

INFORMATION ACCESSIBILITY QUESTIONS

THANK YOU FOR AGREEING TO FACILITATE THIS FOCUS GROUP

The purpose of this focus group session is to explore what information amputees want to improve their quality of life and how they would most easily be able to get that information.

Please use this topic guide to loosely structure the focus group and to lead the discussion as naturally as possible around these broad themes. You may even want to pre-empt some responses and build in some ready-to-use prompts or probes.

Avoid trying to cover too many issues as it can be off-putting for participants, and read questions aloud to your group to ensure that they are clear, simple and not too lengthy. Here are some important points to remember about the topic guide when you are mediating the focus group

- the questions must be qualitative in focus (asking what, where, who, when and how?)
- be open ended to allow for detailed responses
- be followed up with or probed further if necessary (such as “why?”, “could you give an example?”, “could you tell me more about that?” etc)
- be specific questions (and not contain many questions in one go)
- begin by asking about positive experiences before moving on to negative experiences
- not be biased by your own opinion (think about the way you phrase the question)
- not be closed (where the participant can answer ‘yes’ or ‘no’)
- move from general broad questions to more specific questions (within each theme). This allows the discussion to flow naturally and feels less intrusive to the participants. You may even think of adapting your focus group topic guide according to the makeup of the focus group participants.

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Please ask the following questions one at a time to structure your guided discussion.

Engagement questions:

- What is your favourite way to get new information?
- What is it about that information outlet that you enjoy and keeps you going back to it?

Exploration questions:

- How do you feel about your life since becoming an amputee?
- What information have you found most useful in getting your life back on track after amputation?
- What do you believe would improve your life that would you like to know more about but haven't been able to get more information on?
- Where do you get information about living with disability and being an amputee at the moment?
- If there was an easier way for you to get that information what would it be?

Closing question:

- Is there anything else you would like to say about how you access self help and health care information?