



corroboree : : melbourne

XIII Cochrane Colloquium

22-26 OCTOBER 2005

The following proposal for the Department of Health and Ageing to sponsor day registrations for consumers at the Cochrane Colloquium is presented for your consideration.

Background

This year's Colloquium will be held in Melbourne from 22-26 October. Annual Colloquia are held to advance the work of the Cochrane Collaboration and shape its future direction by advancing the knowledge and skills of contributors; engaging new contributors; facilitating partnerships between clinicians, researchers, policy makers, funders and consumers; and encouraging discussion and debate. Colloquia also serve to facilitate access to the Collaboration's work for people interested in evidence based health care, whether or not they are involved in the Cochrane Collaboration.

Overview of proposed sponsorship

The Australasian Cochrane Centre is seeking sponsorship from the Department of Health and Ageing to cover registration costs for consumers to attend a one day program at the Colloquium.

What is the overall aim of the consumer program?

The overall aim of the program is to encourage and support consumer participation in the work of the Cochrane Collaboration and to provide skills to consumers contributing to evidence based health care.

Who will attend?

Up to 50 consumers will attend the one day program. These consumers will include a mix of experienced contributors to the Cochrane Collaboration and newcomers who wish to learn more about research evidence, using and making sense of Cochrane reviews and how to become involved in the work of the Cochrane Collaboration.

We imagine that newcomers will include consumers involved in advocacy roles, national and state committees, and other initiatives to foster consumer participation in health care delivery and research.

How will participation be supported?

A limited number of places (20-25) will be offered at no charge to consumers. It is expected that these places will primarily be allocated to newcomers to encourage and support their involvement.

Recipients of these places will need to register as day delegates for the first day of the Colloquium. The Organising Committee will cover the cost of the day delegate registration fees and is seeking external sponsorship to help offset this cost.

How will sponsored places be allocated?

Interested consumers must submit a brief expression of interest to the Colloquium Organising Committee that outlines how they think they will benefit from attendance at the one day program.

Should the Department wish to sponsor registrations for this day, we would invite the Department to nominate individuals or representatives of relevant groups to attend. Each of these individuals will be allocated a DHA sponsored place. Should the Department wish to sponsor more places than it has nominees for, we are happy to assist in identifying potential recipients.

Support sought from the Department

\$2750 AUD will cover registration for 10 consumers to attend the one day program which includes tailored workshops, lunch, attendance at the opening plenary session and the welcome reception. We expect to offer 20 – 25 sponsored places in total and invite the Department to consider sponsoring 10 or more places.

Overview of consumer program	9.00 – 12.30	<p>Workshop 1: making sense of scientific evidence</p> <p>The aim of the workshop is to help consumers make sense of scientific evidence. During the workshop there will be discussion of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – different ways of testing whether health treatments work – why randomised controlled trials are considered to be the best way of assessing the effectiveness of treatments – the importance of systematic reviews <p>Participants will have an opportunity, in small groups, to comment on how trustworthy they think a research paper is and to discuss how useful the information in the paper might be in their local situation (critical appraisal).</p>
	12.30 – 1.30	Lunch
	1.30 – 3.30	<p>Workshop 2: accessing the findings of Cochrane reviews</p> <p>The aim of the workshop is to introduce consumers to <i>The Cochrane Library</i> and plain language summaries of Cochrane reviews. The workshop will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – an introduction to evidence-based health care – a computer based session to give participants hands on experience finding reviews on <i>The Cochrane Library</i> – discussion about the use of plain language summaries to convey the findings of Cochrane reviews.
	4.00 – 5.30	Opening plenary of Colloquium
Recognition of support		<p>The Organising Committee will acknowledge sponsorship of this event in the following ways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Inclusion of DHA's name and logo, with a link to your website, on the Colloquium website – Inclusion of DHA's name and logo in the Colloquium program – Recognition as a sponsor by the Chair of the consumer workshop sessions. <p>We are happy to discuss the details of acknowledgement with you and will confirm all arrangements in writing.</p>
Additional information		<p>Further information about the aims of the Colloquium and other sponsorship opportunities are available in the attached sponsorship prospectus. More information about the scientific program, speakers and registration can be found at www.colloquium.info</p> <p>Queries regarding this proposal can be directed to Sue Brennan: sue.brennan@med.monash.edu.au</p>

We hope that this proposal meets with your approval. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or comments. We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,



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