

# **AN ONLINE CONSUMER PORTAL FOR CONSUMER PARTICIPATION IN SPINAL CORD RESEARCH**

## **INTRODUCTION**

The active involvement of consumers in research benefits the quality and direction of research. Consumer and community involvement is about research being carried out with or by consumers and community members rather than to, about or for them.<sup>1</sup>

Involvement of people living with spinal cord injury (SCI) provides increased relevance to spinal cord research and outcomes and recognises them as stakeholders in the entire process.

The Consumer Portal adds a new dimension to SCoRH and compliments the current Researcher Portal.

## **METHODS**

A Consumer Advisory Network of local and international representatives will provide input and feedback on user requirements and priorities for the portal.

The Consumer Advisory Network will be involved in the design specifications, testing and evaluation of the Consumer Portal and its associated programs.

## **RESULTS**

A fully functional Consumer Portal that meets the requirements of the SCI community will be launched in 2021.

People living with spinal cord injury registered on the Consumer Portal will be actively engaging with researchers and involved in the research process.

## **CONCLUSIONS**

A Consumer Portal, that meets the needs of consumer stakeholders and becomes an effective research collaboration point between those living with spinal cord injury and spinal cord researchers, will help advance the quality, direction and outcomes of spinal cord research.

<sup>1</sup>National Health and Medical Research Council, Australia. Statement on Consumer and Community Involvement in Health and Medical Research. September 2016