

ANZMUSC Consumer Honorarium Guidelines

Prepared by the ANZMUSC Consumer Advisory Group (CAG) 04/12/2025

General

Consumers are eligible for an honorarium payment if they have been invited to make a significant contribution to the Australia and New Zealand Musculoskeletal (ANZMUSC) Clinical Trials Network. ‘Consumers’ are people with lived experience and include patients/direct consumers of healthcare, their family and/or carers, and occasionally other community members with relevant knowledge or understanding especially relating to cultural heritage or who are from Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) backgrounds.

An honorarium is a payment that is provided for voluntary services. This is not assessable income, and it is non-deductible. As such, the Australian Tax Office does not require recipients to declare honorarium payments. Centrelink, however, does include honorarium payments as reportable income*.

Notes:

- “Lived experience” includes personal experience with a health condition, in the health system, and in medical research.
- Rates are intended to reflect estimated average pre-reading and preparation time associated with activities.
- *Link to : Australian Department of Health, Disability and Aging; National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC)
<https://www.nhmrc.gov.au/research-policy/consumer-and-community-involvement>
- NHMRC and Consumer Health Forum (CHF) recently released Consumer and Community Engagement statement (05.2026)
<https://www.nhmrc.gov.au/research-policy/consumer-and-community-involvement/guidance-for-consumer-and-community-involvement>
- Link to Australian Clinical Trials Association (ACTA)
<https://involvementtoolkit.clinicaltrialsalliance.org.au/toolkit/understanding/about-involvement-and-engagement/>
- Link to Western Australia Health Translation Network, Consumer and Community Involvement Program
- <https://wahtn.org/platforms/consumer-and-community-involvement/>

ANZMUSC Consumer Honorarium Guidelines:

Guidelines

These guidelines were prepared by the ANZMUSC Consumer Advisory Group (CAG) in consultation with other independent consumers and consumer groups and are implemented by ANZMUSC Executive, Consumer Advisory Group and network.

Level 1 - 3 activity An honorarium payment for consumer involvement to be paid by ANZMUSC to consumers.

Level 4 activity payments are the minimum amounts we require researchers to budget for consumers recruited through ANZMUSC. An honorarium payment for consumer involvement will be paid by researchers to consumers.

ANZMUSC will not assist research teams who do not appropriately compensate consumers for their time and expertise.

These rates may also be used as a reference for researchers outside the ANZMUSC network seeking to provide honorariums for consumer involvement in research. Please note, however, that appropriate rates will be heavily dependent on the expectations placed on consumers so these should only be referred to as a guide. Research teams may also give consideration to the most appropriate form of honorarium, e.g., retail gift vouchers, cash paid into a bank account etc.

Payment Schedule

ACTIVITY	RATE	DESCRIPTION	PAID BY
Level 1. Routine meetings			
1.1 Consumer representative	\$37.50 per meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consumer representatives are actively involved and contribute to meetings. Terms of Reference are available OR there are clear expectations. Meetings are 1 – 1.25 hours. Where meetings exceed this, rate is to be paid hourly. 	ANZMUSC
1.2 Consumer representative (Meeting Chair)	\$60.00 per meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chairing a consumer meeting Duties include setting meeting agendas, meeting preparation, writing/preparing reports. Meetings are 1 – 1.25 hours. Where meetings exceed this, rate is to be paid hourly. 	

Level 2. Reviewing trials				
1.1	Endorsement applications	\$45.00 per application	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reviewing endorsement application form and trial protocol and responding to consumer-related assessment prompts. 	
1.2	Seeding grant applications	\$25.00 per application	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reviewing applications (1-10 pages) and scoring consumer criteria. 	
1.3	Letters of Support	\$25.00 per application	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reviewing research proposals for which an ANZMUSC letter of support is requested. 	
Level 3. ANZMUSC Annual Scientific Meetings				
1.4	Meeting attendance	\$0.00 (expenses covered, as outlined in CAG Terms of Reference)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CAG member attendance usually involves presenting or contributing to preparation for a CAG talk, and/or sitting on judging panels, and/or contributing to discussions Ad-hoc discussions with committees may occur. If preparation is required or meetings are lengthy, 1.1-level rates may be applicable. 	
Level 4. ANZMUSC member requests				
1.5	Circulating study information	\$50.00 flat fee (for CAG)	Circulating requests for consumer involvement or consumer participation (see definitions here) to relevant consumer organisations	ANZMUSC member research teams
1.6	Participating in a Consultation & Conversation Or project	\$150.00	<p>A. Partnering with project leader/s in a consumer focus group or consultation.</p> <p>B. Consumers involvement (and preparation) in a project's activity/intervention/control would be directly provided for by that project team</p>	
1.7	Research Priority Mapping Workshop	\$70.00	Attending a priority mapping workshop	

1.8	Preparation & Presentation	\$148.00 (plus reimbursement for incurred costs)	Presenting at a forum, conference, training, or scientific meeting on lived experience or consumer involvement. (An exception would be the ANZMUSC ASM)	ANZMUSC
Level 5. ANZMUSC TRAINING & EDUCATION				
1.9	Consumer Training and Network Education	\$0.00 plus reimbursement for incurred costs)	Education and Training provided by ANZMUSC and/or Network members	
Incurred Costs - Reimbursement				
1.10	Costs incurred by consumer		ANZMUSC to re-imburse costs incurred by consumers whilst engaged/involved in activities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Travel ● Accommodation ● Meals 	ANZMUSC: As outlined in CAG Terms of Reference

TYPES OF PAYMENT FOR HONORARIUMS:

Example

Health Consumers NSW recommends that consumers involved in health research be remunerated for their contribution and reimbursed for expenses. This could be by cash payment, direct bank transfer or gift card.

Queries about applying these payment schedules can be made via the ANZMUSC website.