

Impact Report

2022–23

Document title: Health Translation Queensland Impact Report 2022-23
Document owner/author: Health Translation Queensland, healthtranslationqld.org.au
Document approver: Executive Director, Health Translation Queensland
Document version: Published January 2024
Contact for enquiries: phone: +61 7 3346 4637 email: hello@healthtranslationqld.org.au

Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge the Traditional Owners and their custodianship of the lands on which we live and work. We pay our respects to their Ancestors and their descendants, who continue cultural and spiritual connections to Country. We recognise their valuable contributions to Australian and global society.

Copyright © Health Translation Queensland, 2024

This document is maintained in electronic form and is uncontrolled in printed form. It is the responsibility of the user to verify that this copy is the latest revision.

This document contains information that may be protected by copyright. All rights reserved. No part of this work may be reproduced or used in any form or by any means—graphic, electronic, or mechanical, including photocopying, recording, taping, or information storage and retrieval systems—without the permission of Health Translation Queensland.

Health Translation Queensland is a NHMRC accredited Research Translation Centre.

Contents

Message from the Board Chair	4
Message from the Executive Director	6
About us	8
Strategic Plan 2023–25	8
HTQ Snapshot 2022–23	9
Pillar 1: Make the work of translational research easier	10
Collaborative groups	13
Pillar 2: Increase Queensland’s translational research capability	16
Education and training	20
Pillar 3: Maximise the benefit of health research translation for all Queenslanders	22
Our partners	26

OUR PARTNERS





Message from the Board Chair

The Health Translation Queensland (HTQ) partnership exists to enable greater integration and collaboration between researchers, clinicians, policy makers, health administrators and consumers. Through this collaboration, we aim to advance the rapid translation of health and medical research and knowledge into practice – ultimately improving the health and wellbeing of all Queenslanders.

HTQ is demonstrating how to nurture partnerships in the health and medical research ecosystem. There is much to do, but we are optimistic about the future and inspired by the collective commitment of the HTQ partners. This report provides insight into the progress and achievements made during 2022–2023.

An expanding partnership

On behalf of the Board of HTQ, I am pleased to report that the partnership continued to grow in the past year when we welcomed 2 new organisations – Gold Coast Health and Griffith University. Their involvement expanded our membership to 13 organisations invested in improving health outcomes through collaborative health and medical research and its expeditious translation into practice.

Gold Coast Health has a strong track record in research excellence, enabling clinicians to integrate the best evidence into routine clinical care. Griffith University is a leading research-intensive Australian university with a growing international reputation.

Our new Board members, Griffith University Professor Analise O'Donovan and Gold Coast Health Chief Executive Ron Calvert, joined us in time to reinvigorate HTQ's vision and mission and set the strategic direction for the coming years. I acknowledge and thank all the HTQ Board members for their commitment to this iterative process and its outcomes.

In January 2023, we welcomed Professor John Prins as HTQ's new Executive Director. With an accomplished career spanning clinical practice, academia and commercialisation, John brought significant experience and drive at a crucial point in HTQ's history – just as the role of HTQ shifted more toward strengthening Queensland's translational research capability and capacity.

Delivering on the strategy

HTQ's vision in our new Strategic Plan 2023–2025 is clear: improved population health outcomes through collaborative partnerships that translate scientific discovery and knowledge into practice. Our mission explains the role of HTQ as an enabler – a proactive agency enabling the translation and integration of innovative health research with education, policy, clinical care and consumer engagement.

HTQ funded research and analysis have shaped our strategy and associated plans. The HTQ Roadmap for Strengthening Health Research and Translation in Queensland, launched in October 2022, sets out 33 recommended actions to make Queensland the leading state in health and medical research.

In addition to the work done by the HTQ partners to progress the Roadmap's recommendations, the HTQ team has made significant progress. In particular, in building workforce capability and capacity through education and training and embedding consumer and community involvement as standard practice in all stages of research, especially in the development of funding applications.

"The Roadmap will help us to better integrate our health and research systems. This brings cutting edge research and innovation into our health system faster and more safely, which improves health care, encourages healthier Queenslanders and ultimately makes our health system more sustainable."

Sue Scheinpflug

Dedicated team

The contribution of the HTQ partners supports the operations of a small and talented team led by Professor Prins. HTQ is also fortunate to have the advice and support of its special advisor, Professor Frank Gannon. Collectively, this team continues to punch above its weight.

The continued success and growth of the annual National Human Research and Ethics Conference is just one example of how the team delivers collaborative and relevant development opportunities for the health and medical research workforce.

As our health and medical research ecosystem continues to evolve, so too will HTQ's role in accelerating, supporting and sustaining quality research translation. In an environment where innovation and collaboration are encouraged across all levels

of government and industry, there is plenty of opportunity ahead for HTQ to drive rich collaboration, health innovation and leadership in translational research that will ultimately improve health outcomes for all Australians.



Sue Scheinpflug
HTQ Board Chair



Message from the Executive Director

In early 2023, when I returned to Health Translation Queensland (HTQ), it was transforming from primarily a vehicle for distributing Federal Government medical research funding to an organisation that directly supports and empowers Queensland health and medical researchers to get on with translational research. This dramatic shift in approach sparked a new chapter for HTQ, one full of purpose, and reignited our commitment to collaboration.

I say 'returned' because I wrote the first application to the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) for Brisbane Diamantina Health Partners, which later became HTQ, and I was interim CEO during its early days from 2015–2016.

Back at the helm of a more mature,

sophisticated and agile network, one of my greatest 2023 highlights was the NHMRC reaccreditation of HTQ as a Research Translation Centre for another 5 years.

Reaccreditation recognises our vital role and expertise in supporting the translation of Queensland health and medical research into improved health care. I commend the HTQ Board and team on their journey to this point.

There are many other 2022–23 HTQ highlights. In addition to completing 18 late-stage translational research projects from 2019 to 2023 worth \$6.36 million, the stand-out achievements are those projects involving multi-disciplinary teams across our partnership. For example, the work that has gone into developing the Queensland node of the Health Studies

Australian National Data Asset (HeSANDA) will have far-reaching benefits for data sharing and streamlining health and medical research.

