HCF RESEARCH FOUNDATION YEAR IN REVIEW FINANCIAL YEAR 2025–26



MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

The HCF Research Foundation proudly marked 25 years of supporting health services research, helping improve healthcare delivery, inform policy and deliver better outcomes for HCF members and all Australians.

This anniversary year has been a wonderful opportunity to reflect on the Foundation's achievements and bring together the many people who have contributed to its success.

We were delighted to host three successful events celebrating our 25th anniversary, each providing an opportunity to recognise the researchers, partners, clinicians, policy makers and health sector leaders who helped shape the Foundation's work and impact over the past quarter century.

These events also reinforced the importance of our ongoing focus on research translation. Across our grant streams and partnerships, the Foundation continues to support practical, implementation-focused research designed to improve models of care, strengthen the health system and deliver measurable benefits for patients, providers and communities.

To build on this momentum, the Foundation has expanded its management team to allow for greater research translation activity and more support for funded projects as they look to progress their research activity into lasting impact. This increased capacity will help us work more closely with researchers and partners to identify opportunities for implementation, dissemination and broader system impact, ensuring that the evidence we fund can more readily lead to meaningful change in healthcare practice.

On behalf of the Foundation, I would also like to acknowledge and sincerely thank Professor Claire Jackson for her contributions as Chair. Claire's leadership, expertise and commitment have made an outstanding contribution to the Foundation's growth and strategic direction, particularly through a period of increasing emphasis on translation, partnership and real-world impact. We are deeply grateful for her service and the lasting legacy she leaves.

I would like to thank the HCF Research Foundation Board, Research Advisory Committee, our researchers, partners and peer reviewers for their continued support. As we begin the next chapter of the Foundation's work, we remain focused on funding high-quality health services research and ensuring its outcomes are translated into better healthcare for all Australians.



PROFESSOR KAREN PRICE
Chair, HCF Research Foundation



MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD OF THE FOUNDATION

In our 25th anniversary year, the HCF Research Foundation was pleased to award $4.1 million in grant funding across our Health Services Research Grants, Translational Research Grants, and co-funding with the Australian General Practice Research Foundation. These grants continue to support high-quality, implementation-focused research that addresses important challenges in healthcare delivery, with the potential to improve outcomes for HCF members and all Australians. The breadth of projects funded this year, and showcased in this report, reflect the Foundation's ongoing commitment to practical research with a clear implementation pathway.

We were also delighted to support collaborative grants awarded to previous recipients of Foundation funding: Professor Victoria Manning through the NHMRC Partnerships Projects scheme and Dr Joshua Zadro through the MRFF Early-to-Mid-Career Researchers Grants scheme. These successes continue our long-term partnerships with these researchers and their teams, and highlight the impact of Foundation funding: generating research evidence that can be leveraged into larger projects and scalable impact for the Australian healthcare system.

Broader communication and dissemination of research outcomes remains a central pillar of the Foundation's approach. Our webinar series again provided an important opportunity to showcase funded research outcomes, share learnings with researchers, clinicians, policy makers and funders, and support the uptake of evidence-informed models of care. I would like to thank Professor Caroline Nicholson (Evaluating the implementation of the FRAIL Scale Tool in general practice) and Professor Victoria Manning (RCT of an alcohol Approach Bias Modification app post residential rehabilitation) for their engaging and insightful presentations.

The coming year provides an important opportunity to build on these significant investments in health services research and to strengthen the pathways that help promising evidence move into practice. We will continue to work closely with our funded researchers, partners and stakeholders to support research to deliver lasting improvements in healthcare delivery and outcomes for the benefit of HCF members and all Australians.

DR CHRISTOPHER PETTIGREW
Head of the HCF Research Foundation

IMPROVING THE HEALTH OF ALL AUSTRALIANS FOR MORE THAN 25 YEARS

HISTORY

The HCF Research Foundation was established in 2000 as the HCF Health and Medical Research Foundation. The HCF Research Foundation is a charitable trust which was set up to fund research into the provision, administration and delivery of health services in Australia for the benefit of our members and all Australians. Since 2008, the Foundation has focused on supporting health services research, an area of research that doesn't receive significant funding from other sources. In 2013, the name was simplified to the HCF Research Foundation.

MISSION

The HCF Research Foundation's mission is to improve health outcomes for HCF members and all Australians by funding and supporting health services research that benefits everyone.

VISION

As Australia's largest not-for-profit health fund, HCF has the opportunity to drive positive change across our healthcare system. Through our Research Foundation, we're investing in innovative research teams addressing real-world health challenges. We aspire to be recognised as a leading independent funder of high-quality research that results in the improvement of healthcare services in Australia. We want to create transparent, accessible and fair funding opportunities for Australian researchers, institutions and organisations to help focus their efforts on addressing issues of scale and significance in healthcare which can benefit our members and all Australians.

SUPPORTING HEALTH SERVICES RESEARCH

The HCF Research Foundation funds research proposals that use and enhance current knowledge to improve healthcare outcomes, including the quality, efficiency, equity of, and access to, health service provision. Our research grants program covers three streams: Health Services, Translation and Innovation. The program aims to address issues of scale and significance in healthcare and make an impact in the delivery of health services to benefit our members and all Australians. We also partner with other organisations on research partnerships to deliver better health outcomes and access to affordable, high-quality healthcare when and where it's needed.

For more than 25 years, the HCF Research Foundation has established an impressive partnership footprint with over 150 partner institutions including universities, health organisations, government bodies and the wider healthcare industry.

FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT

$55m
The HCF Research Foundation corpus has been funded by donations from the net surplus of the health fund. Since 2000, HCF has contributed a total of $55m.

$40.5m
The HCF Research Foundation has invested $40.5m into health services research since its inception in 2000.

$4.1m
In FY26, the HCF Research Foundation awarded $4.1m in funding to clinicians and researchers working to understand and improve the effectiveness, efficiency and quality of health treatments and services in Australia.

- **$1.15m** Cancer care
- **$965k** Musculoskeletal health and recovery
- **$694k** Women's health
- **$847k** Hospital care and workforce
- **$341k** Mental health
- **$300k** Heart health and stroke prevention
- **$120k** General practice and chronic disease



HCF Research Foundation Chair, Prof Karen Price

25 YEARS OF IMPACT
COLLABORATION AND INNOVATION

To mark the HCF Research Foundation's 25th anniversary, we brought together researchers, partners, HCF leaders and staff over three events to celebrate a quarter-century of investment in health services research that has improved health outcomes for members and communities across Australia.

