

Victoria's Health and Medical Research Strategy 2016-20

Linda Cristine

Context and Objectives

Objectives

- To embed health and medical research into the Victorian health system
- To accelerate the translation of research into clinical practice
- To advance Victoria's position as the lead national jurisdiction for health and medical research
- To act as a vehicle to implement the Victorian Government's election commitment to support world-class medical research
- To support a cohesive approach to the implementation of whole-of-government health and medical research strategies
 - Expert Panel – Science Medical Research and Technology Panel

Rationale

Healthcare in Victoria and around the world is evolving

Challenges and pressures on health systems are mounting:

- ageing populations,
- growing incidence of lifestyle-related chronic disease
- dealing with new and emerging infectious disease threats

We have developed this strategy to enable the Victorian health and medical research sector to help address these challenges and contribute to improved health outcomes and economic growth in Victoria.

Consultation and next steps

What we have done

- Extensive and lengthy consultation with the Victorian health and medical research sector
- Extensive whole-of-government consultation

What we need to do

- Continue the consultation. This is a dynamic sector and the conversation must be ongoing.
- Develop partnerships with industry, other states and territories, International collaborations.

How we are delivering

Six strategic directions

- Integrate research, education and healthcare
- Develop an advanced convergence science capability
- Enhance Victoria's clinical trials system
- Work towards optimising big data and informatics
- Develop the next generation workforce
- Stimulate engagement between researchers and industry to facilitate innovation.

Benefits

- Effective partnerships with industry, philanthropic and investment sectors
- Increased success of winning non-government funding
- Improved health and wellbeing through increased knowledge and innovation
- Improved decision making (policy, clinical public health) through evidence-based mechanisms
- Increased international competitiveness through clinical trials coordination
- Improved productivity and jobs through attracting and retaining highly skilled researchers
- Improved commercialisation success with new therapeutics, medical devices and diagnostics.

Strategic initiatives funded under the 2016-17 State Budget and 2017-18 Budget

The 2016-17 State Budget provided \$19.796 million over four years (and \$5.124 million ongoing)

Three initiatives were funded under the strategy:

- \$1.3 million per annum will support the ongoing operations of the Streamlining Clinical Trial Research program within the Department of Health and Human Services
- \$600,000 per annum for Postdoctoral Research Fellowships in targeted areas including bioinformatics, health services research and genomics.
- \$3 million per annum to create the Medical Research Acceleration Fund.

The 2017-18 State Budget provides a further \$34.2 million over four years (and \$8.831 million ongoing)

- The Operational Infrastructure Support program will receive a boost of \$33.2 million over four years, and \$8.831 million ongoing.
- A feasibility study for a National Drug Discovery Centre at the Walter and Eliza Hall Institute of Medical Research with funding of \$1 million in 2017-18.
- \$8.3 million has also been provided for genomic testing for rare diseases
- Range of other initiatives, for example, \$10 million for Better Care Victoria Innovation Fund