



**Health Translation  
Queensland**

*Accelerating discovery into practice*

# Impact Report 2024





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### **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.

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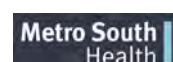


**NHMRC ACCREDITED  
RESEARCH TRANSLATION  
CENTRE**

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## OUR PARTNERS IN 2024



# Message from the Board Chair



My highlight over this period has been the Board members' commitment to working collectively on initiatives designed to bring value to Queensland's entire health and medical research ecosystem.

On behalf of the Board of Health Translation Queensland (HTQ), welcome to our 2024 Impact Report, which sets out HTQ's progress and achievements over the past 18 months. From next year, we'll base the Impact Report on the calendar year.

My highlight over this period has been the Board members' commitment to working collectively on initiatives designed to bring value to Queensland's entire health and medical research ecosystem. This action requires a willingness to set aside an individual organisation's agenda and devote time and effort to the greater good.

## Our new strategy

In 2024, this goodwill was evident as we spent time with the HTQ team, reviewing the Board's governance role and establishing the plan for HTQ's new strategic direction. The new strategy for 2025 to 2028 is due

in early 2025. It will reflect the input of many stakeholders, including those working within HTQ partner organisations. In the new strategy, we expect some of HTQ's functions, such as data analysis, education and advocacy, to remain core to its role. We also anticipate new priorities as HTQ responds to the changing health landscape and changes in health and medical research priorities.

## Leadership and vision

With leaders from each of HTQ's partners as members of the Board, our collaborative role is to set HTQ's strategic direction and create a culture, capacity and vision that transcends organisational boundaries. This collaboration is essential to expediting the effective translation of health and medical research into practice.

The HTQ partnership includes medical and research institutes

and centres, universities and health services. This membership represents the frontline of health and medical research and delivery of health services, as every partner is directly engaged in translational research.

## Strengthening health research and translation

In February 2024, HTQ reported on the [progress](#) of activities and initiatives outlined in the [Roadmap for Strengthening Health Research and Translation in Queensland](#) (the Roadmap), which was launched by HTQ in 2022.

The priorities and actions set out in the Roadmap call on decision-makers, leaders, and the broader health and medical research sector to work together to build an innovative, sustainable, and globally competitive health and medical research sector across Queensland.

Importantly, many Roadmap initiatives remain relevant. HTQ will continue to focus on delivering these recommended actions. For example, under Priority 1 – Strengthen the ecosystem, HTQ partners are strengthening Queensland’s clinical trials through several initiatives, including Queensland Health leading the Australian Teletrials Program. This program aims to improve access to clinical trials for rural, regional and remote Australians.

### **Expertise, insight and commitment**

As you will see in the 2024 Impact Report, HTQ’s role and impact continue to strengthen year on year. Collectively, the partners are committed to realising the benefits of translating research

into practice. On behalf of the HTQ Board, I acknowledge and thank the talented HTQ team, led by Professor John Prins, for their continued focus on realising the opportunities and benefits of the HTQ partnership.

In late 2024, we thanked the Board, particularly the Board members who had concluded their service due to changes in their roles. Their involvement and leadership have been essential to HTQ’s evolution over recent years, enabling us to tackle the challenges that can often, otherwise limit research translation effectiveness. We appreciate their dedication, unique expertise, and insights.

We also recognised and thanked Professor Frank Gannon, who has served as Special Advisor to the HTQ Board and had a lasting impact on

HTQ’s work. Professor Gannon was pivotal in guiding HTQ’s strategic direction and helping to shape initiatives like the Roadmap and the [Queensland Cancer Funding Analysis](#).

As we move into 2025, we look forward to welcoming our new Board representatives, launching HTQ’s new strategic direction and continuing to deliver on the shared priorities across Queensland’s health and medical research sectors.

### **Sue Scheinpflug HTQ Board Chair**

**Below** Health Translation Queensland Board meeting



# Message from the Executive Director



Our focus has been delivering priority areas that enhance the research translation environment and build workforce capacity.

Over the past 18 months, Health Translation Queensland (HTQ) cemented its role and reputation as an organisation that empowers health and medical researchers to conduct translational research.

Our focus has been delivering priority areas that enhance the research translation environment and build workforce capacity. These areas include education and training, digital health, research ethics and governance, community and consumer involvement (CCI), mental health and clinical trials.

We have seen the demand for HTQ services soar. During 2024, we delivered 15 education and training events, reaching more than 9,000 people—a 50% increase of our 2023 reach.

In research ethics and governance, the National Human Research Ethics Committee (HREC) Conference attracted more than 2,500 registrations and is an

established part of the calendar for research ethics professionals.

Much of HTQ's work happens quietly in the background. Our [Research Passport Agreement](#) has become business as usual. We retired the HTQ third-party agreement in 2022 due to the introduction of a national agreement. But we brought it back in June 2024, propelled by local demand.

HTQ's impact on embedding quality CCI in health and medical research in Queensland was also a quiet achievement. In 2024, we awarded 42 CCI microgrants worth \$42,000. This program provides more than financial support; it gives researchers and consumers the confidence to collaborate on health research projects.

## **Collaboration wins for Queensland**

Of all HTQ's 2024 achievements, my highlight was the launch of the [Clinical Trials Hub](#) and the [Mental](#)

[Health Workforce Hub](#). Led by HTQ, these projects demonstrate the power of statewide collaboration in achieving a common goal – improved health outcomes for all Queenslanders. HTQ's role was not as a content expert but as the convener and coordinator of collaborative input that led to 2 quality products.

