



## **Consumer Assembly Leadership Program**

### **Consumers Health Forum Australia**

**EOI submissions due: Friday 2 October 2026 (11:59PM)**

#### **What's this about?**

People with lived experience play an important role in improving Australia's health system. Health consumers and carers bring valuable insights that complement the knowledge and expertise of health professionals and help make health care safer, of higher quality and easier to access.

Developing consumer leadership capability is critical to strengthening consumer participation in healthcare policy, service design and system improvement. Effective consumer leaders advocate strongly for the voices of diverse community members to be heard by healthcare decision-makers and ensure policies, programs and services are more responsive to the needs and expectations of the people they serve.

As part of the program, participants will have opportunities to participate in Consumer Assembly meetings. These meetings provide a forum for Consumer Assembly members to bring lived experience and broader consumer perspectives into the advice and advocacy of Consumers Health Forum of Australia (CHF), as well as government policy development, consultation and co-design processes.

#### ***Who is the Consumers Health Forum of Australia?***

CHF is a national organisation that represents the interests of consumers of the Australian healthcare system. CHF works to ensure consumers have a strong voice in healthcare decisions and advocates for services that are safe, affordable, accessible and centred on the needs of patients, families and communities.

CHF wants to build confident consumer leaders that can represent the interests of a diverse range of healthcare consumers and advocate effectively with decision makers for improvements in the health system.

**Learn more:**

- [Consumers Health Forum of Australia | CHF](#)



## **What's the opportunity?**

CHF is inviting up to **15 emerging consumer leaders** to participate in the **Consumer Assembly Leadership Program**.

Participants from across Australia will take part in learning, networking, coaching and practice activities over an 18-month period that are designed to build advocacy knowledge, skills and experience.

Participants will learn from experienced consumer leaders and advocates, senior health decision makers and experts in public policy, public speaking and media engagement. They will see how health policy decisions are made, take part in practical training based on real life examples, and participate in real-world leadership and advocacy opportunities.

Program content may be tailored to align with participants' existing skills, experience and areas of interest, but will broadly include the following topics:

- Consumer leadership and influence – understanding the role of consumer advocates
- Advocacy and influencing change – building influence, capability and connections
- Storytelling and public speaking – communicating with confidence and impact
- Public engagement – being an effective health advocate in a range of settings
- Working with decision-makers – influencing leaders and participating as equals
- Leadership in action – applying advocacy capability to real-world challenges.

## **Who should apply?**

To prioritise lived experience perspectives, this program is intended for people engaging with the health system as consumers, carers or community members. Individuals currently employed, or recently employed, in clinical or professional healthcare roles are unlikely to be suitable for this program.

You are encouraged to apply if you:

- are passionate about improving health care and making a difference for consumers and communities, particularly those who face barriers to access.
- are committed to ensuring consumer voices are heard in decisions that affect health policies, services and programs.
- have lived experience as a health consumer.
- have some experience in consumer health advocacy or are ready to build your advocacy capability.
- can commit to the program of work detailed below.

CHF welcomes expressions of interest from people of diverse backgrounds, including people from different cultural backgrounds, age groups and genders, and people who live in metropolitan, regional and remote areas.

## What is involved

Successful applicants will participate in an 18-month program delivered from December 2026 to June 2028, comprising:

- Five interactive online workshops including the first scheduled on:  
**Date: Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> December**  
Time (by state-based time zone):
  - NSW/VIC/TAS/ACT: 12:30PM
  - QLD: 11.30AM
  - SA: 12.00PM
  - NT: 11:00AM
  - WA: 9.30AM
- A full day, face-to-face leadership intensive in a capital city
- Out-of-session guided self-learning
- Practical advocacy experience, such as public speaking engagements, attendance at conferences, participation in health policy discussions and consultations, development of individual submissions and individual advocacy projects.
- Networking opportunities with consumer leaders and decision-makers.

## Remuneration

- Participants will be remunerated at the CHF standard rate of \$95.20 per hour (up to 3 hours) **or** \$476.00 (lump sum) for activities requiring 3 or more hours of participation.
- CHF will meet reasonable costs associated with travel required to attend in-person activities.

## Other details:

- You'll need access to a computer and reliable internet. If this is a barrier, please contact the CHF Consumer Engagement team: [admin@chf.org.au](mailto:admin@chf.org.au)

## How to apply

To be considered for appointment, you will be asked to [complete an online application](#) that will ask questions including:

1. Briefly describe your lived experience as a health consumer, carer or advocate. (Maximum 1000 characters)
2. How do you plan to use the skills and knowledge you learn from this program, and what impact would you like to make in the Australian health system over the next five years? (Maximum 1200 characters)
3. Confirm availability for first workshop 9 December 12.30pm AEST.



4. Please describe why you are interested in joining this opportunity. (Maximum 1200 characters)
5. Provide a brief description of your most recent and relevant experience as a consumer representative in committees, advisory groups or similar. (Maximum 900 characters)

**To submit your application:**

- [Submit your EOI application online.](#)
- **Submission deadline:**
  - **Date: Friday, 2 October 2026 at 11:59PM AEST**
    - Time (by state-based time zone):
    - NSW/VIC/TAS/ACT: 11.59PM
    - QLD: 11.59PM
    - SA: 11.29PM
    - NT: 11.29PM
    - WA: 9.59PM

Late or incomplete applications will not be considered.

**Questions?**

- If you have questions about applying, please email [admin@chf.org.au](mailto:admin@chf.org.au)