

Community Involvement opportunity

Infectious Diseases Community Reference Group

We're looking for 2-3 community members who would like to help reduce the burden of childhood infectious diseases and contribute to our mission of happy healthy kids. Infectious diseases continue to be the most common reason for hospitalisation of young children in Western Australia and the number one cause of death in children worldwide. More research is needed to understand the diseases better and the protection available. The incredible researchers of the Wesfarmers Centre of Vaccines and Infectious Diseases are working hard to increase our knowledge in these areas, but collaboration with the community is vital to be able to achieve relevant and impactful research outcomes.

About the position

Involvement in research is about drawing on your experiences, or the experiences of those you represent, to offer advice and guidance about what we should be researching, how we should be doing it, and assisting in sharing research outcomes with your community.

We meet for approximately 2 hours, once every two months. We don't expect every member of the group will be available for every meeting, but we hope members are able to attend at least three meetings per year. You may also be asked to review documents and provide your feedback.

What skills or experience are required?

Your experience could be one or more of the following:

- Experience of one or more childhood infectious diseases (either yourself or someone in your care). For example, ear, throat, chest, skin infections, influenza, COVID, whooping cough, meningococcal, associated conditions such as sepsis.
- An understanding of health care/research; practicing or once practiced as a doctor, nurse, allied health practitioner, or someone that has had extensive experience using the health care system as a patient or the carer of a patient.
- An understanding of government policy making.
- Community leaders/ambassadors who can reach large numbers of their community and feel confident they can represent the thoughts and opinions of the community they represent.

How long am I expected to be involved?

Our Infectious Diseases Community Reference Group members are invited to be involved for as long as they wish to be. Members may withdraw their involvement whenever they want to, without a reason required.

Where will meetings be held?

Presently, meetings are held online, however as we transition to living with COVID, we're planning for some in-person meetings. In-person meetings will be held at the Telethon Kids Institute located at Perth Children's Hospital in Nedlands. In-person meetings will only be considered when it is COVID safe.

**What support is offered?**

\$50.00 honorarium per hour is offered for meetings attended (online and in-person). Training and support are offered by Telethon Kids Institute.

Application information:

If you'd like to express your interest in becoming a member of the Infectious Diseases Community Reference Group, please follow the link below and answer the questions.

<https://forms.office.com/r/AnpKB1DEpS>

If this opportunity doesn't feel right for you, but you're interested in being involved in childhood medical research in some way, please email Jacqui at Jacqui.Hume@telethonkids.org.au