The [Mental Health Collaborative Group](#), a group of representatives with diverse mental health expertise and professional backgrounds from HTQ's 13 partners and other organisations, provided knowledge and input into the development and design of this online hub.

The Clinical Trials Hub was designed and developed with Queensland's leading clinical trial experts as a resource to streamline the clinical trials process. Both projects have made a significant impact and will continue to evolve with the workforce's changing needs.

## National advocacy

In 2023, HTQ took on the leadership of the [Australian Health Research Alliance \(AHRA\)](#). As Chair and with Katrina Cutler as Operations Group Chair, AHRA has expanded its advocacy efforts and role as an objective sounding board on health matters for government agencies.

We established the Rural, Regional and Remote (RRR) Sub Committee, giving greater voice to the needs of health researchers and professionals in these communities. The RRR Sub Committee has already been consulted about health matters for regional communities and has positively influenced how grant applications from regional stakeholders are assessed.

In 2024, AHRA launched its inaugural strategy and its latest [Impact Report](#), both of which help explain this national networks' remit and value.

AHRA has built stronger relationships with the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC), the Medical Research Future Fund (MRFF), the Australian Clinical Trials Alliance (ACTA), and the Australian Academy of Health and Medical Sciences (AAHMS). We became a crucial stakeholder in developing the National Health and Medical Research Strategy and successfully negotiated NHMRC funding for Research Translation Centres from mid-2025.

## Dedication, tenacity and determination

I thank HTQ's Board for their dedicated service and commitment to collaboration. I also thank our team for their tenacity and determination to accelerate high-quality health research. Much of what we do is hard to measure, and their diligence can go unnoticed until significant projects, like the Hubs, hit the limelight.

2025 will be an exciting year for HTQ as we welcome new Board members, embrace a new strategic direction and continue responding to the ever-evolving health and medical research environment. We remain confident that HTQ's services and resources positively impact health care in Queensland and across Australia.

**Professor John Prins**  
**HTQ Executive Director**  
**AHRA Chair**

**Below** Health Translation Queensland team at the launch of the Clinical Trials Hub



# 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.



## 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 2024

Health Translation Queensland's vision is improved population health outcomes through collaborative partnerships that translate scientific discovery and knowledge into practice. This is a snapshot of our work and key achievements in 2024.



## PILLAR 1

# Make the work of translational research easier

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

HTQ has made significant strides in helping to enhance the resources, processes and services that health professionals and researchers have identified as key to advancing translational research in Queensland.

In collaboration with key stakeholders, HTQ has tackled the challenges faced by many in the health and medical research translation ecosystem, driving positive outcomes for research projects and ultimately contributing to improved health care in Queensland and across Australia.

### **Harmonising and streamlining research**

[HTQ's Research Passport Agreement](#) (Research Passport) remains highly valued by our partners, with over 40 monthly downloads. Researchers and administrators consistently provide feedback on how useful the Research Passport is. They are also actively engaged in suggesting how to improve it, which resulted in HTQ:

- bringing back the third-party agreement in June 2024
- launching a new Passport exemplar in October 2023
- updating key resources.

### **Protecting First Nations IP and data**

As part of our ongoing commitment to ensuring First Nations perspectives are appropriately integrated into research ethics and governance practices, and research design, HTQ is developing the next-generation HTQ Research Passport through a First Nations lens.

In 2024, HTQ established a working group with legal representatives from across the HTQ partnership to conduct an internal legal review of the Research Passport with a focus on Indigenous Data Sovereignty (IDSov) and Indigenous Cultural and Intellectual Property (ICIP).

We also began an external legal review focused on IDSov and ICIP, in consultation with First Nations experts, and with input from our HTQ legal working group.

This project will include developing resources for understanding and implementing template clauses related to intellectual property (IP), ICIP, and IDSov in agreements. We are also developing workshops, co-designed with First Nations experts, that will deliver practical strategies on best practice engagement with First Nations peoples and their ICIP, and ensure First Nations perspectives are appropriately integrated into research ethics and governance practices and research design.

### **Strengthening Human Research Ethics Committees (HREC) expertise**

Following feedback from HTQ's [Human Research Ethics and Governance \(HREG\) Collaborative Group](#), HTQ established a working group, chaired by Sara Hubbard from Torres and Cape Hospital and Health Service, to strengthen expertise and capacity in HRECs across Queensland, particularly in areas facing unique resource challenges.

HTQ held a statewide engagement session to identify and workshop these challenges. With 45 stakeholders at the session, 21 of the 30 HRECs or 70% were represented. Follow-up surveys were utilised to better understand the complex landscape. The next phase will involve analysis of survey feedback, with recommendations for consideration by the stakeholder group.

To support researchers nationally in making timely HREC applications, the HTQ team also launched a searchable [online tool](#) with all submission deadlines and meeting dates from across Australia.

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“ This collaborative initiative marks an important step towards creating a more cohesive and robust HREC network that can meet the growing needs of health research across Queensland. ”

**Sara Hubbard, HREG Collaborative Group Chair from the Torres and Cape Hospital and Health Service**

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### Promoting and facilitating collaboration and data sharing

In true collaborative fashion, the [Queensland node](#) of the Health Studies Australian National Data Asset (HeSANDA) program received a significant boost to progress to phase 2 which involves developing the node's infrastructure and increasing user engagement. The Queensland node, a collaboration between HTQ, CSIRO's Australian e-Health Research Centre and the Queensland Cyber Infrastructure Foundation (QCIF), helps to build state and national infrastructure for improved data access and sharing.