The anniversary events held in Sydney and Melbourne showcased the real-world impact of Foundation-funded research, highlighting innovative approaches to challenges in aged care, regional health, musculoskeletal care, emergency medicine and virtual models of care. Through presentations from leading researchers, attendees reflected on how evidence-based innovation is helping shape a more effective, accessible and sustainable healthcare system.

Beyond celebrating past achievements, the events created valuable opportunities to strengthen connections across the health and research sectors. The strong engagement and networking that followed each event sparked new conversations, collaborations and partnerships, reinforcing the Foundation's role as a catalyst for research that delivers meaningful change.

As we look to the future, these celebrations serve as a powerful reminder of what can be achieved when researchers, healthcare providers and industry partners work together to improve the health and wellbeing of Australians.

SYDNEY


A/Prof Gustavo Machado



Dr Chris Pettigrew


Dr Jorge Mejia and colleagues from National Acoustic Laboratories


Mr John Barrington

MELBOURNE



Prof Claire Jackson



Uncle Colin Hunter (Wurundjeri Elder)


Prof Ilana Ackerman, Ms Alexandra Gorelik, Dr Jason Wallis


HCF CEO & MD, Ms Lorraine Thomas

HEALTH SERVICES GRANTS AND RESEARCH PROJECTS

This year, the HCF Research Foundation invested in four health services research projects with the potential to improve care, experiences and health outcomes for members and all Australians.

RE-DESIGNING HOSPITAL WORK TO SUPPORT STAFF AND IMPROVE CARE

Project: WECARE: Work-Enhancement through Computational Assessment of Real Environments – Re-designing Hospital Work to Increase Staff Satisfaction, Retention and Improve Patient Care

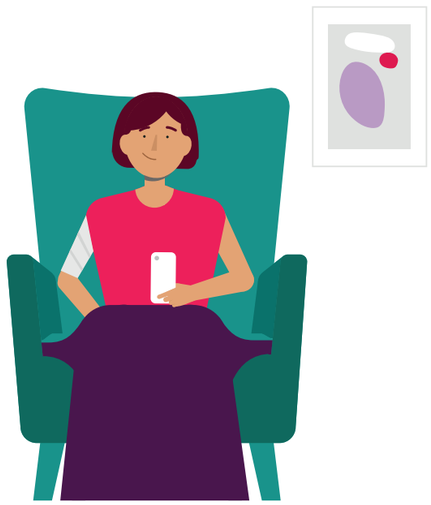
PROFESSOR HARRIET HISCOCK
The University of Melbourne

Healthcare workers are spending more time on paperwork and administrative tasks, leaving less time for patient care and adding to workforce pressures across Australia.

Working with metropolitan and regional hospitals in Victoria, the research team will examine how work is currently performed across hospital wards and identify opportunities to streamline processes, better share responsibilities and support staff through innovative technologies, including AI.

$486,753 Grant amount





SMARTER SURGICAL RECOVERY AT HOME

Project: Smarter recovery: Optimising surgical transitional care through proactive management of low-acuity complications

DR GEORGIA TOBIANO
Griffith University

Many patients experience pain, wound concerns or minor complications after surgery. While these issues are usually low risk, they can cause anxiety and lead to unnecessary emergency department visits and hospital readmissions.

This project is testing a nurse-led transitional care program that supports patients as they recover at home. The program includes improved discharge planning, follow-up calls, direct access to nursing support and fast-tracked clinic appointments when needed.

The program responds to a growing challenge in modern healthcare, as patients are discharged from hospital sooner and with less time to prepare for recovery at home. By providing timely advice, monitoring and support, the team aims to help patients recover safely and confidently while reducing pressure on emergency departments and hospitals.

$133,781 Grant amount

SAFER PAIN RELIEF AFTER JOINT REPLACEMENT SURGERY

Project: Opioid Stewardship in Orthopaedic Surgeries: Reducing Modified-Release Opioid Prescriptions in Private Hospitals

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR JONATHAN PENM
The University of Sydney

Strong pain medicines called opioids are commonly used after surgery, but some types can increase the risk of long-term dependence and other health complications. Despite clinical guidelines advising against their use, many orthopaedic patients are still prescribed modified-release opioids when they leave hospital.

This project will help private hospitals adopt safer prescribing practices by adapting and testing a nationally endorsed opioid stewardship program. The aim is to ensure patients receive effective pain relief while reducing the risk of unnecessary harm.

With more than 145,000 hip, knee and shoulder replacement surgeries performed in Australia each year, the project aims to improve recovery outcomes, reduce opioid-related complications and strengthen patient safety across the healthcare system.

$531,131 Grant amount



HELPING PEOPLE WITH MENTAL ILLNESS FIND THE RIGHT SUPPORT

Project: Avoiding unnecessary ED presentations for people with mental illness

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR KEVIN MC NAMARA
Deakin University

For many people living in rural and regional Australia, the emergency department is often the only place they can turn to during a mental health crisis. However, emergency departments are not always the most appropriate setting for ongoing mental health support and can add pressure to already busy healthcare services.

This project will evaluate the impact of introducing trained peer support workers into emergency department teams. Drawing on their own lived experience as a consumer or carer, peer workers can provide practical support, help people navigate services and connect them with care that better meets their needs.

The research aims to determine whether this approach can reduce unnecessary hospital admissions and repeat emergency department visits, while improving people's experiences of care and supporting recovery. If successful, it could provide a scalable model for improving mental health support in emergency departments across Australia.

$340,840 Grant amount



AGPRF GRANT

UNDERSTANDING THE CHANGING ROLE OF GENERAL PRACTICE

Project: Occasions of Care Explained and Analysed (OCEAN) GP Study

DR MARGUERITE TRACY
The University of Sydney

For many Australians, their GP is the first person they turn to for healthcare advice, support and ongoing care. As patient needs become more complex, it is important to understand how general practice is changing and what people need from their healthcare providers.

This project will collect information from 10,000 GP consultations to build a clearer picture of the health issues Australians are facing and the care they receive. The research will explore trends such as chronic disease, complexity of care and changing patient needs in communities across the country.

By providing up-to-date evidence about modern general practice, the study will help inform future healthcare planning and investment, supporting Australians to access high-quality, affordable care when and where they need it.

