



Participation Resourcing Statement

Purpose

This Statement describes how the Network allocates resources to support meaningful consumer participation. As a consumer-led, consumer-driven peak body, resourcing participation is essential organisational infrastructure, not an optional activity.

Participation as Core Business

Consumer participation underpins all Network functions, including governance, priority setting and systemic advocacy. Resources are intentionally planned and allocated so consumers can participate safely, meaningfully and with real influence. The Network does not rely on unpaid consumer labour.

Financial and Practical Resourcing

The Network allocates dedicated resources to enable participation, including:

- A flat rate of reimbursement for reasonable participation expenses such as travel and incidental costs.
- Costs associated with accessible venues, online platforms and participation supports.
- Participation costs are included in organisational budgets as legitimate operational expenses.
- Honoraria for completing major surveys and similar feedback mechanisms.

Staff Time and Organisational Capacity

Staff time and organisational capacity are allocated to support participation through preparation, facilitation, follow-up and administration. Position descriptions and work plans reflect responsibility for enabling consumer participation.

Accessibility and Inclusion

Resources are used to remove financial, access and practical barriers to participation where possible, including flexible participation options and culturally safe engagement approaches.

Training and Capability

The Network resources training and induction for staff, Board members and consumer leaders to support consumer leadership, trauma-informed practice, cultural capability and ethical representation. Training reinforces consumer authority rather than partnership or co-design with non-consumer stakeholders.

Governance and Accountability

The Board oversees participation resourcing and ensures it remains adequate, intentional and responsive to consumer priorities. This Statement supports transparent, accountable and sustainable consumer participation.