In other areas, HTQ's 5 Collaborative Groups bring together many of Queensland's universities, research institutes and health services to help translate well-evidenced research into clinical practice.

### Expanding AHRA's advocacy in health and medical research translation

From 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2025, HTQ is the national lead for the Australian Health Research Alliance (AHRA).

AHRA is the peak body for 12 Research Translation Centres (RTCs) accredited by the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) and 2 NHMRC-recognised Emerging Centres. AHRA brings together health services, research institutions, community organisations and academia across Australia.

Under HTQ's leadership, AHRA's achievements include:

- developed AHRA's first strategic plan
- delivered AHRA's latest Impact Report
- established the Rural, Regional, and Remote Sub Committee, which has provided advice and guidance to the NHMRC and Medical Research Futures Fund (MRFF)
- developed positive working relationships with the Australian Academy for Health and Medical Sciences (AAHMS), the Australian Clinical Trials Alliance (ACTA), NHMRC and MRFF
- established a project to identify national measures of success for RTCs successfully negotiating funding for RTCs from mid-2025.

In addition, AHRA successfully delivered a [national consultation project](#) for the NHMRC to engage on its statement on consumer and community involvement in health and medical research (consumer statement). HTQ hosted 2 of 22 consultation workshops held by RTCs nationwide, gathering feedback for the NHMRC to use in the statement's review.

**Below** Members of HTQ's Human Research Ethics and Governance Collaborative Group





5

Collaborative  
Groups



126

members

from across the HTQ  
partnership & beyond



23 meetings

to facilitate

collaboration and  
knowledge-sharing



20

projects

to make the work of  
translational research  
*easier*

# Collaborative Groups

To help make the work of translational research easier HTQ has established a number of Collaborative Groups that focus on identified system priorities and needs. Driving HTQ activity, these groups collaboratively develop solutions, streamline translational research processes as well as promote and facilitate collaboration across disciplines and institutions.



## HUMAN RESEARCH ETHICS AND GOVERNANCE COLLABORATIVE GROUP

Established in 2016, the [HREG Collaborative Group](#) brings together research ethics and governance representatives from HTQ's partner organisations, along with specialist advisors. The group works collaboratively to promote best practices and streamline research ethics and governance processes.

### July 2023 – December 2024 achievements:

- Delivered 2 [National HREC Conferences](#), which attracted a record of more than 2,500 registrations in its 5th year in 2024.
- Created a [searchable database](#) for HREC submission dates and meetings.
- Established a HTQ Research Passport Agreement legal working group to consider contemporary requirements and obligations.
- Began an external legal review of the [Research Passport Agreement](#) to ensure the inclusion of intellectual property (IP), as well as Indigenous Cultural and Intellectual Property (ICIP) and Indigenous Data Sovereignty (IDSov).
- Launched exemplars to support researchers completing the Research Passport Agreement Schedule.
- Delivered education and training covering data governance, data management and planning, and IDSov.
- Provided extensive subject matter expertise, ideas and feedback on the design and content development of [HTQ's Clinical Trials Hub](#), which launched in September 2024 and delivers a comprehensive and accessible online resource that aims to actively support researchers and clinical trial teams throughout the clinical trials process.
- Initiated projects to consider a HREC Council of Experts database and the sharing of HREC members, including statewide engagement with 70% of HRECs in Queensland on the challenges they face.
- Initiated a project to develop resources for understanding and implementing template clauses related to IP, ICIP and IDSov in agreements.



## DIGITAL COLLABORATIVE GROUP

Established in 2020, the [Digital Collaborative Group](#) brings together experts across the HTQ partnership to advocate for a learning health system across Queensland. Their objective is to provide a framework for greater harmonisation and streamlining of digital health systems across HTQ partners and the broader health environment.

### July 2023 – December 2024 achievements:

- Launched the [Health Research Digital Ecosystem Capability Statement and Blueprint](#), mapping the health research digital ecosystem in Queensland.
- Launched the Health Studies Australian National Data Asset (HeSANDA) [Queensland node](#) in October 2023 and continued advocating for inclusion of clinical trials metadata in the node.
- Co-led (with CSIRO's Australian e-Health Research Centre and the Queensland Cyber Infrastructure Foundation) an application for the HeSANDA Queensland node's next phase, successfully securing a \$200,000 funding boost to improve the HeSANDA Queensland node's functionality and increase the number of clinical trials registered.  
[🔗 More in Special Feature 1, page 15.](#)
- Commenced planning to host a Digital Health Networking Breakfast for clinicians and researchers in 2025.



## RESEARCH INTEGRITY COLLABORATIVE GROUP

Established in May 2022, the [Research Integrity Collaborative Group](#) brings together experts from across the HTQ partnership to share best practice and learnings in research integrity. The group contributes to cross-partnership education, training, support and resources, with a focus on developing and sustaining a community of practice.

### July 2023 – December 2024 achievements:

- Delivered 2 Research Integrity Showcases:
  - Research Integrity in the Real World in July 2023 demonstrated how to enliven policies and procedures within organisational frameworks and how to ensure best practice is enacted.
  - Dissection of a Protocol and Authorship Considerations in June 2024 highlighted critical intersections of ethics and research integrity in protocols and authorship decisions.
- Hosted the Research Integrity Symposium, bringing together more than 250 research integrity groups and advisors from research institutions across Australia to engage with national and international research integrity leaders.

