

Progress Report December 2023

ROADMAP FOR STRENGTHENING HEALTH RESEARCH AND TRANSLATION IN QUEENSLAND

About the Roadmap

This report is a summary of the progress and activities that are driving forward the priorities and recommended actions of the [Roadmap for Strengthening Health Research and Translation in Queensland](#).

In late 2022, Health Translation Queensland (HTQ) launched the Roadmap for Strengthening Health Research and Translation in Queensland.

The Roadmap outlines a range of priorities and actions for the Queensland health and medical research community. These priorities and actions, identified by the health and medical research community, are aimed at building an innovative, sustainable and globally competitive health and medical research sector in Queensland.

Throughout 2023 the HTQ partners, the HTQ team, and the broader health and medical research sector have continued their efforts to deliver initiatives that align with the Roadmap's priorities and recommended actions.

This progress report contains information from HTQ partners and others that highlight the work underway in each of the three priority areas of the Roadmap.

The progress report includes a call to action – supporting an active translational research culture within Queensland's health services and system. This will ultimately result in better health and wellbeing for all Queenslanders.

Key priorities for the Roadmap

1

Strengthen the ecosystem

Develop a dedicated Queensland Health and Medical Research Strategy, aligned with the *Advance Queensland: Innovation for a Future Economy 2022-2032 Roadmap*.

2

Build workforce capability and capacity

Increase the number and diversity of active clinician researchers.

3

Optimise funding

Broaden the scope and increase the probability of funding.

The recommended actions in HTQ's Roadmap for Strengthening Health Research and Translation in Queensland are available at healthtranslationqld.org.au.

Strengthen the ecosystem

The recommended actions in this priority area aim to:

- 1.1 Take a Queensland-wide collaborative approach
- 1.2 Harness Queensland's competitive advantages
- 1.3 Invest in activities that support Queensland's medical research and translation competitiveness

HTQ partner activities

HTQ's partners are strengthening Queensland's health and medical research ecosystem through HTQ, through their own programs, and partnering with others in the following 6 areas:

1. **Enabling cross-institutional collaboration** through initiatives such as:
 - Centre for Children's Health Research
 - Metro South Health (MSH) Research Support Scheme
 - QUT Industry Engagement Team
 - The University of Queensland (UQ) Partnership Office
 - Translational Research Institute (TRI) events and forums.
2. **Sharing information** through external databases such as:
 - ANZCTR - to register clinical trials
 - Clinical Registry (e.g. Palliative Care Outcomes Collaboration, Prostate Cancer Outcomes Registry)
 - Health Studies Australian National Data Asset (HeSANDA) - to register clinical trials data for sharing
3. **Building and maintaining resources** to enable sharing and collaboration, including:
 - Queensland Health (QH) internal asset registers and databases to share information and resources within their organisations
 - the Queensland Clinical Trials Portal to provide information about clinical trials in Queensland
 - TRI's capability and researcher mapping to enable connection for collaboration.
4. **Harnessing Queensland's competitive advantages** by:
 - promoting Queensland's statewide pathology service, Children's Health Queensland statewide services and the integrated electronic medical record system (ieMR)
 - working with Queensland's public health system to promote its strengths nationally and internationally
 - contributing to data linkage projects that seek to link administrative data between multiple statewide and national organisations
 - making use of shared biobanking initiatives supported by Pathology Queensland's Biobanking Committee and biobanks such as the Mater's Brain Biobank, Respiratory Infection Biobank, Placental Biobank and the Women's Cancer Biobank as well as the work underway by QH to explore how the QoVAX SET project could pilot a statewide biobanking network
5. **Supporting Queensland's medical research and translation competitiveness** by:
 - Queensland Cancer Survivorship Collaboration (QUT, UQ, QH, Griffith)
 - leading or partnering in a range of virtual institutes including:
 - Queensland Centre for Mental Health Research's military and veterans' mental health collaboration with the Gallipoli Medical Research Foundation
 - Metro North and CSIRO's Herston Infectious Diseases Institute (HeIDI)
 - Metro North, Metro South, Queensland Health, CSIRO, QUT, UQ, Griffith University, Motor Accident Insurance Commission, Department of Transport and Main Roads' Jamieson Trauma Institute (JTI)
 - Children's Health Queensland (CHQ), UQ, QIMR Berghofer, Children's Hospital Foundation's - Ian Frazer Centre for Children's Immunotherapy Research.
 - streamlining ethics and governance through programs such as the QH led development of the national multi-jurisdictional, multi-party non-clinical trial Collaborative Research Agreement - an agreement based on HTQ's Third Party Research Agreement which provides an agreed set of clauses to govern health research projects
 - QH's low risk low cost research approval pathway to streamline research project approvals
 - connecting researchers, clinicians and industry through:
 - employing dedicated staff members to broker relationships between researchers, clinicians and industry
 - forums and networking programs to build relationships and enable connection such as Metro North Facility Directors of Research, Metro South Research Facilitators and West Moreton Health Senior Research Development Officers
 - TRI's dedicated Industry Engagement team, which runs a program of activities to build and maintain relationships across the sectors.
 - leading or partnering in precinct building activities including the Queensland Health led Inner Brisbane Knowledge and Innovation precinct to highlight strengths at the Boggo Road Precinct and the Herston Health Precinct.

