

UQ Summer Research Project Description - 2026

Project title:	Supporting consumer-driven research with the Australian Frailty Network
Hours of engagement & delivery mode	This project will be offered over 6 weeks (20-36 hrs per week, to be negotiated) and as a hybrid placement with requirements for both on-site and remote working. On-site working will offer the opportunity to be embedded within the Australian Frailty Network (AFN) team at the Dutton Park Campus.
Description:	This project will offer the opportunity to contribute to consumer-driven research activities at the AFN. There is increasing requirement and value seen in engaging with consumers in research; this means working alongside people with a lived experience of the condition being researched (in this case, lived experience of frailty or caring for someone with frailty). This process ensures that the research addresses the priorities of the community, and is designed in a way that maximises recruitment, retention and relevance. The AFN has a well-developed consumer engagement program, and this placement will offer the student the opportunity to contribute to activities across up to 3 projects. These activities will be discussed with the student prior to placement and decisions made that consider their learning needs and ambitions. Project 1 will involve analysis of qualitative data to identify research priorities and consumer engagement needs of people with frailty living in Western Queensland. These data will have been collected during fieldtrips during October 2024, and the student will support the team to analyse the data and prepare a manuscript for publication. Project 2 will involve undertaking literature reviews and analysing existing qualitative data to support the development of a “Communicating Frailty” guide for researchers, health professionals, and members of the public. This will be done in partnership with AFN researchers and consumer groups. Project 3 will involve analysis of qualitative data to evaluate the AFN Consumer Engagement program. It is planned that these data will already be collected, and the student will be supported by the team to analyse the data and prepare a manuscript for publication.
Expected learning outcomes and deliverables:	This placement will offer scholars the opportunity to develop skills in consumer engagement, qualitative data analysis, literature searching, and academic writing. Given the range of projects available, the placement will be able to be tailored to the student’s interest and learning goals. There will be the opportunity to contribute to a research manuscript and be named as an author on this paper (depending on level of contribution as assessed through UQ’s Authorship Procedure).
Suitable for:	This opportunity is suitable for any students studying a health, medical or behavioural science degree at any stage of their degree.

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