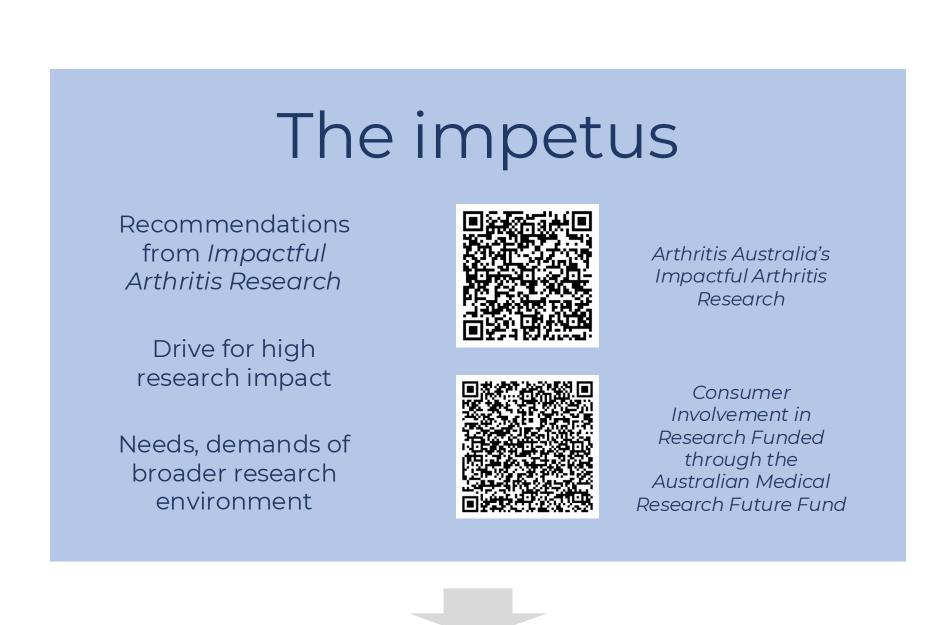
Embedding a consumer-driven approach into Australian arthritis research: guidance from a national multi-stage consultation

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Aim: Identify the most effective ways to integrate consumer input into the research process, in the Australian arthritis, musculoskeletal, and rheumatic disease context



The process 1. Review of models for consumer-driven approaches to research funding/involvement 2.Online survey of Australian consumers, to understand priorities, preferences around engagement





