

Establishment of the CHeReL Community Advisory Committee

A Community Advisory Committee was established in early 2007 to provide advice to the CHeReL Management Committee and the Manager about issues of community interest in relation to the operation of the CHeReL.

The Management Committee invited a community member to Chair the Community Advisory Committee. Expressions of interest were advertised in Sydney and Canberra newspapers in February 2007 to identify individuals interested in becoming members of the committee. Applicants were invited to send a brief curriculum vitae and nominate two referees.

The five members of the committee were selected based on the following criteria:

- Interest in health and health services research at a population level.
- Interest in the work of the CHeReL.
- Experience in a role as a consumer representative or a role that is relevant to the work of the CHeReL.
- Ability to communicate with researchers, management and other committee members.
- Ability to participate in regular meetings.

Committee members were not selected as consumer representatives or advocates for any specific group or organisation. They were selected on individual merit and capacity to contribute to the CHeReL.

Members were appointed for one year, with possible extension to a maximum of three years. They are not offered remuneration but are reimbursed for reasonable travel expenses to attend meetings.

The Community Advisory Committee meets four times per year. Members freely contribute their knowledge, experience and perspective to committee considerations. In addition there may be occasions where it is appropriate for a member to garner opinion, advice, and/or perspectives of others in the community.