Another example of collaborative work across our partnership is the HTQ Consumer and Community Involvement (CCI) in Research Alliance – a first for Queensland and vitally important as the need to understand, implement and support quality CCI grows. The Alliance shows how, when we decide to join forces rather than compete, we can amplify our efforts and achieve positive health outcomes.

As HTQ evolves and grows, we have increasingly focused on areas where we can have maximum impact across our partnership. Taking a cue from the success of

HTQ's Human Research Ethics and Governance Advisory Group and the Research Passport and other activities designed to streamline research processes, we prioritised education and training in this space. Our 6 events and workshops attracted over 2,300 registrations in a year, highlighting the interest from Queensland's researchers in these opportunities to upskill.

We have also funded analysis, such as the Health Research Needs Assessment, that informs decisions about the allocation of resources and work program.

Throughout the year we continued to direct our efforts towards advancing the goals outlined in our Roadmap for Strengthening Health Research and Translation in Queensland, planning and delivering activities that support the recommendations.

In 2023, we launched HTQ's new Strategic Plan 2023–2025, capturing our partnership's shared vision and reinvigorated direction.

"To be accredited as a Research Translation Centre means that your organisation meets NHMRC's stringent assessment criteria, including evidence of what you have achieved beyond the accomplishments of your individual partners. In short, HTQ has demonstrated that we drive better outcomes than the sum of our parts."

Professor John Prins

My thanks to HTQ's Board members and our professional and dedicated team, whom have embraced the opportunity to use collaboration to accelerate high-quality health research translation and position Queensland as the state to do this.



Professor John Prins
HTQ Executive Director
AHRA Chair

About us

We are a partnership organisation that brings together many of Queensland's world-class universities, research institutes and health services to help translate well-evidenced research into clinical practice. Our partnership enables greater integration and collaboration between researchers, clinicians, policy makers, health administrators and health consumers. Our work revolves around addressing challenges and systemic barriers that can limit the effective translation of research into clinical practice.

In 2023, we were reaccredited as a Research Translation Centre by the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) and have taken on the role of chair of the Australian Health Research Alliance (AHRA). 2023 also saw us embark on an exciting new chapter with the launch of our new Strategic Plan 2023–2025. Structured across 3 pillars (see below), the strategic plan aims to accelerate health and medical research translation for the benefit of all Queenslanders.

Strategic Plan 2023–25

Our vision

- + Improved population health outcomes through collaborative partnerships that translate scientific discovery and knowledge into practice

Our mission

- + To enable the translation and integration of innovative health research with education, policy, clinical care and consumer engagement

Our values

- + Clinical and academic excellence
- + Collaboration and integration
- + Innovation and implementation
- + Inclusiveness and openness
- + Respect, integrity, trust and accountability



Pillar 1: Make the work of translational research easier

- + Harmonise and streamline translational research processes
- + Promote and facilitate collaboration across disciplines and institutions



Pillar 2: Increase Queensland's translational research capability

- + Enable and facilitate education and training of the clinician-researcher workforce
- + Build Queensland's health and medical research commercialisation capability
- + Identify and advocate for increased funding to support translational research

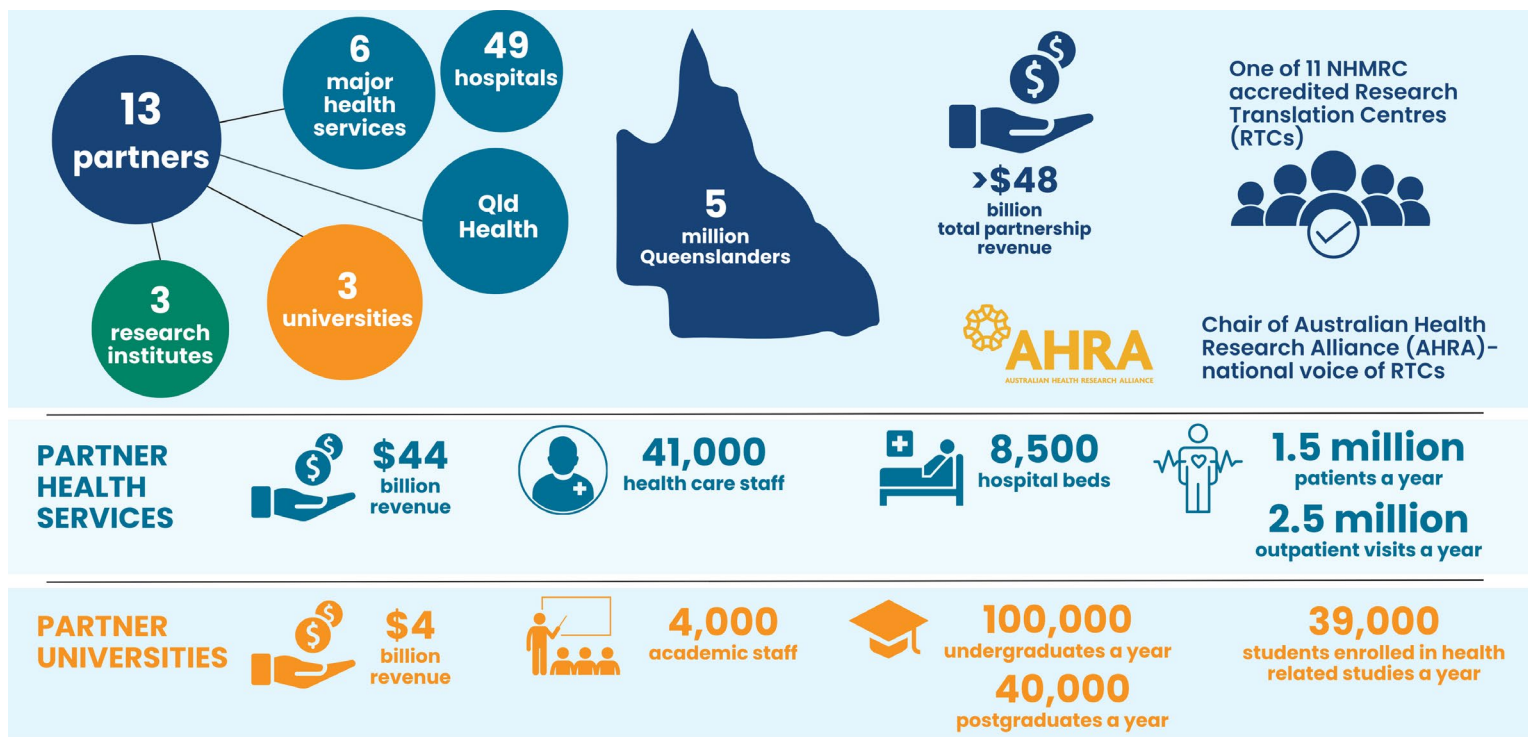


Pillar 3: Maximise the benefit of health research translation for all Queenslanders

