



WAHTN

Western Australian Health Translation Network



STRATEGIC PLAN

2021-2025

CONTENTS

Our vision	4
Our mission	4
Our purpose	5
Strategic goals and activities	6

Partners



Information within this publication is correct at the time of printing but is subject to change.



WAHTN and the other members of the Australian Health Research Alliance (AHRA) bring together universities, Medical

Research Institutes and clinical services to improve collaboration in medical research and its timely translation into practice.

After five years and under the direction of the Board and input from our twenty partners we have further refined our Vision, Mission and Purpose, and can clearly see how WAHTN can add value to the WA medical research environment. WAHTN has played a unique role in bringing WA researchers together in response to a disparate range of challenges such as COVID-19, biobanking, medical research imaging infrastructure and research-related legislation.

This experience has helped us formulate new Strategic Goals and Activities grouped under four pillars.

Our membership of AHRA continues to open up examples of national collaboration and opportunities otherwise denied WA researchers. COVID-19 has emphasised that medical research is an essential element of a modern health system and not an expendable add-on. Given this renewed interest in and resourcing of research and innovation in WA, WAHTN looks forward to the next five years.

Professor Gary Geelhoed
MBBS, FRACP, FACEM, MD
Executive Director

July 2021



In its excellent publication in October 2020 (“The First Five Years”), WAHTN reflected on its achievements in the first

five years of its operations.

These included (for example) accreditation as an Advanced Health Research Translation Centre by NHMRC, membership of the Australian Health Research Alliance (WAHTN’s Executive Director Gary Geelhoed being elected as Chairman in 2020), the establishment of a Clinical Trials and Data Management Centre, and much more.

As Professor Jonathan Carapetis, AM, Director of Telethon Kids Institute (and a past member of WAHTN’s Board) was prompted to comment, WAHTN will continue to play a critical part in the

exciting future that he foresees for medical research in WA.

Looking to that future, WAHTN, with input from its members and Executive Board, has produced this Strategic Plan for the next five years. It rightly emphasises the network’s central purpose of enabling *“excellent research, and its translation into policy and practice”*.

Malcolm McCusker AC CVO QC
Chair of the Board

July 2021



Our vision

The health of Western Australians is optimised through a collaboration of researchers, clinicians and consumers embedding research, innovation and its timely translation into world-class policy and practice.

Our mission

To support, catalyse and integrate innovative research with high-quality clinical care.



Our purpose

Promote

Promote health research, innovation and translation in response to state and national health priorities

Unify

Unify health researchers, clinicians, educators, consumers, health providers and industry to promote excellence and increase scale and national competitiveness

Enable

Enable excellent research and its translation into policy and practice

Advocate

Advocate on behalf of health researchers, clinicians and consumers

Catalyse

Catalyse increased public and private investment in Western Australia's health research and innovation

A photograph of a silver stethoscope resting on a document with financial data. A yellow pencil is also visible on the document. The background is a light green with a pattern of small white dots. A large teal circle is overlaid on the right side of the image, containing the text 'Strategic goals and activities'.

Strategic goals and activities

Collaborative partnerships

Contribute to national and international competitiveness through:

- Facilitating new and more diverse research partnerships at state, national and international level
- Leveraging investment opportunities
- Enhancing opportunities for WAHTN partners through collaborative investment in Australian Health Research Alliance Initiatives and Networks
- Facilitating major multi-partner WA-led bids for national and international competitive research funding
- Communicating research and innovation success through local and national networks to enhance translation of knowledge to practice at scale

Excellence in research and innovation

Promote excellence in research and innovation through:

- Facilitating the development of research platforms that enable research and innovation for WAHTN partners, including:
 - biobanking
 - clinical trial support
 - data-driven healthcare
- Building on our strengths by identifying and supporting areas where WA research is at or near a level of global excellence
- Identifying and supporting research in specific areas of priority

Policy, ethics and governance

Strengthen priority setting, research, and translation of research into practice through:

- Promoting a streamlined ethics and governance system
- Promoting a strong research culture in clinical settings, and providing support and guidance to ensure research is embedded and valued throughout clinical organisations
- Advocating for research-informed and research-enabling legislation, policy and governance

Workforce development

Enhance the capacity and capability of WA's clinical research workforce including through:

- Advocating for quarantined research time
- Facilitating a coordinated state-wide approach to research training and education

Promote the involvement of consumers and community in all aspects of research activity



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