

12 June 2024

Adj Prof Darryl O'Donnell
Chair, Consumer and Community Advisory Group
National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC)

By email to: priorities@nhmrc.gov.au

Dear Prof O'Donnell

Re: Review of the 2016 Statement on Consumer and Community Involvement in Health and Medical Research

The Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists (RANZCP) welcomes the opportunity to provide feedback on the review of the [2016 Statement on Consumer and Community Involvement in Health and Medical Research \(the Statement\)](#). The RANZCP has over 8400 members and undertakes wide consultation with its committees such as the Community Collaboration Committee on policy issues. This includes consumer and community representation and involvement in research.

The NHMRC is commended for its ongoing support of researchers and consumer co-participation in health care development. The RANZCP recognises consumer and carer lived experience knowledge as an asset to clinical and research activities in psychiatry. As noted in [Position Statement 62: Partnering with people with lived experience](#), the RANZCP is committed to supporting psychiatrists in collaborative relationships that enable people with lived experience to have genuine input into research and the planning, monitoring, and implementation of treatment and care.

The RANZCP notes that consumer and community perspectives afford critical insights for outcome measurement, ethical implications, and applicability beyond the research context. The RANZCP recommends that the revised Statement emphasises the need for authentic and appropriate engagement with consumer and community perspectives. This includes careful consideration of the expected benefits within a particular study, which perspectives are most likely to be beneficial, and the supports available for a collaborative research undertaking.

The RANZCP would welcome opportunities to contribute to further consultation on consumer and community member involvement in research. To discuss any of the issues raised in this submission, please contact Nicola Wright, Executive Manager, Policy, Practice, and Research via nicola.wright@ranzcp.org or on (03) 9236 9103.

Yours sincerely



Dr Elizabeth Moore

President

Ref: 4546