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“ A snapshot of Queensland’s health research digital ecosystem 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 – and to attract more of the best and brightest to our state. ”

**Professor John Prins, HTQ Executive Director**

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## CONSUMER AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT (CCI) IN RESEARCH ALLIANCE

HTQ established the [CCI in Research Alliance](#) in March 2023 to support quality CCI in health research, reduce duplication of efforts within partner organisations, and build CCI relationships across Queensland. The group brings together CCI leads from across the HTQ partnership and consumer representatives with lived experience in health research.

### July 2023 – December 2024 achievements:

- Completed the initial consultation phase for a project to co-design a framework for CCI in health research, aiming to create a minimum standard for health services and research organisations in Queensland.
- Planned the next phase of wider stakeholder consultation on the draft for early 2025, with the final framework's launch expected during 2025.



## MENTAL HEALTH COLLABORATIVE GROUP

HTQ established the cross-institutional and multi-disciplinary [Mental Health Collaborative Group](#) in 2023 to support greater collaboration across the mental health sector. The group held its inaugural meeting in September 2023, and meets as needed to provide expert advice on HTQ projects related to mental health.

### July 2023 – December 2024 achievements:

- Provided extensive subject matter expertise, ideas and feedback on the design and content development of [HTQ's Mental Health Workforce Hub](#), which launched in October 2024 and delivers new resources to Queensland's mental health professionals and researchers.

**Below** Mental Health Collaborative Group members and other representatives gather to design the new Mental Health Workforce Hub



# HeSANDA Queensland node will boost health data sharing with \$200,000 grant

In May 2024, the Queensland node of the Health Studies Australian National Data Asset (HeSANDA) program received a significant boost, securing \$200,000 in funding to progress the second phase of the HeSANDA Clinical Trials partnership.

The funding was provided by the Australian Research Data Commons (ARDC) through the People Research Data Commons. The ARDC is enabled by the National Collaborative Research Infrastructure Strategy (NCRIS).

HTQ, in collaboration with CSIRO's Australian e-Health Research Centre and the Queensland Cyber Infrastructure Foundation (QCIF), has driven the Queensland HeSANDA project from the initial application to the node's launch, administration and continuous improvement.

CSIRO's Australian e-Health Research Centre CEO and Research Director, Dr David Hanson, has led the Queensland node project. He explains how this grant for HeSANDA's second phase will further develop the node's infrastructure and use.

"HeSANDA is an ambitious national initiative aimed at creating infrastructure that facilitates the sharing and

accessing of health study data, including clinical trials, cohort studies and other research data," David says.

"This infrastructure is pivotal for fostering collaboration among researchers, enhancing the reproducibility of research findings, and ultimately accelerating research translation."

“ The HeSANDA program represents well overdue foundational infrastructure that will lead to real-world positive impact to our national health and wellbeing. It is a privilege for QCIF to contribute to the program and we welcome the ongoing opportunity to partner with HTQ, AeHRC and ARDC. ”

**Adjunct Professor Sach Jayasinghe, CEO of QCIF**

The second phase of the HeSANDA program aims to improve the quality, scalability and sustainability of the node's infrastructure and to increase the uptake by Queensland's clinical trialists.

**Below** Dr David Hanson presents at the launch of the HeSANDA Queensland node



## 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 capacity
- Identify and advocate for increased funding to support translational research



HTQ's focus under this pillar is on delivering training, education, resources and advocacy that address gaps in workforce capability and strengthen our state's appeal as an innovative health and medical research environment.

In addition to upskilling Queensland's workforce, HTQ's education and training opportunities foster collaboration by bringing together people and strengthening HTQ's role in supporting translational research and advocating for increased funding.

### Upskilling Queenslanders

HTQ delivers a growing education and training program, covering a breadth of topics that Queensland clinicians, researchers and consumers have expressed to HTQ need addressing. In 2024, we delivered 15 education and training sessions on research ethics and

governance, research integrity, Indigenous research, data, clinical trials, and consumer and community involvement. These HTQ sessions attracted more than 7,000 registrations.

The National HREC Conference, in its fifth year in 2024, received more than 2,500 registrations, a significant increase from previous years. For 57% of participants, this was their first time attending this free online conference.

In 2024, we also saw significant registrations for our Introduction to Consumer and Community Involvement in Health Research, Indigenous Data Sovereignty in Health Research sessions and the Research Integrity Showcase, with each event recording between 800–900 registrations.

[!\[\]\(d8ab143e904bfa3467271eec5af75a9b\_img.jpg\) More in Special Feature 4, page 22](#)



First Nations participation in HTQ's program remains high. For example, First Nations people represented a record 16% of registrations at HTQ's Indigenous Data Sovereignty session in April 2024.

Responding to the growing preference for digital education, HTQ created over 50 new online resources based on our education and training sessions, which have been viewed more than 10,000 times. We also launched a new [online calendar](#) on our website promoting national events and training opportunities.

Two significant collaborative projects under this pillar are the [Clinical Trials Hub](#) and the [Mental Health Workforce Hub](#), launched in September and October 2024 respectively. These practical online resources will continue to support Queensland's workforce capability, support scientific discovery and medical advancement, and improve patient outcomes, evolving with the sector's changing needs.

