

Health Consumer Reference Group SA

A newly formed **Health Consumer Reference Group** in South Australia is being established in response to the closure of Health Consumers Alliance of South Australia (HCASA), the peak body for health consumers in SA. With its closure health consumers no longer have an independent voice to share their experiences, raise concerns, identify gaps and risks in health service delivery or contribute to health policy at a systemic level.

The Health Consumer Reference Group SA aims to provide an independent vehicle to inform government, service providers and policy makers about the experiences and concerns of health consumers in a context of collaboration and shared problem solving.

The Health Consumer Reference Group SA is underpinned by the premise that consumers and communities;

- have the right to be part of decision-making that affects and impacts their health and wellbeing;
- know best how their communities need to receive information and
- are best placed to disseminate it and can effectively and efficiently inform and support health planning, decision-making and evaluation.

In the absence of a government funded peak health consumer body the Health Consumer Reference Group SA has identified the continued need to:

- Provide an independent health consumer voice in South Australia
- Identify and report on emerging health issues and concerns
- Advocate for health and human rights of all South Australians
- Actively promote the value and benefits of consumer engagement and participation
- Promote the needs of health consumers and communities particularly those living with and experiencing health disadvantage
- Build the capability of health consumers to effectively represent their views and perspectives
- Provide opportunities for mutual support, learning, networking and growth for health consumer advocates and representatives to increase health consumers circles of influence
- Identify partnering opportunities to promote health consumer rights, consumer engagement and advocacy

We are looking for health consumers and advocates who are interested in ensuring an independent consumer voice in South Australia, in the absence of a government funded peak health consumer body. The Reference Group will be run by consumers, and driven by consumer issues and priorities.

For information about becoming a member contact

Allison Willis
Principal Consultant Health Consumer CoLab
Secretariat Health Consumer Reference Group SA
E: awillis@healthconsumercolab.com.au
P: 0409 674 367
F: Health Consumer Colab