$119,875 Co-funded with The Australian General Practice Research Foundation



TRANSLATIONAL RESEARCH PROJECTS

In 2025, the Translational Research Grants scheme invested in projects that accelerate the adoption of evidence-based care across Australia.

By supporting innovations in cancer care, women's health, chronic disease management and preventive health, these grants will help improve health outcomes, enhance patient experiences and make quality care more accessible.



IMPROVING ACCESS TO EXERCISE FOR PEOPLE WITH CANCER

Project: PhysioCaRe Connect: Pioneering nation-wide, physiotherapist-led cancer rehabilitation to improve access to exercise

DR AMY DENNETT
La Trobe University

Exercise can play an important role in helping people manage cancer treatment, improve quality of life and support recovery. It may even help people live longer and reduce the risk of cancer returning. Yet many Australians living with cancer are unable to access the specialised exercise support they need.

This project aims to make evidence-based cancer rehabilitation more accessible by helping physiotherapists deliver specialised exercise programs in communities across Australia. Working across Victoria, Tasmania and Western Australia, the team will develop practical support and training to expand access to these services.

By giving more people access to tailored exercise support during and after treatment, the project has the potential to improve physical and mental wellbeing, build strength and confidence, and help Australians achieve better outcomes throughout their cancer journey.

$185,859 Grant amount

TRANSFORMING OSTEOARTHRITIS CARE FOR BETTER QUALITY OF LIFE

Project: Transforming Osteoarthritis Care: A Scalable Implementation and Evaluation Program

PROFESSOR DAVID HUNTER
The University of Sydney

Osteoarthritis affects millions of Australians, causing pain, reduced mobility and making everyday activities more difficult. While effective treatments such as exercise, education and weight management are known to improve symptoms, many people do not receive this care early enough.

This project will work with GPs and Primary Health Networks to make it easier for people with osteoarthritis to access the care and support that can help them stay active and manage their symptoms. The program will provide clinicians with practical tools and training, while also developing educational resources in partnership with people living with osteoarthritis.

By improving access to evidence-based care, the project aims to reduce pain, improve mobility and quality of life, and help more Australians manage osteoarthritis confidently before their condition worsens.

$300,000 Grant amount



IMPROVING ACCESS TO EARLY PALLIATIVE CARE FOR PEOPLE WITH PANCREATIC CANCER

Project: The Care Plus Translational Hub: Addressing variation in access to early palliative care for people with pancreatic cancer

PROFESSOR JENNIFER PHILIP
The University of Melbourne

Living with pancreatic cancer can bring significant physical and emotional challenges for patients and their families. Early palliative care has been shown to improve quality of life, help manage symptoms and support people to make decisions about the care that is right for them, yet many people miss out on this support.

This project will help more hospitals implement an evidence-based model of early palliative care, known as Care Plus, through a dedicated support hub that provides resources, training and guidance for healthcare teams.

By helping people access palliative care earlier, the project aims to ensure patients receive the support they need sooner, manage symptoms more effectively and have greater confidence that their care reflects what matters most to them. It also has the potential to reduce unnecessary hospitalisations and improve quality of life, giving people and their families more support during a difficult time.

$220,444 Grant amount





SUPPORTING WOMEN'S HEALTH AFTER HIGH-RISK PREGNANCIES

Project: PIVOT-HDP: A pragmatic hybrid implementation-effectiveness randomised study to transform postpartum cardiovascular and kidney health after pregnancies complicated by hypertension

PROFESSOR KIRSTEN PALMER
Monash University

For many women, the risks continue long after birth, with an increased chance of developing heart disease, stroke and kidney disease later in life.

This project is testing a new digital care program that helps women monitor their blood pressure at home after pregnancy, receive timely support and stay connected to follow-up care. The program aims to make it easier for women to manage their health during a critical period when important check-ups and treatment can often be missed.

By helping women stay on top of their health after a high-risk pregnancy, the project has the potential to prevent long-term health complications, improve quality of life and support healthier futures for women and their families.

$496,637 Grant amount

TRANSLATIONAL RESEARCH PROJECTS

EARLY HEART HEALTH CHECKS TO HELP PREVENT STROKE

Project: Djurali Heart: Early Detection of Atrial Fibrillation in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Communities Using Digital Health Technologies

DR CARMEN PARTER
Heart Research Institute

Atrial fibrillation (AF) is a common heart rhythm condition that can significantly increase the risk of stroke if it goes undetected. Early diagnosis and treatment can help prevent serious health complications, but many people are unaware they have the condition.

This community-led project will work with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities to make heart health checks a routine part of care. Using easy-to-use digital screening technology and culturally safe models of care, the project aims to identify AF and high blood pressure earlier and connect people with the support and treatment they need.

By helping people detect heart conditions sooner, the project has the potential to reduce the risk of stroke, prevent avoidable hospitalisations and support longer, healthier lives. It will also help communities access culturally safe care closer to home, improving health outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and their families.

$300,000 Grant amount







HELPING YOUNG PEOPLE WITH CANCER HAVE A VOICE IN THEIR CARE

Project: Implementing Voicing My Choices: Embedding an evidence-based palliative care communication tool within a national model for young people with cancer

DR MADELEINE JUHRMANN
The University of New South Wales

For young people facing serious cancer, having the opportunity to talk openly about what matters most to them can make a significant difference to their care and wellbeing. Yet these conversations often happen too late, leaving young people and their families feeling uncertain and unprepared during an already difficult time.

This project will introduce *Voicing My Choices*, an evidence-based communication guide, across six major hospitals in New South Wales and Queensland. Healthcare professionals will be supported to have compassionate, age-appropriate conversations that help young people share their values, priorities and wishes for their care.

By empowering young people to express what is important to them, the project aims to ensure care better reflects their goals, preferences and quality-of-life priorities. It also has the potential to give families greater confidence and peace of mind, reduce stress during difficult decisions, and help young people feel heard, supported and in control of their care journey.

$275,000 Grant amount

HELPING PEOPLE WITH CANCER RECEIVE CARE THAT REFLECTS WHAT MATTERS MOST

Project: Closing the Gap in Advance Care Planning: Implementing Evidence-Based Strategies to Address Practice Variation in Cancer Care

DR LISA GUCCIONE
The University of Melbourne

Advance care planning helps people with cancer discuss and document what matters most to them, ensuring future care and treatment decisions reflect their values, preferences and goals. While these conversations can improve care and reduce stress for patients and families, they are not always happening consistently in practice.

