



2027 Summer Research Project Template

Help us present your project in a way that connects with the right students. Thoughtful, engaging descriptions tend to attract stronger and more suitable applications. Thank you for putting a project forward - these programs rely on your contribution, and we couldn't do it without you.

Section	Description
Project title	Evaluating the research impact of the Telehealth Consumer Reference Group
Hours & delivery	Approximately 24 hours per week, across the six-week program from 11 January to 19 February 2027. Delivery is hybrid, based at the UQ Centre for Online Health (PA Hospital, Dutton Park Campus), with flexibility to work remotely. Typical working pattern is Monday, Wednesday, Friday, but your specific days and hours can be agreed with the supervisor around your availability.
About the project (150–250 words)	The UQ Centre for Online Health runs the Telehealth Consumer Reference Group (TCRG), a national group of community members with lived experience of health conditions and telehealth. Since 2022, these consumers have partnered with researchers to help shape telehealth research, review study materials, and co-design projects. After five years, we want to understand the difference this partnership has made. We routinely collect information on how often consumers take part and the kinds of activities we run. What we need to investigate is how involvement has felt for consumers and researchers, whether it has been useful, and how it has shaped research and outcomes. This project will help answer that question. Working with the project team, the student will bring together our existing engagement records and gather new insights through two focus groups, one with consumers and one with academics who have worked with the group. Together these will build a picture of the experience, value, and real-world impact of consumer involvement over the past five years. This matters because meaningful consumer partnership is central to good, person-centred health research, yet its impact is rarely evaluated well. The student's work will directly inform how we run and improve the group, and will contribute to a growing evidence base on how to involve consumers in research in ways that genuinely make a difference.
What you'll do (100–150 words)	Working closely with the supervisory team, you will: • Review and summarise the group's engagement data from the past five years (levels of participation and types of interaction). • Conduct a quantitative analysis of all the groups interactions and engagement statistics. • Help conduct two focus group guides, one for consumers and one for academics. • Support the planning and running of two online focus groups, including recruitment, scheduling, and note-taking. • Assist with transcribing and analysing the focus group discussions to identify key themes. • Bring the quantitative engagement data and qualitative findings together into a short written summary. • Present your findings to the project team at the end of the project.
What you'll learn (100–150 words)	This project offers hands-on experience in health services and consumer involvement research. You will gain practical skills in: • Qualitative research methods, including focus group design and facilitation. • Thematic analysis of interview and focus group data. • Working with and interpreting engagement (quantitative) data. • Mixed-methods thinking: combining numbers and narratives to answer a real research question.



	Communicating findings clearly to different audiences, including consumers and researchers. You will also develop a genuine understanding of how consumers contribute to health research and why their involvement matters, while working alongside experienced researchers in a supportive, collaborative environment.
Project outcomes (75–125 words)	By the end of the six weeks, you will have produced a short written report summarising the experience, utility, and impact of the Telehealth Consumer Reference Group over its first five years, drawing on both engagement data and the two focus groups. You will also deliver a brief oral presentation of your findings to the project team. Your work will directly inform how the group is run and evaluated in future, and may contribute to a conference presentation or publication on evaluating consumer involvement in telehealth research, with appropriate acknowledgement or authorship depending on your contribution.
Who should apply? (75–125 words)	This project would suit someone who is curious, reliable, and genuinely interested in how consumers help shape better health research. It would suit an undergraduate or coursework student interested in health services research, public health, consumer and community involvement, or qualitative research. It is open to students from a range of backgrounds, including public health, psychology, social sciences, nursing, or allied health. Helpful (but not essential) qualities include an interest in people's experiences, strong written and verbal communication, good organisation and attention to detail, and comfort working with both data and people.
Team & supervision (75–125 words)	You will be supervised by Dr Jaimon Kelly, Senior Research Fellow and Accredited Practising Dietitian at the UQ Centre for Online Health, who leads and manages the Telehealth Consumer Reference Group. You will join the Centre for Online Health, a leading telehealth and digital health research group within UQ's Faculty of Medicine, which has a strong track record of consumer-partnered research and a supportive, collaborative culture. During the project you will also interact with members of the Consumer Reference Group and with academics across the Centre, gaining first-hand insight into how a real research team works.
Additional opportunities (optional)	Depending on the scope and quality of the work, there may be an opportunity to contribute to a conference abstract or publication. The project also offers valuable networking with consumers, clinicians, and researchers in the telehealth and digital health field, and can provide a foundation for students considering Honours, a Master's, or a PhD in health services or consumer involvement research.
Additional requirements (if applicable)	Not applicable. The project does not involve any student access to hospital records systems or to identifiable patient information. All data comprises the group's own engagement records and de-identified focus group data collected from consenting volunteer consumers and academics.
Contact	Yes, students may contact the supervisor before applying. Direct enquiries to: Dr Jaimon Kelly, jaimon.kelly@uq.edu.au