



Expression of Interest: Focus Group on the NSW Health Guidelines for Animal Visits and Interventions in Public and Private Health Facilities in NSW (GL2012_007)

NSW Ministry of Health is updating the NSW Health guidance for animal visits and interventions in NSW Health Services. They are seeking carers who support someone who uses an assistance animal or therapy animal. This includes carer(s) whose loved one has had, or would have benefited from, a visit from their pet while in hospital or another healthcare setting to participate in one of their focus groups.

The Social Policy and Health Equity (SPHE) branch is leading the review of [NSW Health Guidelines for Animal Visits and Interventions in Public and Private Health Facilities in NSW \(GL2012_007\)](#). Developed in 2012, the guideline is no longer fit for purpose and requires updating. The new guidelines will have a broader focus on 'animals in healthcare settings' and provide practical guidance to NSW Health staff members.

SPHE invites you to join a focus group and share your feedback. Your feedback will help them to better understand the needs of the people you support and ensure these are considered early in the development of the new guidelines. Mental Health Carers NSW is helping SPHE to recruit carers for this focus group.

Focus group details:

- **Date:** Friday, 4 September 2026
- **Time:** 1.00pm – 2.30pm
- **Location:** Virtual meeting via Microsoft Teams

Pre-reading for the focus group:

- [NSW Health Guidelines for Animal Visits and Interventions in Public and Private Health Facilities in NSW \(GL2012_007\)](#)

Remuneration: \$125 for participation in the focus group and pre-reading.

The focus group will be recorded for note taking purposes. All information provided during this focus group will be treated with confidentiality. Responses will be anonymised to ensure that no personally identifiable information is disclosed.

If you are interested in participating, please complete the Expression of Interest by Monday, August 31st at 5.00pm via this link:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/NSWGuidelinesAnimalVisits>

We greatly appreciate your interest in improving mental health services in NSW.