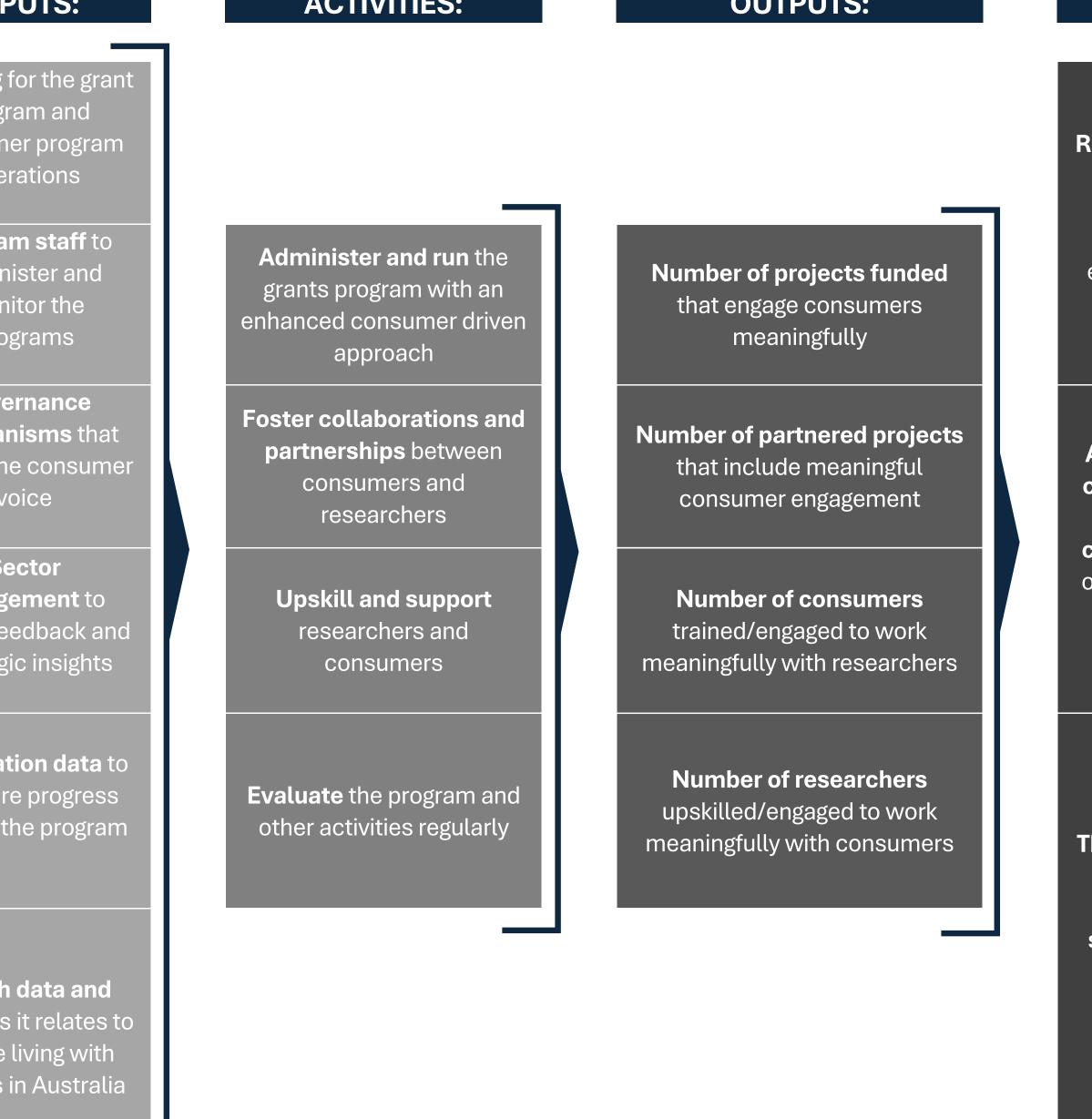


For changes to the Arthritis Australia

National Research Program,

and for future further details

of the full report when released:



Research funded by Arthritis Australia includes more meaningful and diverse consumer engagement, enhancing its relevance and translational potential Arthritis Australia partners **Better health outcomes** on aligned projects through for those living with appointment of trained arthritis, as research is consumers, with successful relevant and informed and outcomes such as enhanced can be easily translated external funding and into clinical, practice, or translation opportunity The arthritis research sector is competitive through its meaningful and strengthened engagement with consumers, demonstrated through enhanced funding opportunities.

policy change.

Following this process, Arthritis Australia has acted to make immediate commitments: >Funding consumer research engagement manager >Funding grants to support consumer engagement in National

Research Program ➤ New resources – best practice guidance for consumer involvement, framework for partnerships

➤Ongoing research funding advocacy, including through election

> Publishing on development and consultation process

Key consultation themes:

- 1. Capacity Building: Training, resources to enhance researcherconsumer collaboration, for meaningful/effective engagement throughout the whole research process.
- 2. Clear Communication: Transparent communication about roles/expectations of both consumers and researchers, to foster trust, collaboration.
 - 3. Resource allocation: Adequate funding/support to enable meaningful consumer involvement, particularly in early-stage
- 4. Flexible engagement: Methods to accommodate different levels of consumer involvement/access.

High level recommendations:

- 1. Develop clear guidelines for consumer involvement across all stages of the research process, ensuring that expectations and roles are well-defined and communicated.
- 2. Invest in capacity-building initiatives for both researchers and consumers to ensure effective collaboration.
- 3. Ensure adequate funding for consumer engagement, particularly in early-stage research, to support meaningful participation.
- 4. Provide diverse and flexible engagement opportunities that accommodate different needs and preferences, ensuring that all consumers can participate.
- 5. Promote long-term relationships between researchers and consumers to foster sustained engagement and meaningful collaboration.
- 6. Recognise and remunerate consumers for their contributions to research to ensure that their time and expertise are valued.

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