- + Support health equity for underserved communities with a specific focus on Indigenous Australians
- + Partner with and drive translational research in primary care
- + Involve consumers and community in translational research

HTQ Snapshot 2022–23

Health Translation Queensland (HTQ) supports integration and collaboration to enable health research translation in Queensland. This is a snapshot of our work in the Financial Year 2022–23.



OUR KEY ACHIEVEMENTS – WHAT WE DID IN FY 2022–23



PILLAR 1

Make the work of translational research easier

We have made significant progress in the 2 project areas under our first strategic pillar – making the work of translational research easier:

- Harmonise and streamline translational research processes
- Promote and facilitate collaboration across disciplines and institutions.

Our greatest impact comes from identifying barriers to health research collaboration and developing ways to reduce or remove them, supporting researchers and health professionals to get on with what they do best – improving the health of Queenslanders.

Collaboration in health data science for better health outcomes

In October 2023, after 2 years of intensive collaborative work, we launched the Queensland node of the Health Studies Australian National Data Asset (HeSANDA).

The HeSANDA Queensland node is a statewide online catalogue that curates, stores and enables the sharing of health research data generated by the Queensland research community. Via the node, health researchers and data custodians can upload clinical trial data which becomes searchable in both the Queensland node and the national health research data catalogue Health Data Australia, with the latter enabling requests for data sharing to be submitted to the data owner. This approach raises the visibility of their research, increases collaboration and translation opportunities, and streamlines research efforts.

The Queensland node is one of 9 national nodes, covering over 70 health and medical research organisations, health service operators and clinical trial networks. All 9 nodes feed into the national health

research data catalogue Health Data Australia.

While Phase 1 of HeSANDA focused on clinical trials, Phase 2 from 2023–2028 will provide opportunities to consolidate capability for clinical trials and extend the approach to other health study types.

“We encourage Queensland researchers to start sharing information about their health research data via the Queensland node, making it discoverable through the node and Health Data Australia which means streamlining efforts, aligning approaches and building national data sharing capability.”

Professor John Prins, HTQ Executive Director

The HeSANDA Queensland node was designed by us in collaboration with CSIRO’s Australian e-Health Research Centre, the Queensland Cyber Infrastructure Foundation, the Australian Research Data Commons and other Queensland partners.

Streamlining research and governance processes

The HTQ team continues to administer, review and refine the HTQ Research Passport Agreement (the Agreement), streamlining research and governance processes and reducing the time and legal costs involved in collaborative projects.

The current version (3.2 December 2022) was released in January 2023 to include our new partners Griffith University and the Gold Coast Hospital and Health Service.

“Clinician researchers’ primary responsibility lies with providing patient care, not spending their time navigating complex contracts, so the more we can do to make their lives easier by improving system efficiencies and removing roadblocks and inter-organisational barriers, the better.”

Sonia Hancock, Human Research and Governance Advisory Group Chair (to October 2023)

In 2022, we conducted the first comprehensive review of user experience since the launch of the Agreement. This evaluation showed that 95% of research governance staff and 82% of researchers thought the Agreement was simple or fairly easy to use. Most research governance staff reported that, due to pre-agreed terms, it takes significantly less time to sign off the Agreement compared to other agreements. However, their feedback also showed some roadblocks remained.

During 2023, we worked on 2 main improvements:

1. **Simplification.** We clarified language and terminology in the Agreement and Schedule, researched electronic document sign-off and the case for an online version of the Agreement.
2. **Training, support and resources.** Where researchers are unfamiliar with the Agreement, providing support to them can be time-consuming for research governance staff. Hence, we delivered training on topics including Intellectual Property and new resources, such as the Agreement Exemplar.



Above Professor Andrew Morris and Dr David Hansen at the launch of the HeSANDA Queensland node

Enhancing our research support and services

In 2023, we enhanced and expanded our resources, tools and the practical support available to promote integration and collaboration and make the business of translational research easier in Queensland.

For example, our new HTQ Research Support Directory available on our website brings together key contacts from across our partnership organised by subject areas for easy access by clinicians and researchers conducting research.

In another example, as a member of the Herston Research and Development (R&D) Group, and in consultation with our Asset Working Group, we developed a taxonomy of assets across the Herston R&D Group membership and two Asset Directories available on our website, identifying equipment and infrastructure available for sharing.

A new model for research integrity

Our Research Integrity group provided input into a comprehensive framework that allows organisations to assess their state of research integrity and compare it against established benchmarks and best practices.

By describing the different stages of maturity, the Research Integrity Maturity Model encourages organisations to strive for higher standards of research integrity, promoting a culture of ongoing improvement, accountability and learning. The model also encourages standard research integrity practices across organisations, making it easier for research teams to collaborate on projects and share findings.

Mapping Queensland's health research digital ecosystem

HTQ's Health Research Digital Ecosystem Project mapped and described the health research digital ecosystem in Queensland and developed a blueprint with recommended actions for the ecosystem in the future. The project leveraged the expertise of digital teams in Queensland and the unique capabilities of the state's ecosystem, including Queensland's state-wide integrated electronic Medical Record (ieMR) system.

The project has developed a Health Research Digital Ecosystem Capability Statement and a video enabling researchers understand and better navigate the digital ecosystem to share and access relevant research materials, advancing data-driven health research opportunities and improving health care for Queenslanders.

The statement also supports future planning, enabling the strengths, needs and investment opportunities in Queensland's health and medical research to be identified, prioritised, and implemented more effectively.

"Digital technologies play a significant role in delivering robust and effective health care systems. By encouraging greater harmony and streamlining of our digital health systems, we get closer to achieving a 'learning health system' across Queensland."

