

## SRHMRA Submission 307 — Health Issues Centre

I attended the Melbourne session and was very pleased to hear your positive response to the two consumers who presented their points of view regarding the necessary involvement of consumers in setting research agendas and be involved as active members of research teams.

I work with Health Issues Centre, and independent non-for profit organisation dedicated to advocacy, research and training on consumer participation in health. Our website is [www.healthissuescentre.org.au](http://www.healthissuescentre.org.au). We are based in Melbourne, Victoria but work also at a national level.

I have a standing interest in the area of consumer participation in research. In 2005 I developed an information discussion paper about consumer participation in research for the Primary Health Care Research, Education and Development (PHRED) and between 2009-2010 developed and delivered a training program in consumer participation in research for consumers with funding from the Victorian Cancer Agency. I have had the opportunity to attend the two days training on consumer participation in research for researchers offered by Ms Anne Mackenzie at the School of Public Health, University of Western Australia (October 2009).

Most recently I collaborated in the development of the only two nationally accredited courses in consumer leadership and engagement [Course in Consumer Leadership (22095VIC) and the Vocational Graduate Certificate in Consumer Engagement (22092VIC)] and has been delivering the courses for the last three years with very positive evaluations. Both of these courses include aspects of consumer involvement in research for consumers and for health service staff, and provide the tools for participants to develop systems and structures to ensure effective and sustainable consumer participation broadly.

Because of our work on consumer participation and particularly on consumer participation in research we are following closely the development and efforts that the NHMRC is undertaking with regards to reviewing the Statement on Consumer and Community Participation in Health and Medical Research published in 2001. See <http://www.nhmrc.gov.au/guidelines/publications/r22-r23-r33-r34>

We look forward to be involved in any further developments regarding NHMRC and consumer involvement in research in Australia and will be available to discuss further with the Panel should they wish to do so.

Kind regards  
Tere Dawson