

**PROJECT LEAD:** Sepsis Australia in partnership with the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care

**PROJECT INITIATIVE/OVERVIEW** – In 2022, The George Institute/Sepsis Australia (TGISA) lobbied the Commonwealth Government for funding to progress the continued implementation of the Stopping Sepsis National Action Plan resulting in a budget allocation of funds for the National Sepsis Program Extension (NSPE).

To leverage established contract and probity arrangements, in June 2023, the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care ('the Commission'), in collaboration with TGISA, was appointed by the Australian Government Department of Health and Aged Care to coordinate the NSPE. The purpose is to build on and continue the work undertaken in the first phase of the National Sepsis Program (2020-2022).

The NSPE will deliver five program projects:

1. A targeted national public awareness campaign
2. Education and training resources for healthcare professionals
3. Coordinated sepsis care and post-sepsis support for survivors and families
4. Data collection tools for improvement
5. Improving recognition of sepsis in First Nations peoples.

The program influences and promotes continual improvement of sepsis outcomes through early diagnosis, treatment, and care for all impacted by sepsis. Consumer partnership at all project stages from conceptualisation and co-design to delivery and evaluation is critical to achieving successful project outcomes. Sepsis Australia is providing the consumer engagement required to ensure the delivery of meaningful outcomes for each of the five projects. The NSPE is being conducted from 29 March 2024 to 30 September 2025.

**CONSUMER INVOLVEMENT** – To ensure the best outcome for the NSPE a consumer advisory group will be formed to actively contribute. This group will comprise members from the Sepsis Australia network of consumer partners. Members of the network are invited to provide an expression of interest for involvement in one or more of the five projects.

The consumer advisory group will include representatives from paediatric, maternal, adult and First Nations people and target groups drawn from survivors, their families, and families bereaved by sepsis where possible. Your lived experience of sepsis, along with any professional and personal skills, experience and expertise you wish to contribute will guide each project.

From this NSPE consumer advisory group two members will be selected for each of the five projects. The consumers will become members of the tender evaluation panel of the program project based on set criteria to ensure diversity and appropriate representation.

**HOW YOUR INVOLVEMENT WILL BE SUPPORTED** – Methods of engagement may include physical and virtual meetings, working groups, and out-of-session consultation reviews and feedback.

Meetings will be kept to a minimum to reduce the burden on your time with the frequency, dates, and duration determined by majority agreement between the project team and consumer advisory group members with the standard format being videoconference unless a face-to-face meeting is necessary. All necessary briefings and documentation for each meeting will be provided in advance to allow for review time by participants. Out-of-session (meeting) review of documentation and materials may also be required.

The Sepsis Australia program team will support you with advice in guidance throughout your involvement in each project.

**CONFIDENTIALITY** – All project documentation, materials and relevant discussions are confidential and must be treated as such. Upon joining the consumer advisory group , all participants will be required to enter into a Privacy and Confidentiality Agreement.

**CONFLICT OF INTEREST** – A conflict of interest can occur when there is a real or perceived conflict between a person's duties or responsibilities and the professional or private interests of other roles they have in the community. A conflict of interest may prejudice or be seen to prejudice a person's ability to perform their duties and responsibilities objectively.

Participants will be asked to declare any conflicts that arise before meetings and at key milestones during the project whether they be actual, perceived, or potential conflicts of interest. If there are, members should contact the project lead to discuss the potential conflict and how it will be managed.