[More in Special Features 2-3, pages 20-21.](#)

### Education partnerships

Our partnerships have expanded to include a placement program with The University of Queensland's (UQ) School of Public Health. In 2024, 3 UQ students joined the HTQ team, gaining insight into the health and medical research sector and helping to accelerate several projects that will support the ongoing improvement of HTQ's services.

[More in Special Feature 5, page 23.](#)

### Strengthening health and medical research

As a partnership organisation spanning hospital and health services, universities and research institutes, HTQ is well placed to gather input and data from across the sector and state. In 2023-24, we tapped into our vast collaborative network to develop the following initiatives:

- The [Queensland Cancer Research and Translation Funding Analysis Report](#) comprehensively analyses federal research funding awarded to Queensland cancer research bodies. The report identifies Queensland cancer research strengths, challenges and collaboration opportunities.
- The first [progress report](#) on the [Roadmap for Strengthening Health and Medical Research for Queensland](#), developed in consultation with the HTQ Board, tracks the health and medical research sector's actions against the Roadmap's recommendations to February 2024.

### Promoting the Queensland research sector

HTQ continued to expand its advocacy and engagement with our partners, government agencies, industry, associations and beyond. We presented at events and held exhibits or other formal engagements at, for example:

- Health Symposiums
- the NHMRC Speaking of Science panel session
- the inaugural Queensland Research Excellence Showcase
- the Queensland Clinical Trials Consortium
- the ACTA 2024 Clinical Trials and Registries Symposium
- the 13th Health Services Research Conference.

### Targeted sponsorship for maximum impact

To help share the knowledge and achievements of Queensland's translational research sector, HTQ sponsored several events or awards during 2023-2024, including:

- the National Australian Academy of Health and Medical Sciences (AAHMS) 2023 meeting in Brisbane
- the Allied Health – Translating Research into Practice (AH-TRIP) awards 2023 and 2024
- the Research Translation Excellence award at Queensland Health's inaugural Queensland Research Excellence Showcase 2024
- consumer participation in the Health Services Research Conference Australia and New Zealand 2024 conference.

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“ The AH-TRIP Partnerships Award 2023 prize helped us to purchase National Rural Health Alliance toolkits, which we provide to students on placement to help them transition to rural life and practice. ”

**Rohan Ballon, Rural Interprofessional Clinical Educator and 2023 award winner**

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# Education and training 2024

**17 April 2024:**  
Engagement workshop: National Consumer and Community Involvement Statement [in-person]

**16 April 2024:**  
Autumn seminar series: Indigenous Data Sovereignty in Health Research

**12 March 2024:**  
Autumn seminar series: Data Governance in Health Research

**28 March 2024:**  
Workshop: Grant Writing

**26 March 2024:**  
Autumn seminar series: Data Management and Analytics For Health Care

**18 June 2024:**  
Clinical trials seminar series: Building Effective Partnerships With Industry





**24 April 2024:**

Engagement workshop:  
National Consumer and  
Community Involvement  
Statement [online]

**21 May 2024:**

Clinical trials seminar  
series: How to Master  
Competitive Grant  
Opportunities

**9 October 2024:**

Launch of the Mental  
Health Workforce Hub

**16 July 2024:**

Clinical trials seminar  
series: Learn Lessons From  
Leading Researchers and  
Clinical Trials Experts

**25 June  
2024:**

Research  
Integrity  
Showcase

**12 August 2024:**

Intro to Consumer  
and Community  
Involvement in  
Health Research

**27-29  
November  
2024:**

5th HREC  
Conference

**12 September 2024:**

Launch of the  
Clinical Trials Hub

**1 October 2024:**

Ethics and Governance Community  
of Practice - Indemnity and One  
Stop Shop Update

# Clinical Trials Hub attracts thousands of users within months of its launch

The [Clinical Trials Hub](#) is one of HTQ's latest initiatives supporting a robust, innovative and high-quality clinical trials ecosystem in Queensland. The Hub's development has been a collaborative project involving diverse stakeholders from within the HTQ partnership as well as experts from across Australia and involved project scoping, website and content development, and user testing.

HTQ's engagement with researchers and clinical trial teams highlighted a knowledge gap, particularly for early career researchers and those conducting clinical trials for the first time. Many expressed not knowing where to begin and how to find reliable, accurate and best practice information. Over 18 months, the HTQ team, with the HTQ Board's endorsement, worked closely with more than 40 participants from different professional backgrounds on the Hub development.

The Clinical Trials Hub is a comprehensive and practical online resource that aims to actively support researchers and clinical trial teams throughout the clinical trials process.

The Hub includes a feature tool—My Clinical Trial Planner—that guides trialists as they plan and manage their trial, with the ability to also track their clinical trials' progress and collaborate with others on their trials.

The response to the Clinical Trials Hub has been incredible. Since its launch in September 2024, there has been high engagement with the Hub, with:

- almost 5,000 users and over 16,200 page views within the first 3 months of its launch
- engagement increased by 22% with over 1,670 new users in one month alone.

“ The Clinical Trials Hub is the very thing that we all wish we had when we started our clinical trials journey. ”

**Associate Professor Ingrid Hickman, UQ ULTRA Team for Clinical Trial Capability**



# Innovative Hub supporting mental health career growth

HTQ's [Mental Health Workforce Hub](#) is helping build a stronger, more knowledgeable mental health workforce—vital to combating Australia's rising incidence of mental health conditions and the sector's current and predicted workforce shortfall.

The idea for this Hub originated from HTQ's 2023 [Health Research Needs Assessment](#), which identified mental health as a top priority area. From HTQ's engagement with the mental health sector, we also understood that there was an abundance of websites and platforms for consumers and primary carers, but a gap in centralised information about training, education and research for the mental health workforce.