This project will work with clinicians, patients and health services to improve how advance care planning is delivered across cancer care settings. The team will implement practical, evidence-based strategies to support timely, meaningful conversations and ensure patient preferences are documented and shared across care teams.

By giving people a stronger voice in decisions about their care, the project aims to help ensure treatments align with their wishes, values and quality-of-life goals. This can reduce uncertainty and stress for patients and families, support more coordinated care, and help people receive the right care, at the right time, in a way that matters most to them.

$473,362 Grant amount





INFORMED TREATMENT DECISIONS ABOUT HEAVY MENSTRUAL BLEEDING

Project: Knowledge mobilisation through a web-based decision aid to support Australian women with heavy menstrual bleeding

PROFESSOR JENNY DOUST
The University of Queensland

Heavy menstrual bleeding affects many Australian women and can have a significant impact on physical health, emotional wellbeing, daily life, work and social participation. Despite the availability of treatment options, women often report difficulties navigating the healthcare system and accessing consistent, high-quality care.

To address this, researchers have developed an evidence-based decision aid to help women better understand heavy menstrual bleeding and the range of treatment options available. Co-designed with women who have lived experience of the condition, the tool helps users weigh the benefits and potential downsides of different treatments and helps to identify which option best aligns with their needs and preferences.

By giving women access to clear, reliable and evidence-based information, the project aims to support more informed treatment discussions and shared decision-making with healthcare professionals. It has the potential to improve women's understanding of their options and increase confidence in treatment decisions.

By making high-quality information more widely available, the project also aims to improve access and consistency when it comes to care.

$197,618 Grant amount

PROJECT CASE STUDIES

PHYSIOTHERAPIST-LED CARE BEFORE SURGERY

Project: Knee OA Best Practice Pathways

PROFESSOR JENNIE SCARVELL
University of Canberra (UC)

THE CHALLENGE

Many people with knee osteoarthritis are referred for a surgical review before they have had the opportunity to try evidence-based non-surgical treatments. Long wait times for orthopaedic appointments could leave people living with pain, reduced mobility and a reduced quality of life while waiting to see a specialist. Research found that some patients could benefit from education, exercise and other recommended non-surgical treatments before surgery was considered.

THE INNOVATION

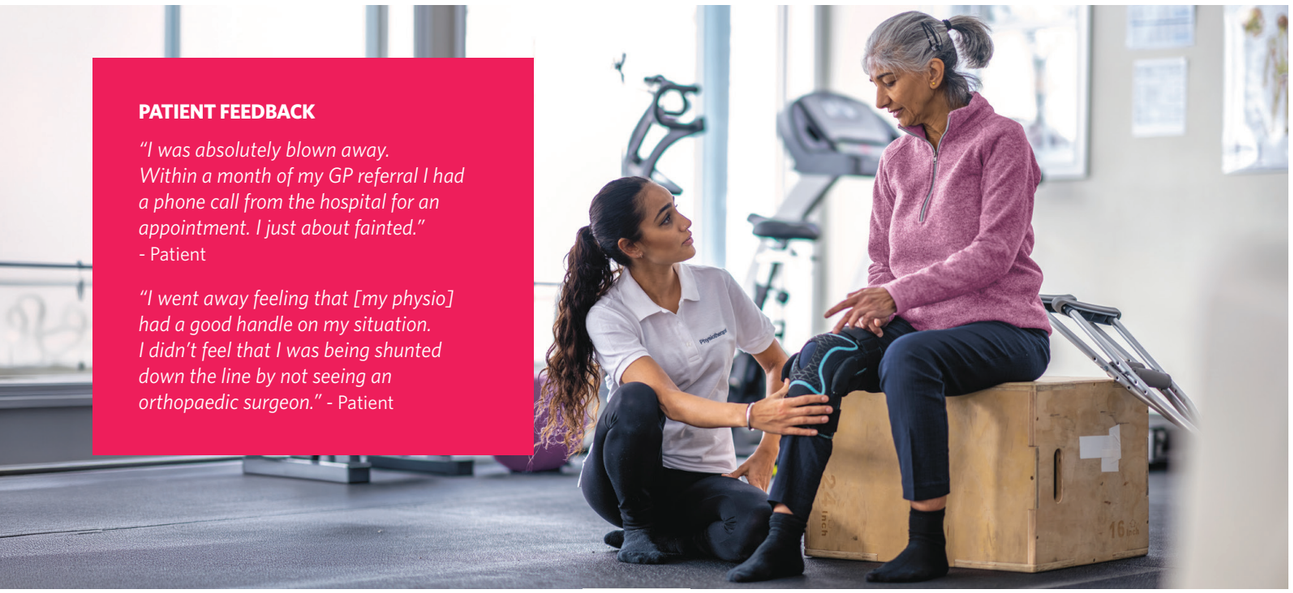
Researchers worked with Canberra Health Services to introduce a physiotherapist-led assessment pathway within the public health system. Advanced Practice Physiotherapists assessed patients referred for orthopaedic review, helping identify who may benefit from community-based programs, exercise therapy and other non-surgical care, while helping ensure patients were directed to the most appropriate care pathway, including surgical review when needed. The project brought together clinicians, researchers and consumers to redesign care around best-practice osteoarthritis management.

THE IMPACT

The new model helped patients access the right care sooner and reduced pressure on specialist surgical services. Increased use of Advanced Practice Physiotherapists was associated with significantly shorter wait times for assessment, improved patient flow and greater access to exercise and osteoarthritis management programs, including community-based programs such as GLA:D®, Good Life with osteoArthritis: Denmark. By directing people to the most appropriate treatment earlier, the pathway supported more timely access to care while enabling more effective and efficient use of health resources, providing a model that could inform similar approaches in other health services.

