Maternity and Newborn Learning Health Network – Advisory Group

Consumer Expression of Interest

We are seeking 2 consumers who are passionate about using their experience to improve the safety and quality of maternity care in Victoria. We want you to join our Maternity and Newborn Learning Health Network (MNLHN) Advisory Group. This group sits in our Centre of Clinical Excellence (CoCE) and provides advice to Safer Care Victoria (SCV). The MNLHN Advisory Group will focus on supporting quality improvement in 6 key priority areas in the Victorian maternity sector.

# Learning Health Networks

* Our LHNs bring together consumers, clinicians, health service leaders, academics and other thought leaders to review relevant data and best available evidence to drive decision-making at the point of maternity care to improve clinical care and patient outcomes.

Characteristics of a LHN include:

* shared vision: to align multiple stakeholders around a common goal
* co-production: facilitate collaboration, at scale, among multiple stakeholders to co-produce information, knowledge, and resources for creating improvement
* transparent data sharing: generate a rich data stream to gain insights and rapidly respond to the gap between current and desired performance
* widespread capacity to change systems: apply a quality improvement method to rapidly test, spread, and scale ideas to achieve new levels of performance
* culture of trust: encourage curiosity, shared learning, contribution, and respect
* governance: operate within a framework of governance.

# MNLHN Advisory Group

The MNLHN Advisory Group members include consumers, clinicians, data experts, researchers, health system leaders and improvement specialists. It will drive and facilitate purposeful consumer and sector engagement within the LHN, the CoCE and SCV. It will also provide advice and direction to support the improvement work on key priority areas.

The MNLHN Advisory Group may need to review data; respond to specific system level data or safety and quality issues identified; provide insight and specialty clinical advice about data variation; support the identification and escalation of issues relevant to the LHN; lead clinical and consumer engagement; and review work in progress, with a focus on system level issues. Membership and function may vary based on programs of work.

Our MNLHN Advisory Group has been established and is committed to drive evidence-based quality improvement work in 6 priority areas in maternity care:

* reducing stillbirth
* reducing perineal tears
* reducing preterm birth rates
* reducing severe post-partum haemorrhage
* reducing maternity readmissions
* improving birth suite safety culture.

# LHN Data Groups

LHNs use data and evidence to improve clinical care and patient outcomes with a whole of system view. Data will be accessible to all time-limited LHNs through the establishment of their respective data group to ensure that work is informed by current data, variation and trends.

The MNLHN Data Group will review, interpret and provide advice about the data, evidence, and safety and quality measures to help inform decisions and measure outcomes related to improvement projects. The MNLHN is time-limited so the duration of the MNLHN Data Group will align with the MNLHN. It will be governed by the MNLHN Advisory Group.

For more information, please refer to the

* [Terms of Reference MNLHN Advisory Group](https://www.safercare.vic.gov.au/sites/default/files/2023-12/mnlhn_advisory_group_terms_of_reference_9_june_2023.pdf)
* [Consumer FAQ for EOI document](https://www.safercare.vic.gov.au/sites/default/files/2023-12/mnlhn_consumer_eoi_faqs_for_advisory_group.docx)

# Who should apply?

We are looking for two consumers who:

* are passionate about improving consumer engagement and participation in healthcare
* come from diverse backgrounds, i.e. priority will be given to women who:
* identify as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander
* have a culturally and linguistically diverse background, and/or
* reside in regional or rural Victoria
* are recognised for their understanding of the experiences of consumers in maternity settings and their commitment to improving safety and quality of health care in Victoria
* are problem solvers and are committed to working in teams with a range of healthcare professionals
* commit to bringing their whole self and telling it like it is – two key SCV values
* will contribute to improvement initiatives or safety and quality work of the 6 priority areas of the MNLHN through effective networking and collaboration
* bring some experience in data analysis and interpretation (ideal, not essential).

# Why you should apply

This opportunity will enable you to:

* use your valuable lived experience in receiving maternity care to provide a consumer perspective in our approach
* influence better outcomes and experiences for consumers receiving maternity care across Victoria
* participate in networking within SCV and the Victorian maternity healthcare sector.

Diversity in the MNLHN Advisory Group membership is valued and consumers from varied backgrounds, skills, and received care in different health settings will be essential to ensure broad perspectives are represented. The selection criteria below outline the skills we are looking for.

# Remuneration

Consumers will be remunerated for attending MNLHN Advisory Group meetings, in line with the Victorian Government [Appointment and remuneration guidelines](https://www.vic.gov.au/guidelines-appointment-remuneration) and our [Guide to consumer remuneration](https://www.bettersafercare.vic.gov.au/publications/a-guide-to-consumer-renumeration).

# Selection process

## Selection criteria

### Essential

* Passionate about improving healthcare to ensure outstanding healthcare for all Victorians, in maternity settings.
* Demonstrate first-hand experience and knowledge of the Victorian health care system, including recently accessed maternity health services (within the last 5 years).
* Awareness of person-centred care, consumer engagement and consumer experiences of healthcare.
* Work in partnerships with key stakeholders (including consumer/carer groups, senior clinicians, hospital, community and SCV/Department of Health staff).
* Communication skills to inform the MNLHN priority work and discuss potential issues relevant to consumers to guide the team to optimise outcomes.
* Considers the viewpoints of others, expert opinions and experiences of others when providing advice.
* Desire to contribute to work and engagement with the MNLHN.
* Experience working in a multidisciplinary team including support meaningful clinician/consumer engagement.
* An ability to work in the ‘grey’ and tolerate ambiguity.

### Desirable

* Knowledge and skills in looking at data and evidence to identify trends.
* Insight into the range of challenges facing consumers and carers/family members when accessing and receiving maternity care.
* Experience in consumer advocacy activities (paid or unpaid) via not-for-profit, community or government agencies settings.

This is a unique opportunity to join the MNLHN Advisory Group and shape the direction of the priority improvement works of the MNLHN into the future.

If this sounds like you, apply now!

**Applications close midnight 31 January 2024.**

# How to apply

Please read the selection criteria and the below documents before applying:

* [Terms of Reference MNLHN Advisory Group](https://www.safercare.vic.gov.au/sites/default/files/2023-12/mnlhn_advisory_group_terms_of_reference_9_june_2023.pdf)
* [Consumer FAQ for EOI document](https://www.safercare.vic.gov.au/sites/default/files/2023-12/mnlhn_consumer_eoi_faqs_for_advisory_group.docx)
* [EOI – MNLHN Consumer Application Form](https://www.safercare.vic.gov.au/sites/default/files/2023-12/mnlhn_consumer_eoi_application_form.docx)

To apply please email your application to [maternityandnewbornlhn@safercare.vic.gov.au](mailto:maternityandnewbornlhn@safercare.vic.gov.au) marked Attention: Simone Pike with **‘Consumer- MNLHN Advisory Group’** in the subject line. Please remember to attach a completed application form.

Ensure you respond to the following questions in the application form:

* what is your lived experience in receiving maternity care?
* what skills and experience would you bring to the role?
* have you had any experience working with others to improve care for consumers?

# Recruitment process

Each application will be reviewed against the selection criteria.

* Applications will be reviewed by the consumer and clinical leads, and the manager of the MNLHN
* Successful candidates will be endorsed by the Director of the Centre of Clinical Excellence.
* Membership will be until December 2025.
* Interviews will be held in February 2024.
* Successful applicants will be asked to join the next scheduled quarterly meeting.