



Vaping Research Consumer and Community Advisory Committee (VRCCAC)

Purpose of the committee

The purpose of the committee is to provide a way for vapers to contribute to the design, conduct and reporting of research findings. It acknowledges the central role of community members and consumers in research and translation of research findings and seeks to build a partnership between health researchers at the University of Queensland and the vaping community.

It aims to develop partnerships in which consumers, community members and researchers work together to make decisions about research priorities, goals, methodologies, questions, and dissemination of results related to research on vaping. The objectives of the VRCCAC are aligned with the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) and Consumers' Health Forum of Australia (CHF) joint Statement on Consumer and Community Participation in Health and Medical Research.

The objectives of the VRCCAC are to:

- Provide an avenue for consumers to collaborate with researchers to draw on each other's knowledge to build on and strengthen the quality of health and medical research on vaping in Australia.
- Provide increased opportunities to obtain funding for research which addresses the needs and priorities of the community.
- Facilitate and enhance understanding of consumer and community priorities, perspectives and issues to ensure research is relevant to community needs and contributes to meaningful outcomes for the community.
- Increase the transparency of research on vaping that is undertaken in Australia.
- Provide an avenue for continuous improvement in the quality of research on vaping in Australia.

What tasks will the VRCCAC undertake?

- VRCCAC members will contribute their views on what research topics are a priority for vapers and aspects of study design.
- The VRCCAC will be consulted on study materials, such as questionnaires and lay summaries for participants. It is anticipated that the VRCCAC will also provide a source of technical expertise such as advice on vaping devices and e-liquids for use in research.
- VRCCAC may assist with newsletters about the progress of research on vaping for the community and participants.

- Once results of research are obtained, the VRCCAC will be consulted on how to communicate these results back to the vaping community, such as assisting with reviewing drafts of lay summaries and assisting with distribution of reports.

What is involved in being a member of the VRCCAC?

- As a member of the VRCCAC, you could be invited to attend research planning workshops at the initial planning stage of research projects.
- Your advice will also be sought on different design aspects, such as suitable participant recruitment methods, data collection options and participant materials to ensure the proposed research methods are consumer friendly and to reduce unnecessary burdens on participants.
- You will also be asked to comment on draft reports and provide advice and assistance with reporting the results of research back to the community. This could include assisting with the production of a regular consumer newsletter on research progress and results as they become available.
- Some of these tasks will involve face to face meetings, while others will be conducted via email and/or closed online forums.

Are members of the VRCCAC paid for their contributions?

Membership of the VRCCAC is a volunteer position. Where there are funds available, such as through research grants, members of the VRCCAC will be provided financial compensation for their time in completing VRCCAC tasks, however this will be dependent upon funding availability. At a minimum we will endeavour to cover any travel costs incurred for face-to-face meetings.

How much work will VRCCAC members be asked to do?

This will vary, however it is anticipated that tasks will be shared by different members of the VRCCAC to reduce the burden on members.

How will members of the VRCCAC be selected?

Up to 12 consumer and community members will be appointed to the VRCCAC. People interested in joining the VRCCAC are invited to submit an expression of interest to the research group leader (Dr Coral Gartner), using the online form here:

<https://survey.its.uq.edu.au/Checkbox/VRCCACEOI.aspx>

Note -all personal details will be treated as confidential and stored on a password protected server at the University of Queensland. Providing information about your background (eg age) and vaping experience will help us to ensure a range of people are selected for the committee. The information in the form will not be used for research purposes, it is just to help with selection of VRCCAC members. At least one representative of the New Nicotine Alliance will be included in the VRCCAC and the

NNA board will be consulted and will assist with recruitment of VRCCAC members to help select a range of consumers to obtain a variety of views.

How long does committee membership last for?

The term of appointment will be for two years from the date of the first meeting. Members wishing to reapply after their initial term will be considered equally with other applicants. Membership is on a volunteer basis and you may leave the committee at any time you wish to do so by advising the research group leader.

How will advice from the VRCCAC be used?

The research team will incorporate feedback and advice received from the VRCCAC into the design and conduct of research while also considering other requirements and perspectives, such as those of Human Research Ethics Committees, laws and regulations, funding bodies, and expert opinion from clinicians and researchers.

A statement about how the VRCCAC advice was incorporated into grant applications will be included in the grant application after review and the approval of the VRCCAC.

The records of the activities of the VRCCAC will be maintained and may be reported to the vaping community and consumers via a number of mediums such as the UQ School of Public Health website, relevant social media websites and newsletter/s.

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