THE PATIENT BENEFIT

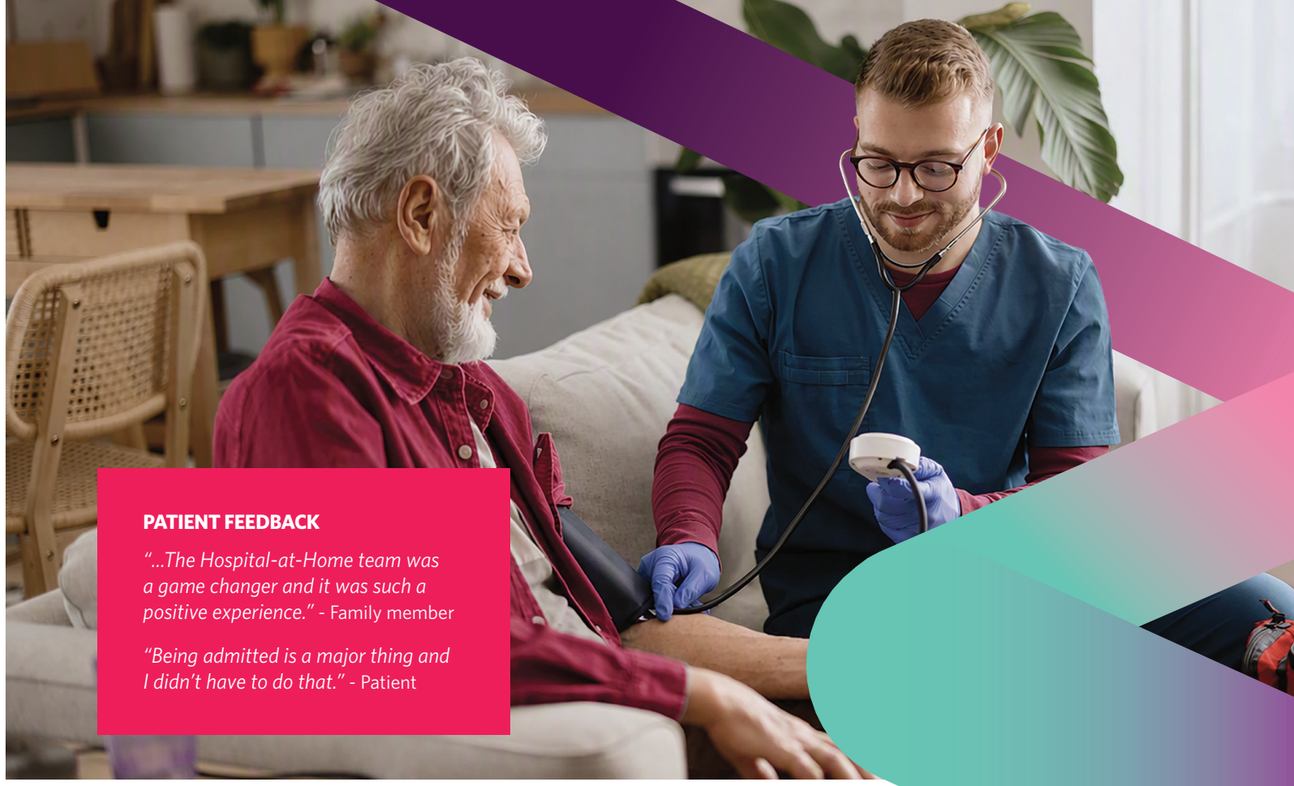
For people living with knee osteoarthritis, getting the right support earlier can mean less time waiting and more time accessing care that may help manage pain, improve mobility and support everyday activities. By helping patients access treatment that best matches their clinical needs, whether that's surgery, exercise programs or other evidence-based therapies, the pathway supports a more personalised and effective healthcare journey and can help people maintain their independence and quality of life.



PATIENT FEEDBACK

"I was absolutely blown away. Within a month of my GP referral I had a phone call from the hospital for an appointment. I just about fainted."
- Patient

"I went away feeling that [my physio] had a good handle on my situation. I didn't feel that I was being shunted down the line by not seeing an orthopaedic surgeon." - Patient



PATIENT FEEDBACK

"...The Hospital-at-Home team was a game changer and it was such a positive experience." - Family member

"Being admitted is a major thing and I didn't have to do that." - Patient

RETHINKING EMERGENCY CARE FOR OLDER AUSTRALIANS

Project: Hospital-at-Home for Older People

PROFESSOR VASI NAGANATHAN
Sydney Local Health District

THE CHALLENGE

Older Australians with urgent medical problems often attend the emergency department for treatment, which can result in hospital admissions. While hospital care is essential for many patients, some older people may be safely treated outside a hospital setting. Hospital visits can be disruptive and may expose older patients to additional risks associated with extended hospital stays, including infection risk, delirium and deconditioning.

THE INNOVATION

Researchers evaluated a new model of care that assesses and manages older Australians' urgent medical problems in their homes. Working closely with ambulance and hospital services, the model enabled patients to receive specialist geriatric assessment and treatment at home, including pathology and radiology where needed, while ensuring access to hospital-based care when needed. The approach aimed to provide safe, timely care in the most appropriate setting for each patient.

THE IMPACT

This model of care safely treated people in their homes, demonstrating an alternative approach to healthcare delivery for older Australians. The findings showed that many patients could receive appropriate care without requiring hospital admission, helping reduce pressure on busy emergency departments and hospital services. The research provided evidence that home-based emergency department equivalent care can play an important role in supporting Australia's ageing population.

THE PATIENT BENEFIT

For older Australians, receiving care at home can mean avoiding the stress, disruption and associated risks of a hospital visit while still receiving the treatment they need. Being cared for in familiar surroundings can help people feel more comfortable and supported, while remaining close to family and carers.

By providing safe, specialist care at home, the model helped patients maintain their independence and access care in a way that better suited their needs.

ACTIVE RESEARCH PROJECTS

ACT

University of Canberra
Professor Jennie Scarvell
Best practice pathway for knee osteoarthritis – Implementing an advanced musculoskeletal pre-surgical triage and assessment clinic.

Heart Research Institute Ltd
Associate Professor Carmen Parter
Djurali Heart: Early Detection of Atrial Fibrillation in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Communities Using Digital Health Technologies.

Hunter Primary Care
Ms Leigh Darcy
Translating a metropolitan Aged Care Nurse Practitioner model to a rural residential care setting to optimise primary care outcomes.

Ingham Institute for Applied Medical Research
Professor Josephine Chow
Implementing and evaluating an integrative palliative care model for older people in the community who wish to die at home.

Macquarie University
Dr Kathryn Mills
Taking the first step: assessing implementation strategies designed to increase access to exercise programs for people with knee osteoarthritis.

Macquarie University
Dr Mitchell Sarkies
Implementation of evidence and consensus-based perioperative care pathways to reduce unwarranted clinical variation in a private, academic health sciences centre.

NSLHD
Professor Geoffrey Tofler
Patient Directed Discharge Letter (PADDLE): A novel approach to improve patient knowledge, satisfaction and outcomes.