Dr David Hansen, CSIRO's AEHRC CEO and project lead

The project was a partnership with Queensland Health, CSIRO's Australian e-Health Research Centre (AEHRC) and The University of Queensland's Queensland Digital Health Centre (QDHeC).

Collaborative groups

As part of making the work of translational research easier, we lead several collaborative groups, promoting and facilitating collaboration across disciplines, institutions and our state.



HUMAN RESEARCH ETHICS AND GOVERNANCE ADVISORY GROUP

The Human Research Ethics and Governance (HREG) Advisory Group was the first collaborative group we established in 2016. The group has played a pivotal role in streamlining research ethics and governance processes for Queensland researchers. Its members champion transformative change and education and include HREG representatives from each of our partners, along with specialist advisors from partner and non-partner organisations.

In the 2022–2023 financial year, the group has:

- refined the HTQ Research Passport Agreement, launching the latest version in January 2023, and a suite of tools to support its use
- developed a schedule exemplar to assist researchers in using the HTQ Research Passport Agreement
- delivered the National Human Research Ethics Committee Conference (held annually since 2020)
- curated HREG resources (available on our website)
- developed resources, such as the searchable Queensland HREC Submission Dates tool
- developed a Research Support Directory (available on our website).

The group's plans include an education series around data and further HREG training tailored to Queensland researchers' and administrators' needs.



DIGITAL ADVISORY GROUP

Established in 2020, HTQ's Digital Advisory Group brings together experts from across our partnership to advocate for and support a learning health system in Queensland. Their objective is to provide a framework for greater harmonisation and streamlining of digital health systems across our partners in the broader health environment.

The group:

- has led the development of the Health Research Digital Ecosystem – a capability statement that maps and describes Queensland's health research digital ecosystem enabling stakeholders to understand how they can navigate the digital ecosystem to access and share research data and materials.
- has led the development of the Health Studies Australian National Data Asset (HeSANDA) Queensland node (launched in October 2023)
- represents Queensland in the AHRA national network: Data driven health care improvement.

The group's plans include a social network research project to visualise and quantify Queensland's digital health research ecosystem, investment in the digital health research workforce via a HTQ Digital Scholarships program and an annual digital ecosystem networking event for clinicians and researchers.



Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Research Network

We established the Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Research Network (QATSIHRN) in 2021. The network advocates for and supports Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander leadership, self-determination, and sovereignty in health research.

In September 2022, the network led a planning day and developed recommendations for future activities. These activities align with Australian Health Research Alliance's national initiatives investing in and strengthening First Nations' research capacity and capability.

In its next phase, the network will review its membership and project plan, which includes:

- a community-identified health concern and research needs analysis
- an assessment of workforce capacity and capability
- a review of the need, interest and feasibility of a First Nations ethics committee in Queensland.



RESEARCH INTEGRITY GROUP

HTQ's Research Integrity Group, formed in 2022, brings together experts from across our partnership to share best practices and learnings in research integrity. By doing so, the group helps to enable peer-to-peer support and nurture research integrity advisors in the clinical environment. The group contributes to cross-partnership education, training, support and resources, with a focus on developing and sustaining a community of practice.

In 2022-2023, the group:

- provided input into the development of the Research Integrity Maturity Model, enabling organisations to self-evaluate their current levels of their research integrity practices and compare them against established benchmarks and best practices
- designed and delivered a Research Integrity Advisor Showcase to support clinician researchers interested in becoming research integrity advisors and encourage best practices within organisational frameworks
- created research integrity resources, including a directory of contacts.

The group plans to deliver other education showcases for Queensland researchers.

Below HTQ Mental Health Collaborative Group





Consumer and Community Involvement in Research Alliance

In 2023, we established the Consumer and Community Involvement (CCI) in Research Alliance – a collaborative group supporting best practice CCI in research.

The group brings together CCI leads from across the HTQ partnership and includes 3 consumer representatives who bring their lived experiences to the group. The group's goal is ultimately to ensure that Queensland research reflects the health needs of its residents and the priorities of local communities.

In 2023, the impact and future potential of this collaborative group were recognised when it won the Consumer Strength Champion Award at the Women in Technology Awards.

The group's work program includes 4 projects led by different group members and supported by HTQ for the benefit of all partners:

- Project 1: Developing a framework for CCI in health research
- Project 2: Sharing and coordinating CCI training and events
- Project 3: Developing a centralised register of consumers for partnering in research
- Project 4: Reporting on CCI in research.



MENTAL HEALTH COLLABORATIVE GROUP

Our newest collaborative group is the cross-institutional and multi-disciplinary Mental Health Collaborative Group, established in 2023. The inaugural meeting was held in September 2023, with representation from across our partnership and beyond. Their goal is to provide better outcomes for Queenslanders experiencing mental health challenges.

The group's first collaborative project is the HTQ-led Queensland Mental Health Collaborative Hub. While there is an abundance of consumer and primary care focused platforms in mental health, there is not a central Queensland hub for mental health training, education and research for the mental health workforce.

The group will analyse and define what Queensland mental health professionals, practitioners and researchers need most when it comes to resources, training and education and provide subject matter expertise for the content development and design of the hub. They are also considering some sub-projects that may be integrated into the hub, including a language stigma guide for mental health researchers and professionals and a group-endorsed snapshot of mental health statistics for Queenslanders.

Below Consumer and Community Involvement in Research Alliance and consumer representatives



PILLAR 2

Increase Queensland's translational research capability

HTQ's second strategic pillar – increasing Queensland's translational research capability – has 3 project areas:

- Enable and facilitate education and training of the clinician-researcher workforce
- Build Queensland's health and medical research commercialisation capacity
- Identify and advocate for increased funding to support translational research.

Identifying Queensland's strengths, challenges and opportunities

As a collaborative network spanning hospital and health services, universities and research institutes, HTQ is in a unique position to gather and analyse data from across the sector and state.

During 2022-23, we produced 3 reports to inform our work to increase Queensland's translational research capability.

