Why is community-engaged governance important?

- Community-engaged governance is an important principle to ensure research aligns with community values, needs and goals, promoting the concept of 'nothing about us, without us'.
- Valuing and ensuring meaningful involvement through community-engaged governance in research can also build the capacity of communities to lead and become involved in research activities by developing their skills and their power to direct research in their community.
- Community involvement in research is of great importance because when research is co-produced with community members, research teams remain accountable to the goals and values of the community they are conducting research with, ensuring effective, practical and relevant research outcomes are more likely.[36,37]

How has the Journey to Home Project integrated project governance models?

- The Journey to Home Project has incorporated a project governance model that involves community/peer advisors, community agencies working with CaLD health and social services, those working in homelessness and housing, and mental health, government stakeholders, and researchers.
- We envisioned that incorporating the perspectives of both community/peer and organisational representatives would improve our understanding of context and ensure early consideration of key issues to develop outcomes in a way that is relevant and appropriate for end user organisations.

Project Action Team — *Project Implementation Team* — *Research Steering Group* — *Community and Peer Advisory Group* — *Research Support*

36. Israel BA, Schulz AJ, Parker EA, Becker AB. Review of community-based research: Assessing partnership approaches to improve public health. Annu Rev Public Health. 1998;19:173-202.
37. Minkler M, Wallerstein N. Community Based Participatory Research for Health. San Francisco, CA, USA2003.

The Journey to Home Project community engaged project governance model comprises the following components:

Project Action Team (PAT)

Dr Gemma Crawford
Dr Krysten Blackford
Dr Kahlia McCausland
Eliza Lock

The PAT is made up of lead researchers, a project coordinator and a research assistant from the Collaboration for Evidence, Research and Impact in Public Health (CERIPH), Curtin University. This team is involved in the day to day running of the project and coordinates the meetings and collaboration between all the components of the governance model.

Project Implementation Team (PIT)

PIT members and other researchers from the Curtin School of Population Health. This team is involved in the direction of the project and quality of the research.

Chief Investigators:

Dr Gemma Crawford, Dr Krysten Blackford, A/Prof Richard Norman, Dr Roanna Lobo, A/Prof Dr Yun Zhao, A/Prof Alison Reid.

Research Steering Group (RSG)

Andrea Knox Lyttle
Bianca Fish
A/Prof Christina Pollard
John Berger
Lena Hopkinson
Pearl Proud
Ramdas Sankaran
Dr Rita Afsar
Tandiwe Kuwana
Vivienne Pillay

The RSG is made up of PAT and PIT members and representatives from key agencies. Agencies provide strategic advice to the PAT and PIT, ensure accountability for agreed outcomes. These agencies assist to establish relationships with community, inform the development of the intervention, assist to make sense of trends and themes from data and development of policy and practice ready recommendations. Furthermore, the RSG assists with the dissemination of findings and promote the project to other stakeholders.

Community & Peer Advisory Group (CaPAG)

The CaPAG involves five community and peer advisors, the project officer, CIA, two other members of the PAT and a lived experience consultant to provide training and support to the CaPAG. The purpose of the CaPAG is to ensure research is conducted 'with' end users, appropriate to the community need and facilitates community ownership.

Community & Peer Advisory Group (CaPAG) continued

The CaPAG provide feedback on the appropriateness of research materials, advice regarding recruitment, interpretation of data, participation in sense-making workshops and feedback on recommendations.

CaPAG Members

Bubbles

Anania

Katarina

Roshani

Cassie

Research Support

Volunteers and students participating in a range of research support functions and additional research projects exploring key areas of research as they emerge.

Lived Experience Consultant

Trish is a lived experience consultant who has experience developing frameworks for lived experience engagement in the housing and homelessness sector. Trish has held several roles in the mental health and alcohol and other drugs sectors, representing the lived experience voice at all levels of the system including policy and service provision.

Trish was commissioned to provide 'protective behaviours' and 'story for purpose' training to the CaPAG and serve as a source of external peer support.

Trish Owen

Conclusion

The design and implementation of a community engaged project governance model ensures that throughout the design and implementation of the Journey to Home Project there is input by end users to ensure appropriateness and relevance. Further, this governance model ensures accountability to project outcomes and outputs.

For more information about the Journey to Home Project governance model visit
www.journeytohomeproject.org/team