6. **Strengthening Queensland's clinical trials** through:

- QH's Clinical Trials Portal promotes more than 164 clinical trial sites across Queensland, and 44 clinical trial service providers
- QH led Australian Teletrials Program to improve access to clinical trials for rural, regional and remote Australians
- QH's Queensland Clinical Trials Coordination Unit, Queensland Regional Clinical Trial Coordinating Centre (QRCCC)
- Queensland Children's ACTION Centre (Advanced Clinical Trials and Innovation)
- ULTRA, a UQ program to build capability and capacity in innovative trial design, conduct, analysis and translation
- QUT's Centre for Healthcare Transformation and Centre for Biomedical Technologies programs to build translational research capabilities
- TRI's translational trials program and clinical trial facilities in collaboration with MSH and CHQ
- HTQ's partners are working with national clinical trials programs such as the National Clinical Trials Governance Framework which embeds clinical trials into routine health service provision.

HTQ activities

HTQ serves as a peak body to strengthen the health research translation ecosystem by bringing health care and research partners together in the following 5 areas:

1. **Taking a Queensland-wide approach** through its collaborative groups which inform HTQ's Strategic Plan, annual work program, and bring together representatives from HTQ's partners and beyond to collaborate, share best practice, and learn from each other. HTQ's current collaborative groups include:
 - Human Research Ethics and Governance Advisory Group
 - Digital Advisory Group
 - Research Integrity Group
 - Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Research Network
 - Consumer and Community Involvement in Research Alliance
 - Mental Health Collaborative Group.
2. **Developing and maintaining resources** to enable sharing and collaboration across the state including:
 - asset registers to enable partners to share valuable assets such as MRI, PET scanners, genetic sequencers, microscopes, powerful 3D printers
 - a research support directory to help partners to easily find research support teams across the partnership
 - information hubs to provide a one stop shop for information about:
 - clinical trials
 - mental health research, education and training.
3. **Harnessing Queensland's competitive advantages** by:
 - leveraging Queensland's strengths through the Digital Ecosystem Project to map the health research digital ecosystem in Queensland. This will enable stakeholders to understand how to navigate the digital ecosystem to share and access relevant research materials

- engaging in the Queensland Government's precincts activities, which are defining and marketing Queensland's health and research precincts nationally and internationally.

4. **Supporting Queensland's medical research and translation competitiveness** through:

- the Queensland node of HeSANDA, a national infrastructure to support access to, sharing, and reuse of health research data
- providing seed funding for QoVAX SET to improve our understanding of the short, medium and long-term impacts of COVID-19 and COVID-19 vaccines in Queensland
- streamlining Human Research Ethics and Governance (HREG) through the Research Passport Agreement, HREG resources to support best practice, and the Research Support Directory to help partners to easily find research support teams.