1. Our Health and Medical Research Funding Analysis (April 2022) found that while 20% of the Australian population lives in Queensland and contributes 19% to the country's GDP, our state receives less than 14% of National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) funding and less than 12.9% of Medical Research Futures Fund (MRFF) funding. The NHMRC and MRFF shortfall combined equates to an estimated loss of \$65 million per annum to Queensland, or roughly 600-700 skilled workers. Further analysis into why Queensland lags behind other states, particularly Victoria, informed our future projects.
2. After quantifying Queensland's health and medical research funding shortfall, HTQ started workshoping with its partners on how to turn this around. With its partners, HTQ developed a Roadmap for Strengthening Health Research and Translation in Queensland (October 2022). The Roadmap outlines

33 recommended actions to strengthen the state's health and medical research ecosystem, build workforce capability and capacity, and optimise funding opportunities.

3. Our next project provided evidence to help identify and respond effectively to health research translation needs, emerging health priorities and funding opportunities. HTQ's Health Research Needs Assessment (May 2023) identified significant trends and issues in demographic and health data, and gaps and opportunities for collaboration statewide. Through the needs assessment, we identified 9 health research priority areas to inform our work.

"It is a reasonable expectation that health and medical research funding is comparable to a state's population size and GDP contribution, but for Queensland, this is not the case. Ultimately, the investment in health and medical research directly impacts the quality of a state's health care and its access to technology, infrastructure and clinical trials."

Professor Frank Gannon, HTQ Advisor

Supporting Queensland's clinical trials capability

To help strengthen the health and medical research ecosystem, HTQ is developing a Clinical Trials Information Hub. This online hub will collate the wealth of existing information, tools and resources available for clinical trials statewide.

"Clinical trial information can be difficult to find and navigate, particularly for triallists who are new to this space."

Sara Gottlieb
HTQ Research Governance Manager

By providing a central access point online, we aim to enhance the accessibility and dissemination of vital information, and limit the duplication of effort across organisations. Researchers will have improved knowledge and understanding of the end-to-end clinical trial process and awareness of new, current and completed clinical trials.

The Information Hub is on track to be live in 2024 and will also provide opportunities to showcase clinical trial activity in Queensland.

Supporting Queensland's mental health workforce

In 2023, HTQ's Mental Health Collaborative Group started work on their first project as the Queensland Mental Health Collaborative Hub.

Our consultation showed abundant consumer and primary care-focused platforms in mental health but not a central Queensland hub for training, education, career development and research tools for mental health professionals.

The group will define what Queensland mental health professionals, practitioners and researchers need most when it comes to mental health resources, training, education and research support. They will provide input into the design of the Queensland Mental Health Collaborative Hub, working with a digital agency to develop and deliver the new online resource in 2024.

"Group members shared valuable insights about the need for greater connection across Queensland, increased awareness about the resources available to clinician researchers and how to navigate potential career pathways in mental health."

Sarah Scott
HTQ Project Manager - Engagement

Below HTQ Roadmap launch



Case study: Sharing how to improve cardiac rehab with colleagues nationwide

Allied Health – Translating Health Research into Practice (AH-TRIP) is an initiative that aims to build the capacity of all health practitioners to embed knowledge translation within their practice in hospitals and health services.

AH-TRIP was initially a dietetic training initiative which received vital seed funding from HTQ (formerly Brisbane Diamantina Health Partners) which allowed it to expand and upscale. Since then, the initiative has grown into the statewide AH-TRIP program which is embedded within Queensland Health's 10-year Research Strategy.

In 2022, Queensland Cardiac Rehabilitation Program Advisor Samara Phillips received the HTQ sponsored Partnerships Award at the AH-TRIP Showcase for her project 'Implementing evidence-based exercise guidelines at scale following median sternotomy'. The award enabled her to share her experience translating cardiac rehabilitation research with colleagues across Australia.

Samara explains the project started when Queensland Health staff were curious to understand what education and exercise was prescribed after open heart surgery across different rehabilitation sites.

"Sternotomy is a procedure performed to create access to your heart for surgery," Samara says. "There are 4 public Queensland hospitals that do open heart surgery and 35 public cardiac rehabilitation programs across 55 sites in Queensland.

"When we surveyed the sites, we found patients were involved to varying degrees in their rehabilitation and, unfortunately, many sites weren't following the latest evidence about exercise, delaying patients' functional recovery."

Samara set up a working group to address the challenge and engaged with a leading researcher, Professor Doa El-Ansary, who connected the project team with relevant evidence. In 2022, when Samara presented at AH-TRIP, the team was planning how to standardise evidence-based practice across Queensland.

"At AH-TRIP, I shared how we used the Translating Research into Practice framework to identify the barriers and enablers to translation and co-designed with clinicians the strategies to overcome these barriers."

The team developed an education package and trained 392 staff members across Queensland hospitals and rehabilitation sites. At each site, Samara worked with a local exercise specialist to contextualise the program.

"It was exciting to share our Queensland experience co-designing a strategy for research translation, which will improve cardiac rehab outcomes across Australia and possibly further afield."