NSW

Charles Sturt University
Dr Kristy Robson
Age Well@Home program for rural Australians.

National Acoustic Laboratories
Dr Jorge Mejia
Integrating the Universal Language-Independent AI-Powered Speech Test (ULI+) into Clinics: Enhancing Inclusion and Access for Multicultural Communities in Audiology.

Neuroscience Research Australia
Dr Kimberley Van Schooten
StandingTall eHealth balance exercise to foster mobility and prevent falls in older people receiving home care.

SLHD
Professor Ian Harris
Assisting patients with knee osteoarthritis to make informed choices about total knee arthroplasty and non-operative management.

SLHD
Professor Vasi Naganathan
Effectiveness, cost-effectiveness and implementation of Emergency Hospital in the Home model of care for older people.

St Vincent's Hospital Sydney
Dr Jane Wu
Evaluating a new model of integrated care between acute and rehabilitation services, via Proactive Rehabilitation Screening (PReS).

The George Institute for Global Health
Professor Manuela Ferreira
Surgery for Spinal Stenosis (SUcceSS) – a placebo-controlled trial of spinal surgery for people with lumbar spinal stenosis.

The University of Sydney
Associate Professor Claire Ashton-James
Evaluating implementation and effectiveness of a digital intervention to reduce pain and reliance on opioids after total knee replacement surgery.

The University of Sydney
Professor David Hunter
Transforming Osteoarthritis Care: A Scalable Implementation and Evaluation Program.

The University of Sydney
Associate Professor Jonathan Penm
Opioid Stewardship in Orthopaedic Surgeries: Reducing Modified-Release Opioid Prescriptions in Private Hospitals.

The University of Sydney
Dr Simon Vella
A new referral pathway for paramedics to manage people with back pain.

The University of Sydney
Associate Professor Gustavo Machado
Optimising outcomes for patients with back pain by preventing hospital admission.

The University of Sydney
Dr Joshua Zadro
Co-design and evaluation of a virtual physiotherapist-led triage and management service for low back pain referrals to spine surgery clinics.

The University of Sydney
Professor Kate Curtis
HIRAID® Inpatient: Improving the safety and quality of nursing care for hospital patients.

The University of Sydney
Dr Marguerite Tracy
Occasions of Care Explained and Analysed (OCEAN) GP study.

The University of Sydney
Mr Simon Davidson
HeLP (a Healthy Lifestyle program for Pain) for older people with musculoskeletal conditions and comorbid chronic disease risks.

The University of New South Wales
Professor Geoff Delaney
Transforming Cancer Outcomes with Real-Time Health Data Analytics: A Population-Level Implementation Study in New South Wales, Australia.

The University of New South Wales
Dr Madeleine Juhrmann
Implementing Voicing My Choices: Embedding an evidence-based palliative-care communication tool within a national model for young people with cancer.

The University of Newcastle
Associate Professor Christine O'Neill
BOOST Trial – Better Outcomes for the Older Surgical patient Trial: A Staggered Implementation Trial in Emergency and Elective surgery.

Western Sydney Local Health District (Blacktown Hospital)
Professor Grant Brinkworth
Implementing a Scalable, personalised, behaviour Change digitAL hEalth program in primary care for chronic disease treatment – the SCALE cluster randomized study.

Western Sydney University
Dr Rocco Cavaleri
Home-based neuromodulation: Preventing the transition from acute to chronic pain.

Western Sydney University
Professor Vivienne Chuter
Implementation and evaluation of the Australian guidelines for diabetes-related foot disease into hospital-based high-risk foot services: An evidence-based model.

Whitlam Orthopaedic Research Centre
Conjoint Professor Justine Naylor
Rehabilitation in the home (RITH) after hip fracture: right care, right time, right place, right choice (RITH4Hips).

QLD

Griffith University and Gold Coast Hospital and Health Service
Dr Georgia Tobiano
Smarter recovery: Optimising surgical transitional care through proactive management of low-acuity complications.

Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital
Associate Professor Shaun O'Leary
Reducing Inappropriate Medications for low back pain in the Emergency department (RIME): a controlled interrupted time-series implementation study.

The University of Queensland
Dr Caroline Nicholson
To identify and provide management support for people at risk of frailty in general practice to reduce potentially preventable hospitalisations.

The University of Queensland
Professor Jenny Doust
Knowledge mobilisation through a web-based decision aid to support Australian women with heavy menstrual bleeding.

The University of Queensland
Professor Jenny Doust
Understanding the variation in the use of hysterectomy to improve outcomes for women with heavy menstrual bleeding.

University of Southern Queensland
Professor Sonja March
Finding the right balance of "support": Testing a new digital model of care for child and adolescent anxiety in regional communities.

TAS

University of Tasmania
Professor Tania Winzenberg
Priority-setting for the co-design of services for people with high healthcare service utilisation.

University of Tasmania
Professor Thomas Marwick
Aortic Stenosis Screening Using Artificial intelligence to acquire and interpret Echocardiograms (ASSURE-Echo).

VIC

Baker Heart and Diabetes Institute
Dr Jedidiah Morton
Development of a geographic surveillance and reporting system for diabetes and cardiovascular disease care and outcomes.

Baker Heart & Diabetes Institute
Associate Professor Melinda Carrington
Reducing readmission among patients with myocardial infarction in the COVID-19 era by applying digital cardiac rehabilitation and telehealth monitoring.

Centre for Eye Research Australia, The University of Melbourne
Professor Lyndell Lim
Preventing blindness in pregnant women with diabetes using a point-of-care artificial intelligence assisted retinal camera.

Deakin University
Professor Andrea Driscoll
Regional heart health: Keeping Australians out of hospital.

Deakin University
Associate Professor Kevin Mc Namara
Avoiding unnecessary ED presentations for people with mental illness.

Eastern Health
Dr Ariel Roxburgh
Piloting a digital recovery platform to aid healthcare peer workers in improving patients' alcohol and drug outcomes.

La Trobe University
Dr Amy Dennett
PhysioCaRe connect: Pioneering nation-wide, physiotherapist-led cancer rehabilitation to improve access to exercise.

Monash University
Associate Professor Denise O'Connor
Value In Care - optimising surveillance COLonoscopy (VIC-COL) in Victorian healthcare services: an interrupted time series study.

Monash University
Dr Jason Wallis
Wiser Rehabilitation following primary, elective total hip (THR) and knee (TKR) replacement surgery at a private hospital.