5. **HTQ is the current Chair of The Australian Health Research Alliance (AHRA)**, the national voice of Research Translation Centres across Australia. HTQ works closely with other national bodies such as the Australian Clinical Trials Alliance (ACTA) and the Australian Academy of Health and Medical Sciences (AAHMS) to identify national issues that HTQ can help address locally to strengthen Queensland's health and medical research ecosystem.

Areas of ongoing and future work for the health and medical research community

Queensland's health and medical research community can further strengthen the health and medical research ecosystem by:

- establishing cross institutional mentoring programs to support smaller institutions
- analysing research strategies from Queensland's health and research institutes to identify and link areas of common interest to support a cross institutional collaborative approach
- reducing duplication by continuing to build on systems to share equipment, biobanks, and specialised skills between organisations
- continue efforts/initiatives to support researchers and industry to navigate the research and health care systems
- continue working with Commonwealth and State Governments and other institutions to support safe data sharing across health care and research
- bringing clinical trials stakeholders together to share information and learning from clinical trials support within their organisations
- continue building on Queensland's health and knowledge precincts and augment with virtual institutes in areas of strength and need
- continue to leverage and promote Queensland's health system strengths such as our statewide pathology service, children's hospital and iEMR.

Build workforce capacity and capability

The recommended actions in this priority area aim to:

- 2.1 Facilitate more research by clinicians and others in the health system
- 2.2. Recognise and retain talent and support them to flourish
- 2.3 Improve the diversity of active clinician researchers

HTQ partner activities

HTQ's partners are building Queensland's workforce capacity and capability through HTQ, through their own programs, and partnering with others in the following 3 areas:

1. Facilitating more research in the health system:

- QH is exploring updates to Hospital and Health Services Service Level Agreements to include reporting on research investment, performance indicators and funding allocated to research
- involvement in the QH led Australian Teletrials Program, employing Teletrial Coordinators, and through strategic plans and research frameworks designed to streamline processes
- administering local 'near miss' research schemes, to fund research programs who miss out on major national grant rounds
- West Moreton Health is investing in Senior Research Development Officers to prepare funding plans for clinician researchers and support the number and quality of applications for federal research funding
- QUT's Research Potential Fund supporting significant investments to generate new capacity or capability focusing on transformational research in strategic priority areas
- grant writing support and dedicated research offices throughout HTQ partners.

2. Recognising and retaining talent and supporting them to flourish through:

- implementing QH's Health Workforce Strategy for Queensland to 2032 to grow and retain the health workforce
- local research grant programs for clinician researchers such as QTRAC, LINC Grants, Queensland Health and other fellowships schemes
- career options in MedTech at TRI, TRI's Translational Pathways program supports researchers' entrepreneurial thinking and development
- sharing best practice by running programs and communities of practice to mentor and train the workforce such as QCMHR's Clinician Researcher Mentoring, the Mater Research Early Career Mentoring Program, UQ's Clinical Researcher Pathways Program

- QUT and Metro North Health's Nursing and Midwifery Academy was established to achieve highest standard of care and enable innovation in practice
- Australian Centre for Health Services Innovation Short Courses e.g. implementation and translation, value-based healthcare and economics for leadership.

3. Improving the diversity of active clinician researchers through:

- QH awards program that includes dedicated categories for First Nations researchers, and regional, rural and remote researchers
- First Nations Research Fellowship programs
- West Moreton Health and Children's Health Queensland are working to align research in the implementation of their Health Equity Strategies
- West Moreton Health's Community and Consumer Research Council includes identified First Nations positions
- First Nations identified positions are included in grant programs such as QTRAC, RAUGH grants, SWIFT Grants
- employing Health Equity Research Officers (HERO) and First Nations research staff to support First Nations capacity building
- appointing senior Indigenous leaders, and implementing programs to support First Nations students and staff
- CSIRO's Australian e-Health Research Centre (AEHRC) has established an Indigenous health research group
- Mater is placing health workers into Indigenous communities across Queensland to study the long-term wellbeing of First Nations families
- Metro South Health and West Moreton Health programs to support Early and Mid-Career Researchers (EMCRs) through networking and skills development in grant applications and research protocol development
- QUT establishing a new Faculty of Indigenous Knowledges and Culture
- QUT's Indigenous Australian's Employment Strategy and Indigenous Research Strategy
- QUT's Indigenous Cultural and Intellectual Property project