Samara Phillips, recipient of HTQ sponsored AH-TRIP Partnerships Award 2022

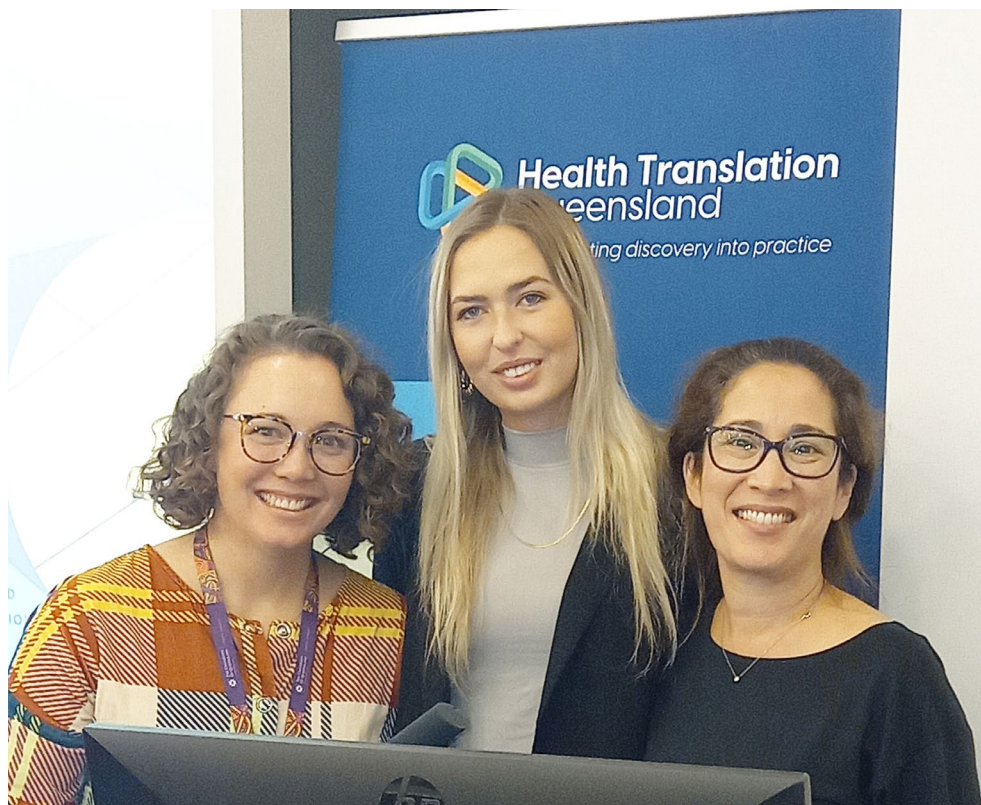
Then, using the AH-TRIP Partnerships Award funding, Samara attended the 2023 Australian Cardiovascular Health and Rehabilitation Association conference in Perth, where she shared the team's translation planning and process and connected with other allied health professionals.

"My presentation generated interest from other colleagues in New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia and Western Australia. Since then, I've helped guide their planning for how to standardise exercise after heart surgery," Samara said.





Left Professor John Prins presenting



Right Dr Adrienne Young, Anja Christoffersen and Katrina Cutler at the Consumer co-design for researchers training

Education and training

We recognise that a strong health and research workforce is key to research translation. We aim to improve the number and diversity of active clinician researchers in Queensland and upskill the research translation workforce through tailored education and training programs.

In 2022–2023, HTQ’s education and training events drew 2,300+ registrations, and covered various topics in research ethics and governance and consumer and community involvement. Much of our training program is delivered online, so researchers in rural, regional and remote locations can access it easily. This encourages participation from researchers across Australia.

HTQ is committed to supporting the clinician–researcher workforce. In addition to delivering or facilitating training on specific topics for health researchers, we established a QTRAC working group to explore the clinician–researcher career pathway and how we can further support Queensland’s clinician researchers. The group includes representatives from 8 universities, 4 research institutes, and 8 health and hospital services.

HTQ Roadmap

Following the launch of HTQ’s Roadmap for Strengthening Health Research and Translation in Queensland, we have incorporated the Roadmap recommendations into our Strategic Plan 2023–2025 and promoted the recommendations through the health and medical research community. HTQ is now developing a Roadmap Progress Report to track Queensland’s progress on the Roadmap recommendations.

Research Passport Agreement

In November 2022, 140 participants joined our webinar on the HTQ Research Passport – the Agreement that aims to streamline the research approval process across our partnership. In the webinar, we covered topics including the Agreement, who can use it and our plans to update the Agreement and expand its use.



Left HTQ team members Helen Breathnach and Sophie Munn



Right Sara Gottlieb, HTQ Research Governance Manager and HREC Conference organiser

3rd National HREC Conference

In late 2022, HTQ held its 3rd National Human Research Ethics Committee (HREC) Conference, attracting more than 1,300 registrations from across Australia.

This free online 3-day conference, themed 'Ethics in Contemporary Society – A Global Perspective', drew on ethics expertise from around Australia and included a mix of plenaries, talks and workshops culminating in a debate on the future of HRECs in Australia and raising the profile of HREC Coordinators as an essential part of the HREC process.

Research Integrity Advisor Showcase

In March 2023, we hosted the inaugural Research Integrity Advisor Showcase, with 255 people registered for the training and follow up session. Participants learnt about the benefits and responsibilities of being a research integrity advisor and how taking on this role within their organisation can support high-quality research.

"Great way to consider HREC issues in more depth. The whole conference was useful."

HREC Conference 2022 attendee

HTQ Consumer co-design for researchers

More than 500 people registered for our first 'Consumer co-design for researchers' webinar in May 2023, which was facilitated jointly by consumer and community involvement (CCI) experts Anja Christoffersen (Founder, Champion Health Agency) and Dr Adrienne Young (Senior Research Fellow, The University of Queensland).

The aim of the training was for health and medical researchers to learn how and why to engage with and involve consumers in their research.

Following this session, we ran an in-person practical workshop in June 2023 for researchers who brought along consumers to work through their co-design together.

PILLAR 3

Maximise the benefit of health research for all Queenslanders

Our third strategic pillar is about maximising the benefit of health research for all Queenslanders – the underlying objective for all our work. Our 3 project areas under this pillar are:

- Support health equity for underserved communities with a specific focus on Indigenous Australians
- Partner with and drive translational research in primary care
- Involve consumers and the community in translational research.

Promoting consumer and community involvement

Consumer and community involvement (CCI) recognises the importance of including the lived experiences, values and priorities of consumers and community members in research – from mapping the research priorities to project ideation, design, project delivery and evaluation.

As the emphasis on CCI in health research grows, so do HTQ's resources, training and support for researchers. Our microgrants program is a highly visible example, showing the impact we are having on CCI in research across Queensland.

As a part of launching our CCI program, we conducted a consumer engagement audit and needs analysis across the partnership (Findings Report 2022). The audit involved background research, one-on-one interviews and surveys with clinicians, researchers and consumers active in CCI. Through the audit we found that while many researchers in Queensland would like to engage with consumers and the community, many acknowledge they don't know how or where to start. Hence, we have focused on providing resources and building capability to support, promote and nurture best-practice CCI across the state.

Our CCI program now includes:

- an advisory service for researchers and clinician-researchers on engaging with consumers
- microgrants to help fund consumer involvement in project design and research priority-setting
- free CCI training for researchers and clinicians
- curated CCI information, resources and tools.

