

Consumer remuneration is a respectful acknowledgement of the contribution that people with a lived experience of melanoma bring to Melanoma Research Victoria (MRV) and the research projects it supports. It represents trust, commitment, participation and an ongoing two-way conversation to focus research directions and improve melanoma patient outcomes.

What is consumer remuneration?

Financial recognition for valuable input into consumer health research at MRV. Referred to as *remuneration*, this can take the form of sitting fees for committee membership or an hourly rate dependent upon the level of participation. Remuneration is not compulsory, legally required or expected. It is made at the discretion of MRV.

Remuneration is different to reimbursement for out-of-pocket expenses. Reimbursement expenses can be claimed separately using invoices and receipts.

What is covered by consumer remuneration?

Remuneration will be offered to MRV consumers from 1st October 2021 for their involvement in defined MRV activities.

How much is paid?

The amount of remuneration depends on the level of engagement of the MRV Activity as defined by a MRV modified version of the VCCC Alliance Model of Consumer Engagement¹. A table of MRV activities and payment schedules can be found in the MRV Standard Operating Procedure: MRV Remuneration and Reimbursement.

a. MRV Consumer Project Reviews

A standard consumer project review includes an in-person or zoom meeting with all available MRV consumers and the researcher, plus written (template) reviews from each of the attending consumers.

Consumer Project Reviews for researchers external to MRV will incur a fee of \$500.

b. Ongoing Researcher-Consumer collaborations

When consumers become co-investigators on grants or form a personal collaboration with a researcher, or their laboratory, MRV will no longer cover consumer remuneration costs related to those collaborations. MRV recommends that researchers adopt a similar payment schedule to MRV but recognise that is optional.

How is remuneration made?

Voluntary services such as consumers can be paid an honorary reward known as an honorarium. To enable payment MRV consumers are registered with Peter Mac Accounts Payable as One Time Vendors and also complete an Australian Tax Office - Statement of Supplier form.

Is it part of tax assessable income?

When you submit a completed Australian Tax Office - Statement of Supplier form to MRV for remuneration purposes, an honorarium is not considered to be assessable income. The completed Statement of Supplier form is used when services are provided without quoting an ABN. It needs to state that the supply of services is made during an activity done as a private recreational pursuit or hobby. For further Australian Tax Office definitions and the form, go to <https://www.ato.gov.au/Forms/Statement-by-a-supplier-not-quoting-an-ABN/>.

How will MRV consumer participation be recorded?

MRV consumers are responsible for keeping a record of their consumer engagement activities using a MRV Activity database which has been custom built to assist with this purpose.

How often will remuneration be made?

Quarterly activity reports and remuneration claims will be generated from a dedicated MRV REDCap database. Activities/claims will be confirmed by the MRV Manager or delegate and the MRV Chief Investigator prior to submission to the Peter Mac Finance Department for payment.

Only consumers who have registered their honorarium information with MRV/Peter Mac Finance will be eligible for payment. Requests older than 12 months will not be accepted.

Does remuneration mean a consumer is like a staff member?

Remuneration to consumers in the form of an honorarium is considered financial recognition for consumer time and contribution and is not a salary. Consumers are classified as volunteers for remuneration and tax purposes.

Can consumers decline the remuneration if they choose?

MRV consumers will still be required to fill in the MRV Activity database via the link provided. If they do not wish to receive any remuneration consumers can tick 'No remuneration' when prompted by the database.

Are consumers covered for workplace injury?

The Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre public liability and personal indemnity policies cover consumer participation in MRV-related activity approved by MRV.

Who to contact for further information regarding MRV consumer remuneration?



CONSUMER REMUNERATION

Factsheet for researchers

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1. [Model-of-CEngagement.pdf \(viccompcancerctr.org\)](#)