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Cancer Funding Analysis 2023 identifies Queensland’s strengths and capabilities but also a funding lag in cancer research and translation

Health Translation Queensland (HTQ) this week released the [Queensland Cancer Research and Translation Funding Analysis Report 2023](#) (*HTQ Cancer Funding Analysis 2023*). The report is a comprehensive analysis of federal research funding that is awarded to cancer research bodies in Queensland. The report also includes an analysis of Queensland’s cancer clinical trial activity, and cancer incidence and mortality rates in Queensland.

The *HTQ Cancer Funding Analysis 2023* follows on from HTQ’s [Health and Medical Research Funding Analysis Report](#), released in April 2022, which details Queensland’s performance in securing competitive national funding for health and medical research.

Despite advances in cancer screening, diagnosis and treatment vastly improving overall cancer survival, cancer remains a major health problem and leading cause of death in Australia. In Queensland alone, there are approximately 33,000 cancer diagnoses and more than 9,700 deaths from cancer every year.

The *Queensland Cancer Research and Translation Funding Analysis Report* reveals that between 2018 and 2021 the combined funding from the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) and the Medical Research Future Fund (MRFF) for cancer research in Queensland was \$108 million. While this is a positive result, as a proportion of funding it reflects a similar finding to that found in HTQ’s *Funding Analysis 2022*. Both analyses show disproportionately lower funding for Queensland in health and medical research and cancer research. Queensland receives approximately 14% of NHMRC funding and 12% of MRFF funding for health and medical research, including cancer research. This is less than what would be expected given Queensland represents approximately 20% of Australia’s population and contributes 19% to Australia’s GDP.

Supplementing the *HTQ Cancer Funding Analysis* is the [Queensland Cancer Research and Translation Capability Overview 2023](#). This document showcases Queensland’s cancer research and translation capabilities through a statewide snapshot of examples. Queensland has significant capabilities across a number of cancer research areas and across the spectrum of cancer patients’ journeys, with the data suggesting that Queensland researchers and/or clinicians are leaders in survivorship, symptom management and palliative care, followed by prevention and diagnosis trials.

“The Cancer Funding Analysis is an important contribution to a broader understanding of Queensland’s performance in securing funding for cancer research and translation. It highlights opportunities where Queensland researchers can strengthen collaboration and continue to build expertise and leadership in cancer research, ultimately making a difference for the thousands of Queenslanders who are diagnosed every year with cancer,” said Sue Scheinpflug, HTQ Board Chair.

“The release of the Cancer Funding Analysis shows that HTQ – as one of the nationally accredited Research Translation Centres – is well positioned to inform and advocate for research translation across the state and nationally. This is particularly important in the area of cancer research,” said Professor John Prins, Executive Director of HTQ and Chair of the Australian Health Research Alliance (AHRA).

Sue Scheinpflug said the work is timely as an understanding of the state's cancer research capabilities will position Queensland well to implement the soon to be released 10-year [Australian Cancer Plan](#) developed by Cancer Australia.

“Queensland has world class health and research systems and some of the best researchers in the world, however we are not as successful as we should be in obtaining research funds from national sources. Health Translation Queensland is actively pursuing collective action and advocating for better integration that will support Queensland to be a major contributor to breakthroughs in cancer research and treatment,” Ms Scheinpflug said.

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Relevant HTQ links

Link to Queensland Cancer Funding Analysis 2023 webpage
www.healthtranslationqld.org.au/queensland-cancer-funding-analysis-2023

Links directly to HTQ reports:

- [Queensland Cancer Research and Translation Funding Analysis Report 2023](#)
- [Queensland Cancer Research and Translation Capability Overview 2023](#)
- [Health and Medical Research Funding Analysis Report April 2022](#)

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About Health Translation Queensland

Health Translation Queensland (HTQ) helps translate research into clinical practice by bringing together many of Queensland's universities, research institutes, health and hospital services, CSIRO's Australian e-Health Research Centre and Queensland Health. HTQ provides a platform for greater integration and collaboration between clinicians, educators, researchers, academics, policy makers and health consumers. HTQ is accredited by the NHMRC as a Research Translation Centre.

Health Translation's partner organisations are Queensland Health, Children's Health Queensland, Metro North Health, Metro South Health, West Moreton Health, Gold Coast Health, Mater Health, The University of Queensland, Queensland University of Technology, Griffith University, QIMR Berghofer Medical Research Institute, Translational Research Institute, and the CSIRO Australian E-Health Research Centre.

For more information on HTQ visit www.healthtranslationqld.org.au