"Health innovation needs to be consumer-led. They are the ones living through the challenges and who want to be part of the solution."

Anja Christoffersen, Founder and Executive Director of Champion Health Agency

In 2023, HTQ established the CCI in Research Alliance (page 15) – a collaborative group that delivers CCI projects across HTQ's partnership.

Case study: A microgrant giving greater voice to First Nations people in cancer research

With funding from our Consumer and Community Involvement (CCI) microgrants program, University of Queensland (UQ) researchers engaged with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples at the 2023 Queensland Murri Carnival, gathering community insights that will shape a cancer research agenda.

Professor of Indigenous Health Research in the UQ Faculty of Medicine, and proud Kamilaroi woman Professor Gail Garvey, says building trust with community is crucial for the success of any research project.

“Involving the community in shaping the research agenda of the First Nations Cancer & Wellbeing Research (FNCWR) program at the Carnival promoted inclusivity, engagement, and relevance in the research process and will improve the quality of our research.”

Project lead Dr Habtamu Bizuayehu says HTQ’s microgrant supported the team’s efforts to listen to the community during research priority-setting.

“At the Murri Carnival, we heard directly from the community about which health areas are important to them and where they want us to focus our research. Their voice will shape our research priorities, future grant opportunities and the translation of research targeted to effectively address community priorities.

“Community members completed a priority-setting survey, identifying areas of most interest to them. They also had the opportunity to let us know about topics that were not on our list.

“Being present at the event also raised awareness of our work. Many people were curious to learn more about our priorities, and several community members volunteered to participate in future research.

“We are grateful to HTQ for helping to make our CCI initiative possible, responding quickly and positively to our microgrant application.”

From the survey data recorded at the Murri Carnival, the research team found that a high proportion of First Nations people are interested in:

- reducing their chances of getting cancer
- receiving culturally appropriate cancer information
- gaining support to make healthy choices.

“A community-driven research agenda is more likely to lead to sustainable outcomes because the community has a vested interest in the research process and its results.”

Professor Gail Garvey, Indigenous Health Research, UQ Faculty of Medicine

Dr Bizuayehu says these insights will guide FNCWR’s research design and models of care for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, ensuring it is responsive to needs and preferences and appropriate to culture.



Above Professor Gail Garvey

Queensland translational research

From 2019 to 2023, HTQ distributed \$6.36 million in Medical Research Future Fund (MRFF) funding to 18 late-stage translational research projects through the MRFF Rapid Applied Research Translation (RART) Program 2.1 and 2.2 and the National System Level Initiatives.

Six Queensland projects received RART 2.2 funding and were completed by June 2023. These projects were:

- 1. Personalised antibiotics dosing to treat severe infections.** The University of Queensland researchers teamed up with several Queensland hospitals to investigate a new diagnostic path for critically ill children and adults with sepsis. Lead investigator Professor Jason Roberts (UQ) says the DIRECT project trialled the use of whole genome sequencing to speed up the diagnosis of sepsis and antibiotic dosing software to determine correct doses and optimal treatment times.
- 2. Leveraging Queensland's iMR for research.** Queensland is home to Australia's largest integrated electronic Medical Record (iMR), but extracting data to deliver optimal patient care can be challenging and time-consuming. Lead investigator Associate Professor Claire Sullivan (UQ) says this project aimed to leverage the iMR to deliver a single, accurate, holistic and generalisable phenobank of patient-centred clinical information, easily interrogated for improved care and to accelerate research.
- 3. Optimising cancer treatment and advocacy.** The Centre for Personalised Analysis of Cancers brings together research and clinical groups across 11 cancer types. Lead investigator Professor Erik Thompson (QUT) says this inter-disciplinary collaboration generated and shared knowledge to guide targeted therapies for personalised cancer management. The approaches ranged from advanced patient-derived 3D tumour models for screening and therapies to a Cancer Research Advocates Group.
- 4. Improving clinician communication with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander patients with chronic pain** (page 25). In this project, lead investigator Greg Pratt (QIMR Berghofer) says the team adapted and delivered clinical yarning communication training across 3 hospital and health services, with clinicians gaining skills and confidence in communicating with First Nations patients experiencing chronic pain. In addition to improved patient care, the project led to further funding to replicate the training model for mental health professionals.
- 5. Exercise for people with multiple myeloma.** The MyeEx Study was a randomised controlled trial that evaluated a novel, evidence-based exercise program designed to improve the quality of life and physical function of people with multiple myeloma. Lead investigator Associate Professor Michelle Hill (QIMR Berghofer) says the results confirmed that the individually supervised exercise program was safe, acceptable, and generally feasible and improved the quality of life of people with multiple myeloma.
- 6. Online intervention program for perinatal loss.** This project aimed to improve bereavement care for parents who lose a child to stillbirth or neonatal death. Lead investigator Professor Vicki Flenady (UQ) says the research team drew on expertise from universities, research institutes and hospital and health services to develop and implement a new evidence-based online grief support program, along with other activities and resources to assist parents and practitioners.

Case study: Having a yarn drives better health outcomes

Researchers from the QIMR Berghofer Medical Research Institute evaluated clinical yarning – the ancient art of storytelling – as a tool to improve communication between health practitioners and First Nations patients experiencing chronic pain.

Project lead Greg Pratt says ineffective communication is an issue in pain management, especially when there are cultural differences between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander patients and health professionals, such as doctors, nurses, and allied health professionals.

“Health practitioners from Brisbane and Townsville participated in our clinical yarning training program, learning culturally cognisant and sensitive communication skills,” Mr Pratt says.

“Yarning is a conversation where the participants share their stories and knowledge. It’s an important social element of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture and has been around for thousands of years.”

Gregory Pratt, Project Lead

“Clinical yarning is a patient-centred approach. The training teaches clinicians how to communicate respectfully and positively with First Nations patients and build a trusting relationship with them.

“We believe clinical yarning is a worthwhile health intervention. Through yarning, clinicians can find common ground with their patients, learn more about their medical history and current condition, and explain treatment and care.”

The team delivered a co-designed clinical yarning training package to 57 clinicians across 3 hospital sites: Princess Alexandra Hospital, Royal Brisbane and Women’s Hospital and Townsville Hospital.

