



HCASA SAHMRI Research Project

Since 2013 and continuously up to 2020, HCASA, worked closely with the South Australian Health Medical Research Institute (SAHMRI) to mentor and support its policy and practices for engaging with consumers in research. This work, lead by Debra Kay, HCASA Board member and subsequent Chair, resulted in HCASA working in partnership with SAHMRI to establish a partnership agreement with SAHMRI to undertake a Consumer Research Project to identify the evidence base for consumer participation in research and, into 2014, to develop SAHMRI's inaugural Consumer and Community Engagement Framework.

The purpose of the Framework was to demonstrate SAHMRI's commitment to consumer and community engagement in health and medical research. SAHMRI was an evidence-based organisation and this Framework was based on the findings of a review of the literature of existing evidence about how to best encourage community participation in research, and the evaluation of this Framework will contribute further to the evidence base.

Given this commitment SAHMRI established a Consumer and Community Partnership Committee to lead the implementation of the Framework. As part of this project HCASA recruited six consumer advocate members to the Project Partnership Committee to ensure a true codesign process. HCASA chaired the committee and the agenda includes: promoting the statement of principles, one of which was based on the understanding that those affected by research have a right to be involved in research.

In 2016 (published in 2017) HCASA and SAHMRI published *Integrating Consumer Engagement in Health and Medical Research*. SAHMRI has continued to develop strong consumer engagement and participation in research policy and practices with the ongoing assistance and mentoring of HCASA and Consumer Advocates.

Note: Referenced document can be accessed on the HCASA website Key Documents @ www.hcasa.asn.au

