

## **Rheumatic Heart Disease Echo Screening Study (Expressions of interest window closes 25 November 2024)**

Health New Zealand Te Whatu Ora is seeking expressions of interest for consumer representatives to join a Steering Group focussed on providing high quality data and evidence-based recommendations to inform a case for a national rheumatic heart disease (RHD) echocardiogram (echo) screening programme in Aotearoa New Zealand.

### **What the study is about**

Rheumatic heart disease is one of the serious outcomes of acute rheumatic fever, which can cause long-lasting damage to the heart valves. Māori and Pacific are priority communities of interest, as they have a higher rate of experiencing acute rheumatic fever and rheumatic heart disease.

A study is being developed to assess the effectiveness of offering RHD echo screening in school and community based settings for children in Years 7 and 8, which is usually intermediate aged children between 11–13 years of age. The study will take place across school and community sites in South Auckland and the Bay of Plenty.

### **Who we're looking for**

We are seeking two to three consumer representatives to join the steering group for the rheumatic heart disease study. The steering group consists of up to twelve members from the research team and a team of doctors and nurses. The criteria for selection is based on recruiting consumer representatives from targeted communities most affected by rheumatic heart disease. The preferred consumer representative will:

- have recently experienced rheumatic heart disease/ rheumatic fever themselves
- have recently journeyed with close whānau members or friends who have experienced rheumatic heart disease or rheumatic fever
- be a caregiver or parent of a child currently in primary, intermediate or high school

## **The opportunity:**

- to serve on the steering group from November 2024 to the 30 June 2025
- to attend steering group meetings held once every 4-6 weeks (meetings can be attended in person or remotely via Zoom or Microsoft Teams and last between 1- 2 hours)
- to provide advice from a consumer and whānau perspective by contributing to discussions (advice can be provided at meetings or between meetings and can be provided verbally and in writing)
- to review documents, such as informational materials and team minutes, before steering group meetings
- to assist with other pieces of work such as helping to develop information materials for the project (this type of work would be subject to discussion and agreement between the consumer representative and the project team)
- the estimated time commitment will be around 4 hours a month on average. This includes reading meeting materials, keeping up with correspondence and meeting attendances

## **Payment and reimbursements**

Payments for attending steering group meetings will be provided for confirmed attendances at \$50 per hour paid by bank deposit and if required any travel expenses will be reimbursed with prior agreement.

More details about reimbursements are provided according to the Health New Zealand Te Whatu Ora Reimbursement Rates for Consumer Engagement policy. <https://www.hqsc.govt.nz/assets/Consumer-hub/Consumer-opportunities/Te-Whatu-Ora-Reimbursement-Rates-for-Consumer-Engagement-v2.pdf>

## **How to apply**

- by downloading, filling out and emailing the Expression of interest application form to: [tracey.hale@tewhatauora.govt.nz](mailto:tracey.hale@tewhatauora.govt.nz)

We will be in touch with you to discuss your application after the closing date. You may be asked to meet with a member of the project team for a short interview and will have an opportunity to ask questions about the project and group you might be working with.

### Process for selection

Expression closed	25 November 2024
Applicants notified if shortlisted for interview or not	02 December 2024
Conduct short listed interviews (interviews will be held online and where possible an in-person interview will be offered if it is preferred by the applicant)	Week starting 02 December 2024
Final selections and offers	Week starting 09 December 2024

### Contact details

If you have any questions or would like more information about applying to be a consumer representative for the Rheumatic Heart Disease Steering Group, please contact Tracey Hale:

email: [tracey.hale@tewhatauora.govt.nz](mailto:tracey.hale@tewhatauora.govt.nz) <mailto:tracey.hale@waitematadhb.govt.nz>

phone: 021 679 765

Applications close 25 November 2024