The online Hub's delivery relied on the commitment and passion of HTQ's Mental Health Collaborative Group, which includes representatives with diverse mental health expertise and professional backgrounds from HTQ's 13 partners and other organisations.

Over 18 months, these health research stakeholders volunteered their experience and expertise to support the development, design, and user testing of the Hub aimed at helping people enter the sector, change direction, or take the next step in their careers.

The Hub launched in October 2024 and offers information about diverse career profiles, training providers, and real-world stories of mental health professionals making a difference in Queensland.

The development of the Hub aligns with the strategic pillars of the National Mental Health Workforce Strategy 2022–2032.



While the Hub has already seen significant uptake and engagement across the sector, it will continue to grow and evolve with the changing needs of our mental health workforce.

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“ I recommend people look at the Hub, see what piques their interest, and keep coming back. This resource is just going to get bigger and better. ”

**Dr James Kesby, advanced researcher at Queensland Centre for Mental Health Research and Affiliate Research Fellow at Queensland Brain Institute**

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# Transforming human research ethics with free national training

In 2024, the [National HREC Conference](#) broke all records, demonstrating the value of this free online event to the human research workforce and ecosystem.

The conference started in 2020, amidst the Covid-19 pandemic, when many in-person conferences were cancelled. More than 600 people registered for the conference that year. In 2024, its fifth year, the conference attracted more than 2,500 registrations.

HTQ Senior Manager, Research Governance, Sara Gottliebsen explains how it all began.

“Initially, we saw the conference as an opportunity to bring HRECs across Queensland together virtually to fulfil the minimum national training requirements.

“The HREC workforce is predominantly unpaid, and human research can’t happen without HREC approval. People who volunteer their time for this essential work shouldn’t have to pay for their training!

“By providing this free online conference, we help upskill HRECs to ensure applications have a robust ethical review. Over 3 days, sessions are delivered on important HREC topics, such as data, consent, AI, consumer engagement, and review of Indigenous research. We also hold plenary talks where invited international speakers share their experience.”

Partway through organising the first conference it was decided to open the conference to other states, given the event’s virtual nature. The immediate response highlighted that there was a significant demand.

“We consistently receive positive feedback about this conference being free, accessible to rural, regional and remote areas, the relevance of the topics and the quality of speakers,” Sara says.

Now in its fifth year, the conference continues to grow in size and reputation, with the support of its Convenor Dr Gordon McGurk and sponsors.

“The conference has become a regular feature on the HREC calendar. We will continue to adapt its program as human research evolves, offering practical strategies to HRECs to help them continually improve their operations and research quality.”

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“ So absorbing, insightful, thought-provoking and valuable for my role. It’s so useful experiencing the HREC world outside the confines of a single HREC. ”

**2024 HREC Conference participant**

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# New HTQ and UQ partnership boosts Queensland's public health workforce

Queensland's health and health research sector and students are reaping the benefits of a new partnership between HTQ and The University of Queensland's (UQ) School of Public Health.

In 2024, HTQ hosted 2 UQ Master of Environmental Health Science and one Master of Public Health students on work placements. Emma Williams, Gurmati Kaur and Pooja Raveendran gained insight into the health and medical research sector while contributing to HTQ projects that will benefit the industry.

As a triage nurse before her Master of Public Health studies, Emma Williams was unaware of the extensive research underway to improve health outcomes.

"My placement with the HTQ team has opened my eyes to how research is translated into practice," Emma says. "It's been a good learning curve, professionally and personally. I contributed insights from my health care experience and teaching to HTQ's Mental Health Collaborative Group project. This experience made me realise I have transferrable and useful skills to share."

Emma secured a senior role at the Metro South Transcultural Mental Health Centre after her internship.

Gurmati Kaur, an international student from India, added a student perspective to HTQ's Mental Health Collaborative Group project.

"I listened to the challenges faced by people from different organisations and backgrounds and saw them working together to create an outcome that will empower their community," Gurmati says. "It was a privilege to join the discussion with stakeholders from hospitals, universities, and research institutes and critically analyse the facts and evidence they presented."

Gurmati plans to complete a PhD related to climate change and human health.

Pooja Raveendran is studying for a Master of Environmental Health Science, an extension to public health. Pooja used her project management, stakeholder engagement and data analysis skills during her placement to evaluate HTQ's Consumer and Community Involvement microgrants program – skills she hopes to apply in future roles within the public health sector. She was keen to ensure the comprehensive report benefits HTQ and the sector it supports.

"Researchers responded with comments about how much the microgrant program helped them to actively involve health consumers and communities in the planning and execution of their research projects, allowing them to engage with communities in ways that would have been difficult without financial support," Pooja says. "Many people are grateful for its support, and I hope the evaluation helps guide its future direction."

**Below (L-R)** Gurmati Kaur, Emma Williams and Pooja Raveendran



## 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 the community in translational research

While all HTQ endeavours ultimately aim to improve health care outcomes for all Queenslanders, regardless of who they are and where they live, our third pillar is where our activities directly benefit and create lasting impact for people on the ground such as health consumers and communities.

During 2023–2024, HTQ has focused on expanding education and training opportunities, increasing representation from underserved communities on HTQ's Collaborative Groups, and giving greater weight to microgrants that support these communities.

