



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT MATTERS: A GUIDE TO LIVED EXPERIENCE ENGAGEMENT

UPHOLDING FAIRNESS & DIGNITY



People with lived experience who are involved in research as participants or as co-researchers need to be fairly acknowledged for their work and contributions to research projects.

The expertise and knowledge held by people with lived experience needs to be valued and not taken for granted by researchers



PLAN AHEAD

Considering what is fair pay for all research participants and/or co-researchers should be taken into account when writing project proposals, funding proposals, and project plans. Think ahead!

HAVE YOU CONSIDERED:

When planning consumer engagement budgets, have you considered:

- travel costs
- meal allowances
- preparation time (i.e., reviewing documents prior to meetings)

ORGANISATIONAL SAFEGUARDS

Does your organisation have policies and procedures in place that uphold the rights of people with lived experience and ensure consumer engagement is fair



PROMOTING CHOICE



Some people with lived experience may prefer payment methods such as vouchers. However, vouchers should only be offered if this is the recipient's choice, rather than being the preferred method of the organisation.

People with lived experience may wish to volunteer their time. This should only be considered if it is voiced as the preferred option by the person with lived experience.



EMBRACING AUTONOMY

Past research practices which have contributed to the stigma experience by people with lived experience of substance use, have endorsed the automatic use of vouchers as remuneration. The NHMRC Guidelines state that people who use substances should be assumed to be autonomous individuals able to make their own decisions about taking part in research and should not be treated differently to other participants in terms of payment for their participation.



FURTHER READING



- [The Political Economy of Peer Research: Mapping the Possibilities and Precarities of Paying People for Lived Experience](#)
- [Mental Health Commission: Paid Participation Policy](#)
- [Scottish Human Rights Commission - Paying people with lived experience for their participation](#)
- [Black Dog Institute - Lived Experience Paid Participation Policy](#)
- [Mission Australia - Learning from Lived Experience: A Framework for Client Participation](#)