- UQ's pilot to support female EMCRs during carer duties
- career options in MedTech at TRI, where two-thirds of its workforce are EMCRs.

3. Working with its partners to **improve the diversity of active clinician researchers** through:

- AHRA's Women's Health Research Translation and Impact Network which has established a national program to support female EMCRs with mentoring, leadership training and networking
- HTQ's CCI microgrants program prioritises applications from First Nations people and rural, regional and remote researchers, or projects that support these communities
- HTQ currently funds the Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Research Network which aims to improve the quality of First Nations health research and its outcomes by bringing together the First Nations health research community from across the state.

HTQ activities

HTQ serves as a peak body to build Queensland's workforce capacity and capability by bringing health care and research partners together in the following 3 areas:

1. Working with its partners to **facilitate more research by clinicians and others in the health system** through initiatives such as HTQ's Research Passport Agreement and Third Party Agreement, which formed the basis for the QH-led multi-jurisdictional multi-party non-clinical trial Collaborative Research Agreement – now available to researchers across Australia.
2. Working with its partners to **recognise and retain talent** and supporting them to flourish through initiatives such as:
 - the QTRAC program (Queensland Training for Research Active Clinicians) to identify a clinician researcher career pathway
 - Health Services Research Scholarships to support clinicians to undertake research
 - bringing people together to network and learn from each other at education and training events and through its collaborative groups
 - HTQ's education and training program which includes:
 - annual Human Research Ethics Committee Conference
 - research integrity training
 - Intellectual Property (IP) education and training program incorporating IP issues and examples, passport exemplars and Indigenous IP
 - Consumer and Community Involvement (CCI) training program incorporating an introduction to CCI, co-design training, and CCI with IAP2.

Areas of ongoing and future work for the health and medical research community

Queensland's health and medical research community can further build Queensland's health and medical research workforce capacity and capability by:

- establishing additional research excellence awards to celebrate researcher achievements
- working with Commonwealth and State Governments and institutions nationally for a coordinated approach to building, supporting and retaining the clinician researcher workforce
- continue working with First Nations peoples to grow capability and numbers of First Nations people active in health and medical research
- continue working with rural, regional and remote communities to develop tailored measures to support research in these settings
- continue working with women to develop tailored measures to support female researchers.



Above HeSANDA Queensland node launch event

Optimise funding

The recommended actions in this priority area aim to:

- 3.1 Align medical research with health and economic opportunities
- 3.2 Ensure that quality is maintained as the number of funding applications is increased
- 3.3 Embed consumer and community involvement as standard practice in all stages of research, especially in the development of funding applications

HTQ partner activities

HTQ's partners optimise health research funding through HTQ, through their own programs, and partnering with others in the following 4 areas:

1. Supporting researchers to align their work with health and economic opportunities through:

- QH's Queensland Regional Clinical Trial Coordinating Centre (QRCCC) works with regional and rural areas to identify research priorities
- ensuring Queensland's health services research strategies are based on the health needs of Queenslanders
- West Moreton Health's Queensland Centre for Mental Health Research works closely with QH's Mental Health, Alcohol and Other Drugs Branch to identify research priorities
- TRI is conducting a landscape analysis of First Nations research underway
- HTQ's partners connect research networks to health delivery networks through initiatives such as:
 - QH's Statewide Clinical Networks and Queensland Clinical Senate
 - Bricks and mortar and virtual institutes that bring research and health care together such as West Moreton Health's Queensland Centre for Mental Health Research, Jamieson Trauma Institute (JTI), Ian Frazer Centre for Children's Immunotherapy Research.