The package was built on the Clinical Yarning Education Program, developed by Dr Ivan Lin, and the Queensland Health Cultural Capability training.

Participants were surveyed before and after the workshop on their perceived importance of communication training, knowledge, confidence, and ability to communicate effectively with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander patients experiencing chronic pain.

Mr Pratt says the survey showed significant improvements in the perceived importance of communication training, knowledge, ability and confidence to effectively communicate with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander patients.

“The greatest impact was in the perceived confidence of clinicians pre-training compared to post-training, and that’s a positive sign for an improved experience for patients and health professionals.”

The project’s positive outcomes have led to a successful two-year Medical Research Future Fund (MRFF) grant to replicate the training model for mental health professionals. The project is now also the focus of a subject in QUT’s Communication for Health Professionals unit.

Australian Government funding, through the MRFF, supported this project.

Our partners



Queensland
Government

Queensland Health manages the Queensland public health system. It provides leadership and direction and works collaboratively to enable the health system to deliver high-quality, safe and responsive services. The Department of Health collaborates with 16 hospital and health services (HHS) to deliver localised public services. The department promotes resource efficiency, develops statewide plans for health services, workforce and major capital investment. It also delivers specialised health services, providing ambulance, health information and communication technology and support services to HHSs.

Children's Health Queensland

Children's Health Queensland (CHQ) is a specialist hospital and health service for children and young people across Queensland and northern New South Wales. Committed to collaborating with health care partners, most importantly families, CHQ ensures the health service consistently delivers safe, high-quality patient and person-centred care. A leader in paediatric health care, education and research, CHQ delivers comprehensive clinical services, tertiary and quaternary care, and health promotion through various programs and partnerships.



A Catholic not-for-profit ministry of Mercy Partners, **Mater** comprises several hospitals, health centres and related businesses, a nationally accredited health education provider, and a world-class medical research institute—Mater Research. An internationally recognised leader in medical research, Mater Research translates medical research into clinical practice to deliver better outcomes for our patients and the wider community. Established in 1998 with a primary focus on cancer research, the world-class institute has since expanded to include research within fields including immunology, mental health, maternity studies, diabetes and obesity.

Metro North Health

Metro North Health is the largest of the hospital and health services in Queensland and fulfils a significant research and teaching role. Metro North Health serves approximately 1 million people, or 20% of Queensland's population. Two of its 6 hospitals are tertiary facilities that provide statewide super-specialty services.

Metro South Health

Metro South Health is the major provider of public health services, health education and research in the Brisbane southside, Logan, Redlands and Scenic Rim regions. Metro South Health serves a population of 1.2 million people, or 23% of Queensland's population. It is made up of 5 hospitals in addition to several health centres throughout the region.

West Moreton Health

West Moreton Health provides preventative and primary health care services, ambulatory services, acute care, sub-acute care, and oral health, mental health and other specialised services to around 325,000 people across the Somerset, Scenic Rim, Lockyer Valley and Ipswich communities. The diverse population includes 19.6% born outside Australia, 12.1% speaking a language other than English and 5.2% identifying as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Australians.



Gold Coast Health's vision is to have the best health outcomes in Australia, based on being a leader in sustainable, compassionate and highly reliable health care. Gold Coast Health delivers a broad range of secondary and tertiary health services across more than 20 facilities, including 3 hospitals and 2 health precincts. They have established a strong culture of research through their collaboration with universities and external partners, including HTQ, which benefits patients and saves lives.



The University of Queensland (UQ) ranks among the world's top universities and, with a strong focus on teaching excellence, has won more national teaching awards than any other Australian university. UQ's 6 faculties, 8 globally recognised research institutes and more than 100 research centres attract an interdisciplinary community of 2,500 scientists, social scientists and engineers, who champion research excellence and continue UQ's tradition of research leadership. This is reflected in UQ being the number one recipient of Australian Research Council Fellowships and Awards nationally across all scheme years (452 awards worth \$339 million).



Translational Research Institute (TRI) is a leading Australian medical research, development and translation facility. It is uniquely co-located with a biopharmaceutical manufacturer on a major teaching hospital's grounds. This unique combination makes it faster and easier to clinically test research discoveries and translate these into better patient care. More than 800 researchers and clinicians from partner institutes are working together to take scientific innovations through to new screening methods, diagnostic tools and treatments for patients worldwide. TRI is at the interface of science, medicine and industry.



Since 1975, **Griffith University** has prioritised addressing vital social and environmental issues through teaching and research. Consistently ranking in the top 2% of universities globally, our degrees are designed with industry in mind, the future in our sights, and social impact at heart. With more than 55,000 students, our community spans 5 campuses across South East Queensland plus our digital campus, complemented by a global alumni network of over 200,000 graduates.



QIMR Berghofer
Medical Research Institute

QIMR Berghofer Medical Research Institute is a world-leading medical research institute, transforming great ideas into life-saving health and wellbeing outcomes with local, national and international impact. The Institute's collaborative research programs – Infection and Inflammation, Mental Health and Neuroscience, Cancer, and Population Health – span the foremost health challenges of our time. Its exceptional researchers proudly drive advances in the understanding, prevention, diagnosis and treatment of some of the world's most deadly and debilitating diseases.



Queensland University of Technology (QUT) is a leading university with an applied emphasis on career-orientated courses and collaborative research. Known as the university for the real world, QUT's Faculty of Health addresses real-world local and global health issues through innovative research and teaching. High-achieving graduates, advanced research and strong industry engagement put QUT at the forefront of building a better future for our communities and health care systems. Research of the Faculty of Health is focused on new technologies, techniques, devices, behaviours, and interventions. This work draws on a range of disciplines from across the spectrum of health, biomedical science, and biomedical engineering research.



Australian e-Health
Research Centre

CSIRO's **Australian e-Health Research Centre** (AEHRC) is the largest digital health research program in Australia with over 150 scientists and engineers and a further 50 higher degree research students. Established in 2003, we're recognised globally as leaders in digital health research, tool and platform development and implementation.



Health Translation Queensland

K Floor, Mental Health Centre
Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital, Herston 4029

Translational Research Institute
37 Kent Street, Woolloongabba 4102

E: hello@healthtranslationqld.org.au
healthtranslationqld.org.au