in an online focus group in August 2025 to let us know what the community is saying and provide your feedback on the project.
- Attend an online 'Close the Feedback Loop' session after the completion of the project to hear from Queensland Health's Genomics Program (approximately October / November 2025).

## Approximate Project Timeframes

Dates	Activity	Who
October 2024	Information sessions and recruitment of Champions	Staff and Champions
November 2024 – April 2025	6 x online focus groups: - Knowledge sharing - Champion feedback - Resource co-design	Staff and Champions
May – June 2025	Resource development	Staff
June - July 2025	Community awareness and resource sharing	Champions
August 2025	1 x focus group and survey: - Champion and community feedback	Staff and Champions
September 2025	Report	Staff
October / November 2025	1 x online session: - 'Close the Feedback Loop'	Staff and Champions

## Remuneration, reimbursement and support

- Community Champions will be paid for their time and contribution to the project in line with HCQ rates, which can be found [here](#).
- All Focus Groups will be held online and will be co-delivered and supported by a First Nations person. Focus groups are expected to last approximately 90 minutes.
- During the co-design phase of the project, you may be provided with a short summary document which you can choose to review before the following focus group. If so, you will be paid for 1 hour of reading time.
- You will also be paid up to 4 hours for the time you spend sharing information and resources with your community. The project team will provide you with any resource/s to be shared.
- Community Champions will be supported throughout their time with the project and are encouraged to reach out to a staff member at any time.

## For more information, please contact:

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