### First Nations

Our activities with and for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and communities have continued to grow and span the breadth of HTQ's work program. In our education and training program, we built on the success of the Indigenous Cultural and Intellectual Property (ICIP) session in late 2023, by hosting sessions in 2024 on Indigenous Data Sovereignty (IDSov) in Health Research. First Nations legal experts, Terri Janke and Company, delivered the sessions, and attendance records show that a record 16% of participants identified as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islanders. Based on the research community's interest in these topics, we also began co-designing with Terri Janke & Company 2 bespoke, full-day, in-person True Tracks® workshops that will cover topics including ICIP and IDSov and their intersection with intellectual property, international and national frameworks, and best practice engagement with First Nations peoples.

[!\[\]\(17acf1afa8cdf0b67c53d4865a5ed469\_img.jpg\) More in Special Feature 6, page 26](#)

### Rural, regional and remote communities

In the financial year 2023–2024, HTQ engaged in 23 activities with and for rural, regional and remote (RRR) health researchers, clinicians and organisations to upskill, support and identify potential areas for collaboration. These activities included participating in the national review of General Practice Incentives. HTQ provided insights to the Roundtable on Multidisciplinary Care in Rural and Remote Communities, contributing to recommendations for general practice funding reform to ensure high-quality, patient-centred care.

### Primary care

In the financial year 2023–2024, HTQ conducted 18 activities with and for primary care practitioners and organisations to upskill, support and identify potential areas for collaboration. For example, HTQ's Executive Director Professor John Prins met with Dr Masha Somi, Assistant Secretary of the Primary Care Reform Branch at the Commonwealth Department of Health and Aged Care, to share Queensland primary care insights and collaborations that can significantly enhance patient outcomes and access to care.

### Consumer and community involvement

HTQ continued to actively champion consumer and community involvement (CCI) and support efforts across our partnership and the wider community to integrate consumer perspectives seamlessly into the research journey. Our program now includes:

- CCI advice and microgrants to help fund consumer involvement





**Above** Members of HTQ's Consumer and Community Involvement in Research Alliance

- CCI training for researchers and clinicians
- curated CCI information, resources and tools [online](#)
- the [HTQ CCI in Research Alliance](#) – one of HTQ's 5 Collaborative Groups.

In 2024, HTQ also supported NHMRC's review of its statement on CCI in health and medical research. We hosted the 2 Queensland engagement workshops (in-person and virtual) as part of the national consultation on this consumer statement.

### Guiding best practice CCI

The first project for HTQ's CCI in Research Alliance is developing a new framework to support best practice CCI in health research in Queensland. The objective is to create a minimum standard for CCI in health research for health services and research organisations, guiding them in when and how to involve consumers.

As a collaborative group of CCI leads and consumers, this Alliance is well placed to develop a consistent framework that meets the needs of its broad audience. In 2024, the Alliance developed a draft framework and completed the initial consultation phase. They will undertake wider consultation on the refined draft before launching the final framework later in 2025.

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“ We understand that not having enough funding to pay consumers for their time is a barrier to consumer and community involvement in health research, particularly in the early stages. Our microgrants program addresses this challenge. ”

**Katrina Cutler, HTQ Operations Director**

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### CCI microgrants program

HTQ's highly popular [CCI microgrants program](#) provides small grants to fund consumer time, encouraging more inclusive health research projects that reflect community needs.

In the financial year 2023–2024 alone, HTQ funded a total of 42 Consumer and Community Involvement (CCI) microgrants to the value of \$42,000, supporting a wide range of research projects from the development of consumer-driven research topics for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cancer research to building a complete picture of an injured patient's journey from emergency to recovery.

[More in Special Feature 7, page 29](#)

# Empowering First Nations perspectives in health research

HTQ's work advocating for and supporting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander self-determination and sovereignty in health and medical research has continued through several projects—from our review of HTQ's [Research Passport Agreement](#) to the co-design of education and training workshops to practical support for Indigenous health research projects.

HTQ Senior Manager for Research Facilitation Dr Helen Breathnach explains how the development of the next generation HTQ Research Passport Agreement used a First Nations lens.

"The internal and external legal reviews of the HTQ Research Passport Agreement have had a specific focus on Indigenous Data Sovereignty (IDSov) and Indigenous Cultural and Intellectual Property (ICIP). This work has been undertaken in consultation with First Nations experts Terri Janke and Company and with input from a HTQ working group with legal representatives from across the partnership," Helen says. "Both reviews emphasised best practice approaches."

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“ Embedding the recognition of ICIP rights and IDSov within a contracting framework builds a foundation for respecting First Nations' knowledge systems. By including these obligations, organisations can ensure that First Nations voices are heard, their contributions are valued, and cultural protocols are upheld. This approach fosters equitable partnerships, promotes mutual trust, and empowers the self-determination of First Nations people. ”

**Neane Carter, Senior Solicitor, Terri Janke & Co**

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Following requests from members of our [HREG Collaborative Group](#) and [Research Integrity Collaborative Group](#), the HTQ team is developing template contract clauses for ICIP and IDSov and a researcher guide. The aim is to facilitate respectful research with First Nations people and communities, empowering stakeholders to engage meaningfully with best practices in all contractual arrangements.

In 2023-24, HTQ also provided practical support through the CCI microgrants scheme to encourage the appropriate integration of First Nations perspectives into health and medical research. In the assessment of microgrants applications, criteria are weighted to benefit projects that involve First Nations, primary care and underserved communities.

