Application for participating in a focus group

Rural and remote oral health services strategy

Closing date: 9am, Friday 18 June 2021

Queensland Department of Health

**The Department of Health is seeking health consumers and carers living in rural and remote locations of Queensland to participate in a number of focus groups to contribute to the development of the Queensland Health *Rural and Remote Oral Health Services Strategy*.**

The purpose of the Strategy is to promote equity of access to dental care and to improve the oral health outcomes of people living in rural and remote locations across Queensland. The Strategy will identify key priorities in relation to oral health and oral health services, and offer a range of approaches to respond to these challenges.

Purpose

A series of focus groups, each with 5 or 6 health consumers living in rural and remote locations across Queensland, will be held to provide an opportunity for consumers to share their experiences regarding their oral health and accessing dental care, particularly public oral health services. Focus groups will identify the unique issues and challenges faced by people living in rural and remote areas, which will assist the Department of Health to determine priorities and develop solutions for the *Rural and remote oral health services strategy*.

Role of the consumer

The role of the successful applicants will be to attend an online focus group via Microsoft Teams and to actively participate in focus group discussions, and provide feedback and advice on topics raised by the group.

Consumers will be asked to consider the following questions prior to participating in the focus group:

1. What are the **barriers** that prevent rural and remote communities from accessing dental care?
2. What are other **challenges / issues** that impact on the oral health of rural and remote communities?
3. Reflecting on the challenges / issues identified above: What **strategies** should be considered? **Who** should be involved? e.g. public health services, non-government organisations, private sector, community groups, education sector

Consumers may wish to consider the six themes that will guide the development of the Strategy:

1. **Prevention**: Promote and protect the health of Queenslanders
2. **Access & outcomes**: equitable health outcomes by supporting access to appropriate health services
3. **Workforce**: Strengthen the capacity of the existing and future oral health workforce
4. **Partnerships**: Pursue partnerships with consumers, communities, health and other organisations
5. **Sustainability**: Maximise the value derived from the available resources
6. **Innovation**: Support the delivery of sustainable health services through innovation

Who is it for?

This opportunity would suit a consumer or carer representative who has previously accessed public oral health services, is eligible to access these services or cares for someone who is eligible. This may include any of the following:

* Parents
* Pensioner Concession Card holders
* Health Care Card holders
* Queensland Senior Card holders
* People living in locations without access to a private dental provider

Public oral health services may include:

* Community or hospital-based public dental clinics
* School dental service, either at a school clinic or dental van
* Using a dental voucher at a private dental practice

Time and location

Successful applicants will be invited to participate in one focus group of 1 ½ hours duration.

Focus groups will be held virtually using Microsoft Teams in late June / early July.

Remuneration and Support

Consumers will be remunerated for their time in line with [Health Consumers Queensland’s remuneration position statement](http://www.hcq.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2015/12/Consumer-Remuneration-Rates-Dec-2015.pdf).

Consumers will be remunerated for 2 hours at $40 per hour ($80 total). This will include ½ hour preparation time and 1 ½ hours for the focus group.

How to apply

**Please complete this consumer application form and return to**[**consumer@hcq.org.au**](mailto:consumer@hcq.org.au) **by 9am, Friday 18 June 2021**.

For assistance please contact Health Consumers Queensland via [consumer@hcq.org.au](mailto:consumer@hcq.org.au) or by phone on 07 3012 9090.

**Consumer Application Form**

**Rural and remote oral health services strategy focus group**

Full name:

Preferred phone number:

Email:

Postal address:

Postcode:

* By completing this application, I consent for my details to be added to the Health Consumers Queensland network database YES | NO
* I would like to receive email updates from Health Consumers Queensland YES | NO
* Are you happy for Health Consumers Queensland to share this form with Queensland Health as part of the process for this application? YES | NO

Please highlight any group you identify as being a part of:

* Accessed public oral health services and is eligible to access these services
* Cares for someone who has accessed public oral health services and who is eligible to access these services
* Living with a disability/chronic condition
* Caring for someone with a disability
* Physically isolated or transport disadvantaged
* Culturally or linguistically diverse
* From a non-English speaking background
* LGBTIQ+

Do you identify as: Aboriginal | Torres Strait Islander | Both | Prefer not to state

Are you a: Consumer | Carer

Age range: 16-24 25-29 30-39 40-49 50-59 60-69 70+

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Gender:** |  Male | Female | Intersex | Other | Prefer not to state |

Please describe any support you need to take part in this activity *(examples include support person, hearing loop, dietary requirements)*

*Your responses to the following questions only need to be a brief sentence or two*

1. Please describe your interest in rural and remote oral health services?
2. Please describe any connections you have to your community (e.g. networks, groups you can tap into or other people’s experiences to add to the discussion) *Tip: Think about how this relates to the role you’re applying for.*