

National One Stop Shop

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Wishing you a Happy New Year!

New Year, New Milestones: Advancing Reforms in Health & Medical Research in 2025

Welcome to this quarter's update! As we step into a new year, we're excited to share key progress and initiatives to improve the health and medical research operating environment in Australia.

From ground-breaking reforms to enhanced collaboration, here's what you need to know.

Message from: Emeritus Professor Ian Chubb (AC FAA FTSE), Chair Inter-Governmental Policy Reform Group



Dear colleagues,

I am pleased to share an update on the progress of the reforms underway to improve the operating environment for health and medical research, including clinical trials.

As you know, I was asked to Chair the enduring Inter-Governmental Policy Reform Group (IGPRG) and lead the important reform agenda. The reforms represent a once in a generation opportunity to improve the research operating environment and position Australia as a leading destination for health and medical research.

The progress we have made has been excellent and I look forward to sharing more details with you during 2025.

As the Hon Mark Butler, Minister for Health, shared at the AusBiotech 2024 Conference late last year, the reforms and National One Stop Shop are a “gamechanger” for positioning Australia as a leading destination for clinical trials and medical research. I couldn’t agree more.

Best wishes for the year ahead,

Ian

National One Stop Shop Progress & Next Steps

Australia’s health and medical research operating environment is improving - and the National One Stop Shop is leading the change. This ambitious program of reforms, driven by the enduring IGPRG, seeks to streamline processes and position Australia as a global leader.

What’s in store?

- Simplified access: A next-generation, user-friendly platform connecting patients, researchers and sponsors to clinical trials, including those for rare diseases.
- Global leadership: Enhancing Australia’s standing in health and medical research and innovation.
- Economic growth: A healthier community, more jobs and improved productivity.

Recent highlights include:

- \$18.8 million in funding (Budget 2024/25) for essential technical groundwork. The link to the announcement can be found [here](#).
- Request for Expressions of Interest (REI) from providers to build a bespoke platform: Closed in October 2024, setting the stage for implementation.
- Discovery workshops: Engaging jurisdictions and experts to shape the ICT solution.

Governance structures are in place to ensure smooth delivery, with genuine engagement and input from advisory groups and a dedicated Program Board.

Stay tuned for the next phase!

HREC Issue Spotlight: The Problem, Proposed Solution & Your Role

The Human Research Ethics Committees (HREC) system faces challenges that could hinder Australia's research growth. Inconsistencies in ethics review and approval processes between different institutions and jurisdictions can complicate and delay study start-up and risk limiting access to important treatments.

The Problem:

- Variability in HREC operations and expertise undermines confidence in ethics reviews.
- Multiple reviews for the same research or trial, causing delays.

The Solution:

We are working on a national framework to:

- Define quality standards for HRECs and their host institutions.
- Introduce an accreditation scheme to ensure confidence in approvals.

Why It Matters:

A streamlined, consistent ethics review process means faster research approvals, improved patient access to treatments, and a more attractive environment for sponsors.

Call to Action:

Your participation can help shape this reform. **Together**, we can unlock the full

potential of Australia's health and medical research sector. Consultation will occur in March 2025.



IGPRG and Sub-Committees

The IGPRG is at the forefront of fostering collaboration across jurisdictions to achieve transformative reforms. IGPRG has an ambitious agenda and continues to work productively with all parties to lead key reforms.

Advisory Groups in Action:

- The Industry Advisory Group (IAG), chaired by Dr. Julie White, met in September and December 2024, laying the groundwork for continuing collaboration with industry representatives.
- The Stakeholder Advisory Group (SAG), led by Professor Walter Abhayaratna, met in December 2024, ensuring diverse perspectives and experiences are heard.

These groups play a crucial role in advising on the National One Stop Shop and other reform initiatives.

We are on an exciting journey to improve the health and medical research operating environment in Australia. Your involvement is vital—whether through providing feedback, participating in consultation activities, or collaborating on key reform initiatives.

Links to tools and resources can be accessed [here](#).

Stay connected. Stay informed. Stay involved.

Have your say:

The Department of Health and Aged Care invites you to share your views on the National Health and Medical Research Strategy (National Strategy) through a new survey. This is

your chance to contribute to an inclusive and impactful approach to health and medical research.

Complete the survey via the link [here](#) or by scanning the QR code.

Submissions close on 28 February 2025 – have your say today!



Australian Clinical Trials website

An Australian Government initiative to provide information and resources to participants, healthcare providers, researchers and industry about taking part in, accessing and running clinical trials. Visit the [Australian Clinical Trials website](#) today.

To get in touch and find out more please email: ClinicalTrialsPolicy@health.gov.au.

If you have received this newsletter, you have already subscribed.

If this email was forwarded to you, you can [register your interest](#) to receive regular updates on the work of the IGPRG; progress of the National One Stop Shop; implementation of the National Clinical Trials Governance Framework and work underway to drive national reforms in health and medical research.



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