One project example is Mind Your Body: A student-centred teaching guide on menstrual health written by and for Queensland's Indigenous and remote primary and secondary school students.

University of Queensland Associate Professor Nina Lansbury and Kaiwalagal, Umarii and Kiwai woman, Minnie King led the project. Through locally led health research, the team had identified a lack of menstrual health education in remote communities. They developed a free resource about menstruation, puberty, consent and period products using these findings.

The researchers applied for a HTQ microgrant to finalise and launch the Mind Your Body teaching guide to remote and Indigenous communities. HTQ's microgrant covered the costs of the guide's review by First Nations students in Western Cape York and research assistance to revise, print and distribute the guide to schools.

The guide is now being adopted by some teachers and school-based nurses in schools across Queensland. Although parents can opt out, the education program has about a 99% uptake.

**Opposite** Olivia Milsom, Minnie King and Associate Professor Nina Lansbury



“ Mind Your Body was designed by the students, for the students, on Country, in a diverse classroom. The ongoing value is to upskill, and provide knowledge and information to teachers, to give back to the students. ”

**Minnie King, Umai and Kiwai woman**



# From ideas to impact: driving researcher and consumer collaboration

HTQ is committed to supporting best practice consumer and community involvement across our partnership and the wider health and health research community. That's why we introduced our Consumer and Community Involvement (CCI) microgrants program to support research projects to fund consumer involvement in project design and research priority setting.

In May 2024, HTQ paused the program to evaluate its effectiveness and guide its future direction. The review included quantitative and qualitative analysis, finding that:

- 67 researchers have received grants since the program's inception
- HTQ's total funding was \$69,565, making the average grant \$1,038
- researchers from all HTQ partners were able to access and benefit from the program.

Over 60% of microgrant awardees completed the evaluation survey, providing a clear picture of the program's impact:

- 93.5% of respondents indicated that the microgrant funding was very helpful to their research projects
- 54.3% said it resulted in a change in their research question
- 52.2% said it led to new collaborations.

Successful awardees, Griffith University Professor Katherine Andrews and Associate Professor Danielle Stanisic, explain why their research team applied for a HTQ microgrant.

"We wanted to involve health consumers in the planning stage of our National Health and Medical Research Council grant application for adjuvant discovery and development to improve vaccines for human health," Professor Andrews says.

"Our vaccine adjuvant research program will search for new adjuvants, which are ingredients used in many vaccines to enhance their efficacy or expand

the populations they can be used in. The benefits of adjuvanted vaccines include, among other things, creating a stronger or more long-lasting immune response.

"Despite their importance, only a limited number of adjuvants are available for use in licensed human vaccines, and their mechanisms of action are not well understood. Increasing the number of adjuvants with different properties will improve vaccine development and our ability to respond to health challenges like viral pandemics."

Associate Professor Stanisic says the team wanted to include consumers in the project design and lifecycle.

"We want to understand what consumers consider important and to ensure that we have effective communication and engagement strategies in place," Associate Professor Stanisic explains.

"The research program will also include public education about vaccines and adjuvants and why they are essential."

Using HTQ's microgrant, the team sought consumer feedback on their overall approach and how best to communicate with consumers in focus groups. They also involved consumers in reviewing sections of the NHMRC Centres of Research Excellence application. They also sought advice from HTQ and Health Consumers Queensland on including a trained consumer as a partner in their application.

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“ We want to include consumers in the project design and lifecycle to ensure we have feedback on what consumers consider important. ”

**Associate Professor Danielle Stanisic**

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# Our partners in 2024



**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 (HHSs) 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 statewide hospital and health service delivering world-class, person-centred paediatric care for children and young people across Queensland and northern New South Wales. A recognised leader in paediatric health care, teaching and research, CHQ provides tertiary—and quaternary—level care in the Queensland Children's Hospital in South Brisbane, alongside an integrated network of community-based child and youth health, and mental health services across Queensland. CHQ also delivers a range of preventative health promotion programs to improve health and wellbeing.



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. Mater Research is focused on improving health across all of life's stages from mother and baby health to healthcare delivery and innovation, cancer, neuroscience and chronic and integrated care. Their bench to bedside philosophy provides an avenue for Mater Researchers and Mater doctors, nurses and allied health professionals to collaborate and utilise clinical and biomedical expertise to research new treatments and models of care for patients and the broader community.

## 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** 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 330,000 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)** leads in health and biomedical innovations, creating global change and training the future health workforce. With more than 100 medical research institutes and centres, and industry partnerships, UQ offers exceptional research capability supported by a connected ecosystem of research infrastructure. UQ researchers are the leading recipients of Australian Research Council fellowships and awards across all scheme years. In 2023, UQ was ranked second in Australia by the Nature Index tables, and 112th overall. UQ is a leader in research commercialisation in Australasia and the leading university in Australia for active startups.



**Translational Research Institute (TRI)** is a world-class medical research facility driving scientific excellence in areas including cancer, immunology, chronic diseases, and neurosciences. Stakeholder partners are The University of Queensland, QUT, Mater Research, and Queensland Health. TRI's ecosystem includes 1,100 researchers, industry professionals, clinical and support roles, and service providers. We offer clinical trial expertise, core facilities equipment and expertise, and training programs. TRI is building Australia's first scale-up biomedical manufacturing facility to help biotech companies develop their own therapeutics and medical devices, enhancing our sovereign capability.



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** 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, Brain and Mental Health, 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 and conditions.



**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.



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**

**Health Translation Queensland**

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Translational Research Institute  
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