

Consumer and Carer Priorities for Research



Mental health consumer and carer views are becoming highly important to conducting research. However, research directions are still most commonly developed without consumer and carer input.

We aimed to find out which research priorities for research were important to consumers and carers.

What we did

We conducted a face-to-face discussion forum held in the Australian Capital Territory ($n = 25$) and a national online survey ($n = 70$) with carers and/or consumers.

For the forum, participants developed topics for mental health research in small group discussions then voted on which topics were a priority.

An online survey was developed from these research topics. Survey participants were asked to rate topics and rank the importance of the topics.



What we found

The forum showed that research relating to integrating care that is sensitive to past experiences of trauma into mental health service delivery (*trauma-informed care*) was considered important.

For the survey, key research priority areas included the *delivery of services*, and *consumer and carer involvement in research*.

What we learned

Consumers and carers show a strong understanding of the mental health system and its failures. It is important to regularly update research agendas and work in partnership across the research process.

Want to learn more?

For more information about ACACIA's research projects, head to the "Our Research" page on the ACACIA website:

<http://cmhr.anu.edu.au/acacia>