2. Improving researchers' commercial acumen through activities such as:

- QH's education and training program to upskill staff in areas including intellectual property, commercialisation, and health economics
- Metro North's Intellectual Property Committee
- UQ's dedicated commercialisation company, UniQuest
- TRI's Translational Pathways Program which includes translational fellowships with financial support
- CSIRO's commercialisation program 'ON' which is open to all universities
- QUT's Commercialisation Club

3. Supporting quality funding applications through:

- Queensland Health's education and training program to upskill staff in areas including grant writing, consumer engagement, and research translation biostatistics
- grant schemes such as Mater Foundation, Children's Hospital Foundation, Ipswich Hospital Foundation, Metro South Health Research Support Scheme, TRI Foundation
- UQ Advancement aims to raise UQ's profile and philanthropic support with alumni, industry partners and donors
- supporting researchers to perform targeted experiments to generate data to support funding applications
- West Moreton Health's program to grow staff research capability, with training in grant writing, research impact assessment
- education and training programs in philanthropy in health care
- a range of grant writing education and training initiatives

4. Supporting researchers to embed consumer and community involvement (CCI) as standard practice through initiatives such as:

- QH led Australian Teletrials Program and Queensland Regional Clinical Trial Coordinating Centre (QRCCC) are developing guides to inform consumer and community engagement in research with special focus on First Nations people and culturally and linguistically diverse communities
- Metro North Research Strategy - Consumer Engagement, Metro North Consumer Engagement Strategy
- Metro South Health's Partnering with Consumers in Research Guideline
- West Moreton Health's Community and Consumer Research Council
- Consumer networks in specific research areas
- TRI consumer program links researchers with consumers, and provides training for researchers and consumers

- a range of local consumer engagement activities across HTQ's partnership such as consumer advisory groups, forums, guidelines and strategies.

HTQ activities

HTQ serves as a peak body to optimise health research funding by bringing health care and research partners together in the following 3 areas:

- 1. Supporting researchers to align their work with health and economic opportunities** through education and training programs in commercialisation and IP.
- 2. Supporting the quality of funding applications** through:
 - analysing Queensland's health research funding performance to identify areas for improvement
 - providing education and training in areas such as grant writing and consumer and community involvement.
- 3. Supporting researchers to embed consumer and community involvement (CCI)** as standard practice across the research cycle through its CCI program which includes:
 - a CCI advisory service – to provide advice for research projects in designing their CCI

- a CCI microgrants program – small grants to support translational research projects to engage with consumers and community in the priority setting, project ideation, design and planning stages
- curated CCI frameworks, webinars, guidelines, tools
- training for researchers and clinicians in CCI
- a CCI Collaborative Group – to share experience, provide mentorship, to work on shared activities.

Areas of ongoing and future work for the health and medical research community

Queensland's health and medical research community can further optimise health and medical research funding by:

- analysing research strategies from Queensland Health and HHS's to identify areas where research is needed to improve health outcomes
- implementing grant programs and philanthropic funding for near-miss schemes, and support researchers to prepare stronger grant applications, including generating preliminary data to strengthen grant applications.

Below HTQ Consumer and Community Involvement workshop



A call to action

Queensland's health and medical research community is actively moving Queensland forward. Each organisation is encouraged to undertake and promote activities that contribute to the recommended actions in the [Roadmap for Strengthening Health Research and Translation in Queensland](#). Please tell us more about what you are doing. Contact HTQ at hello@healthtranslationqld.org.au.



Above HTQ launch of the Roadmap for Strengthening Health Research and Translation in Queensland

About Health Translation Queensland

Health Translation Queensland is an NHMRC accredited Research Translation Centre. We are a partnership, bringing together many of Queensland's universities, research institutes, hospital and health services, CSIRO's Australian e-Health Research Centre and Queensland Health.

We are working to address challenges and barriers that can limit the effective translation of research into clinical practice.

Through this work, we are committed to achieving:

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 partners