Monash University
Professor Kirsten Palmer
PIVOT-HDP - A pragmatic hybrid implementation-effectiveness randomised study to transform postpartum cardiovascular and kidney health after pregnancies complicated by hypertension.

Monash University
Associate Professor Peter Malliaras
Internet and telerehabilitation-based management of rotator cuff related shoulder pain: a randomised control trial.

Monash University
Professor Suzanne Nielsen
Upscaling a pharmacist-prescriber model of collaborative care for Medication Assisted Treatment for Opioid Dependence (MATOD) to address Australia's treatment shortage.

Monash University
Associate Professor Victoria Manning
"AAT-App": Smartphone-delivered Approach Avoidance Training to prevent relapse and treatment re-admission among patients leaving residential alcohol treatment.

Murdoch Children's Research Institute
Associate Professor Amanda Gwee
Reducing the burden of care on children with bone and joint infections with entirely oral antibiotic treatment.

Northern Health
Dr Katharine See
Embedding AI in Cardiac Point-of-Care Ultrasound: A path to improved efficiency and person-centred outcomes.

Northern Health
Dr Sanjeevan Muruganandan
Digital health to extend Victoria's first specialised ambulatory pleural service: A proof-of-concept feasibility study.

Orygen
Professor Susan Cotton
An evaluation of an alternative model of psychiatric inpatient care for young people with severe mental illness.

The University of Melbourne
Professor Harriet Hiscock
WECARE: Work-Enhancement through Computational Assessment of Real Environments – Re-designing Hospital Work to Increase Staff Satisfaction, Retention and Improve Patient Care.

The University of Melbourne
Professor Jennifer Philip
The Care Plus Translational Hub: addressing variation in access to early palliative care for people with pancreatic cancer.

The University of Melbourne
Dr Lisa Guccione
Closing the Gap in Advance Care Planning: Implementing Evidence-Based Strategies to Address Practice Variation in Cancer Care.

WA

The University of Western Australia
Dr Jacqueline Francis-Coad
Enabling functional independence at home – training support workers to deliver a fall prevention program to frail, older adults.

PUBLICATION HIGHLIGHTS



August 2025

Cost-Effectiveness of a Digitally Enabled Cardiac Rehabilitation Program for Patients with Coronary Heart Disease.

PROF MELINDA CARRINGTON
European Journal of Preventive Cardiology

Braver JP, Marwick TH, Carrington MJ, Keating C, Oldenburg B, Scuffham P.

https://doi.org/10.1093/eurjpc/zwaf512

October 2025

Using natural language processing to extract information from clinical text in electronic medical records for populating clinical registries: A systematic review.

PROF GEOFF DELANEY
Journal of the American Medical Informatics Association

Liu L, Blake V, Barman M, Gallego Luxan B, Churches T, Kennedy G, Ooi SY, Delaney GP, Jorm L.

https://doi.org/10.1093/jamia/ocaf176

November 2025

Statewide integration of electronic patient-reported outcome measures into routine oncology care: a mixed-methods implementation study.

PROF GEOFF DELANEY
eClinical Medicine

Mazariego C, Williamson K, Leon S, McCarthy K, Stuart K, Gazzard A, Arnold A, Delaney G, Girgis A, Rushton S, O'Brien T.

https://doi.org/10.1016/j.eclinm.2025.103547

December 2025

Implementation evaluation of an evidence-informed hospital inpatient nursing framework (HIRAID®Inpatient): a protocol for a stepped-wedge cluster RCT.

PROF KATE CURTIS
BMC Trials

Curtis, K., Considine, J., Lam, M. K., Wiseman, T., McPhail, S., Jones, T., Mulholland, B., Trostian, B., Wright, K., Kourouche, S., Kennedy, B., Clements, A., Melville, G., Ashford, B., Brereton, C.J., Bartlett, A., Wand, T., Pettigrew, C., Zeitz, K., Mitchell, R. J., Shetty, A., Lingam, M., Saddington, E., O'Reilly, G., Smith, S., Watts, M. & Shaban, R. Z.

https://doi.org/10.1186/s13063-025-09313-8



AWARD-WINNING HSRAANZ RESEARCH

Dr Melanie Lloyd received the HSRAANZ Health Services & Policy Research Paper of the Year – Best Early Career Researcher Paper prize for the published paper: **Implementing an enhanced recovery from surgery pathway to reduce hospital length of stay for primary hip or knee arthroplasty: a budget impact analysis.**

The study was led by
PROF ILANA ACKERMAN

February 2026

The Prevalence of Heavy Menstrual Bleeding: a Systematic Review.

PROF JENNY DOUST
The Lancet: Obstetrics, Gynaecology and Women's Health

Maganti A, Riek M, Sanders S, Wilson L, Copp T, Hickey M, Jordan S, Thompson R, Jenkinson B, Devi Mishra G, Doust J.

https://doi.org/10.1016/S3050-5038(25)00167-0

Effectiveness of a virtual hospital model of care for patients with low back pain presenting to emergency departments (Back@Home).

A/PROF GUSTAVO MACHADO
NPJ Digital Medicine

Sigera C, Oliveira CB, Melman A, Teng MJ, Coombs DM, Billot L, Gianacas C, Kabir A, Rogan E, Marabani M, Hutchings O, Maher CG, Machado GC, Back@Home Investigators.

Volume 9, 191

https://doi.org/10.1038/s41746-026-02425-8

Conducting rigorous implementation evaluations in real world settings: lessons from a consensus approach to perioperative pathway implementation for elective surgery.

DR MITCHELL SARKIES
BMC Implementation Science Communications

Pagano L, Hirschhorn A, Arnolda G, Long JC, Francis-Auton E, Braithwaite J, Churruca K, Ellis LA, Hibbert PD, Partington A, Stoodley M, Sarkies MN.

https://doi.org/10.1186/s43058-026-00876-4

January 2026

"A tool in a toolbox": patient engagement with a gamified and personalised approach bias modification app to reduce harmful alcohol consumption – a qualitative study.

PROF VICTORIA MANNING
BMC Addiction Science and Clinical Practice

Manning V, Bell MCL, Garfield JBB, Paxie JCB, Rubenis A, Roxburgh AD, Piercy H, Whelan D, Lubman DI, Savic M.

https://doi.org/10.1186/s13722-026-00646-6



March 2026

Frailty Screening and Management for Older Australians in General Practice: Mixed Methods Evaluation.

