

Respiratory Syncytial Virus and other Acute Respiratory Infections Community Reference Group (RSV-ARI CRG)

Community Involvement opportunity

Vacancy Title: Reference Group member

Intro

We are looking for up to 10 community members to join us in our work in the area of acute respiratory infections affecting infants and young children, with a particular focus on Respiratory Syncytial Virus, or RSV. We are seeking people interested in being members of a new community reference group to work with researchers on projects related to understanding the characteristics of these respiratory infections in children, to help guide our work and support our team of researchers to ensure that the community have a strong voice in our work.

About the project (Plain Language Summary)

Respiratory Syncytial Virus, or RSV, is a respiratory virus affecting the lungs of babies and young children. It is one of the most common reasons for babies to be admitted to hospital. RSV can cause inflammation of the small airways in the lung (called bronchiolitis) or in some cases, a chest infection (pneumonia). Within our team at the Telethon Kids Institute, we are studying the patterns and trends of how RSV spreads within the community to determine how many children are affected, the seasonal characteristics, what the community awareness of RSV is and how new prevention measures, like immunisations, might help prevent the spread of RSV. We are also looking into the patterns and trends of other common respiratory infections in children such as influenza virus and parainfluenza virus.

About the position

Our Infectious Disease Epidemiology team is establishing a new community reference group to guide our current and future research projects looking at the epidemiology of respiratory infections in children. We are inviting expressions of interest from community members to join this group.

What am I expected to do?

As a reference group member, you will provide guidance and support on research grant applications and plain language summaries across the breadth of our team's work. Reference groups provide a link between consumers, community and researchers across the research area, providing input to development strategies to inform the wider community about our group's research and guidance and expertise on consumer and community issues and research priorities.

The activities of the reference group members will be shared across the group based on the interest and availability of the individual members. Some examples of particular activities of this new community reference group may involve:

- providing comments and feedback to the research group on study materials such as participant information sheets,
- helping us write plain language summaries of our research results and project outlines,
- providing guidance on priorities and approaches for new studies, providing thoughts on what information is required for educational resources to increase awareness of respiratory infections, and
- how we can better communicate the results of our research to the community.

What skills or experience do I need?

We are looking for people who are parents of children aged less than 5 years, those who may have had a lived experience with RSV, women and their partners planning pregnancy or who are currently pregnant, or parents who may have children at a higher risk of RSV and other respiratory infections such as those children born preterm or those with chronic lung disease. We are keen for an inclusive group and therefore encourage people from Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander backgrounds to register their interest. No prior knowledge of RSV, respiratory infections or a science background is necessary.

How long am I expected to be involved?

Members will be appointed for 2 years. At the end of the initial term, you can apply for reappointment for a further term. You are free to withdraw from the reference group at any time.

Where will meetings be held?

It is the intention that meetings will be run for 1.5 hours and be held within the Telethon Kids Institute on the Perth Children's Hospital campus in Nedlands. For those who cannot attend in person, there will be the opportunity to join online. We anticipate hosting meetings every 4-6 months.

What support is offered?

Reference group members will receive an honorarium of \$50 per hour for meetings attended, whether in person or online. We will also cover any parking or additional costs incurred by you through attendance of the meetings or participation in the reference group activities. Training and support is offered by the Telethon Kids Institute through the project team and the Institute's Consumer Involvement Coordinator.

Applications close: 27 May 2022