DR CAROLINE NICHOLSON
Interactive Journal of Medical Research

Job JR, Nicholson C, Strauss R, Clark D, Pelecanos A, Jackson C.

https://doi.org/10.2196/79681

Australian Consensus Statement on the Prevention and Management of Frailty Among Community-Dwelling Older Adults: A Modified Delphi Study.

DR CAROLINE NICHOLSON
Medical Journal of Australia

Chopra S, Tornvall I, Reid N, Whiting E, Hilmer S, Job J, et al.

https://doi.org/10.5694/mja2.70182

May 2026

Consumer Perspectives on a Novel, Virtual, Ambulatory Model of Care for Malignant Pleural Effusion.

A/PROF SANJEEVAN MURUGANANDAN
American Journal of Respiratory and Critical Care Medicine

Duong V, Raza Khan U, Rule J, Wani TA, Tirant K, Hannan LM, Suleiman M, Muruganandan S.

https://doi.org/10.1093/ajrccm/aamag162.6034

June 2026

Reducing Wait Times for Orthopaedic Consultations for Patients with Knee Osteoarthritis Through Advanced Practice Physiotherapy.

PROF JENNIE SCARVELL
Health Services Insights

J Scarvell JM, Gilfillan D, Stewart TJ, McCrum CA, Fearon AM, Lynch JT, Ward T, Niyonsenga T.

https://doi.org/10.1177/11786329261461056

The Effect of Smartphone-Delivered Approach Bias Modification Training on Relapse Among Patients Leaving Residential Alcohol Treatment: A Randomised Controlled Trial.

A/PROF VICTORIA MANNING
Substance Abuse and Rehabilitation

Garfield JBB, Whelan D, Piercy H, Hopwood M, Maloney M, Mahasuar R, Roxburgh AD, Lubman DI, Manning V.

https://doi.org/10.2147/SAR.S607994

Clinicians' perspectives on managing and treating heavy menstrual bleeding in Australia: A qualitative study.

PROF JENNY DOUST
Sexual & Reproductive Healthcare

Ramsay J, Wilson L, Copp T, Carlini J, Doust J.

https://doi.org/10.1016/j.srhc.2026.101235

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Deakin University

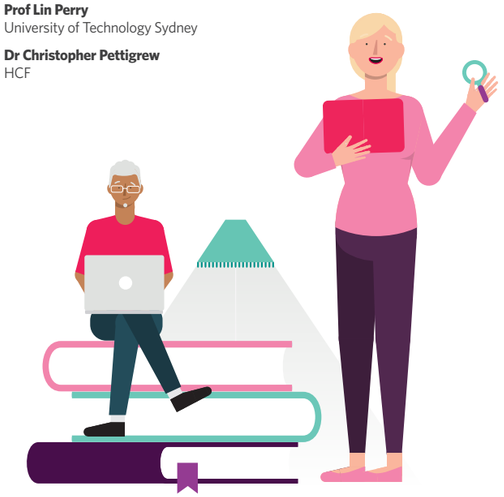
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The University of Sydney

Dr Louise Wilson
The University of Queensland

Prof Tania Winzenberg
University of Tasmania

Dr Joachim Worthington
Daffodil Centre



THE BOARD



PROF KAREN PRICE
MBBS, FRACGP, PhD, GAICD

Chair
Professor Price was appointed to the Board of Directors of the Corporate Trustee of the HCF Research Foundation (the Foundation) in 2023 and appointed Chair in November 2025.



PROF CLAIRE JACKSON
AM MBBS, MD, MPH, CertHEcon, Grad Cert MGMT, FRACGP, FAICD

Chair
Professor Jackson was appointed as a Trustee in 2013. She was a director of the Foundation since its registration in 2015 and retired from the position of Chair in November 2025.



MR JOHN BARRINGTON
BCOMM, LLB, FAICD

Director
Mr Barrington was appointed to the Board of Directors of the Foundation in 2017.



MS LORRAINE THOMAS
University of Portsmouth (UK)
H.N.D Geography

Managing Director
Ms Thomas was appointed to the Board of Directors of the Foundation on 1 July 2025.



MR MARK COMPTON AM
BSC, MBA, FAICD, FCHSM, FAIM, FRS (NSW)

Non-Executive Director
Mr Compton was appointed as a Director of the Corporate Trustee in July 2024.



MR NATHAN FRANCIS
BBus, CA, FGIA, FCIS, GAICD

Company Secretary
Mr Francis has served as Foundation Company Secretary since March 2019.



MR HARRY ROBERTSON
BComm (Hons), CA, ANZIIF (Fellow) CIP

Hon Accountant
Mr Robertson served as Company Secretary of the Foundation from July 2018 to March 2019 and is now Honorary Accountant.



MS JULIE ANDREWS
BAppSc, GradDipBM, MAICD

Research Advisory Committee Chair
Ms Andrews has served as the HCF Research Advisory Committee Chair since inception in April 2019.



DR CHRISTOPHER PETTIGREW
LLB, BSc, BBiotech (Hons), PhD, MBA

Head of the HCF Research Foundation
Dr Pettigrew was appointed Head of the Foundation in March 2021.

AUSTRALIAN CHARITIES AND NOT-FOR-PROFITS COMMISSION

The HCF Research Foundation has been regulated by the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC) since the ACNC began in 2013. Further details about the ACNC can be found at **acnc.gov.au**

The ACNC's purpose is to maintain, protect and enhance public trust and confidence in the sector through increased accountability and transparency.

HCF Research Foundation is a charitable trust and its trustee is HCF Research Foundation Limited (Corporate Trustee).



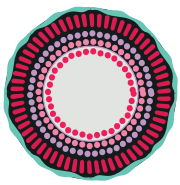
THANK YOU

The HCF Research Foundation wishes to thank the members of the Research Advisory Committee for their contributions throughout the year. We thank our partners for their continued support for health services research, and we'd also like to acknowledge the significant contributions of our peer reviewers from across the country, volunteering to lend their expertise to review our 2026 research projects.

DR CHRISTOPHER PETTIGREW
Head of the HCF Research Foundation



HCF RESEARCH FOUNDATION



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

HCF acknowledges the traditional custodians of the lands and water upon which we work and live.

We acknowledge Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' rich history as traditional healers and scientists, who have taken care of the health of the land and its people for thousands of years.

We give thanks to Elders past and present, who we have much to learn from on our reconciliation journey.

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