AHRA
AUSTRALIAN HEALTH RESEARCH ALLIANCE

The Australian Health Research Alliance (AHRA)

National Women's Health Research, Translation and Impact Network

AHRA.org.au

brisbane diamantina health partners
Innovative healthcare through partnerships

Researcherenye Wappayalawangka
Central Australia Academic Health Science Network

Health Translation SA
RESEARCH ACTION IMPACT

Maridulu Budyari Gumal

MACH Melbourne Academic Centre for Health

Monash Partners
ACADEMIC HEALTH SCIENCE CENTRE

NSW Regional HEALTH PARTNERS
CENTRE FOR INNOVATION IN REGIONAL HEALTH

Sydney HealthPartners
Translating Research into Better Health Outcomes

Tropical Australian Academic Health Centre

WAHTN
Western Australian Health Translation Network

With our broad geographical spread and stakeholder engagement, along with national co-ordination through the Australian Health Research Alliance, this Network provides a unique opportunity for national research in priority areas, focused directly on improving the health of Australian women.

About AHRA

The Australian Health Research Alliance (AHRA) has formed a national Women's Health Research Translation Network as the peak body representing Australia's network of seven Advanced Health Research and Translation Centres (AHRTCs) and three Centres for Innovation in Regional Health (CIRHs) accredited by the National Health and Medical Research Council. AHRA provides one voice for "Better Health Through Research".

The Centres are strongly supported by the Government and working regionally and nationally, funded by Partners, State and Federal government, with strong support through the Medical Research Future Fund (MRFF).

The AHRA Alliance includes:

- Monash Partners Academic Health Science Centre
- Brisbane Diamantina Health Partners
- Researcherenye Wappayalawangka, Central Australian Academic Health Science Network
- Health Translation SA
- Maridulu Budyari Gumal
- Melbourne Academic Centre for Health
- NSW Regional Health Partners
- Sydney Health Partners
- Tropical Australian Academic Health Centre
- Western Australian Health Translation Network.

Women's Health Research Translation Network Vision

The AHRA WHRTN seeks to empower and improve equity, health and quality of life for all Australian women integrating prevention, healthcare, research and translation for community benefit. The WHRTN also aims to advance and support the careers of women in research.

AHRA Women's Health Research Translation Network

The AHRA National Women's Health Research, Translation and Impact Network is a peak body in women's health with a Steering Committee nominated from across NHMRC-accredited Advanced Health Research Translation Centres and Centres for Innovation in Regional Health.

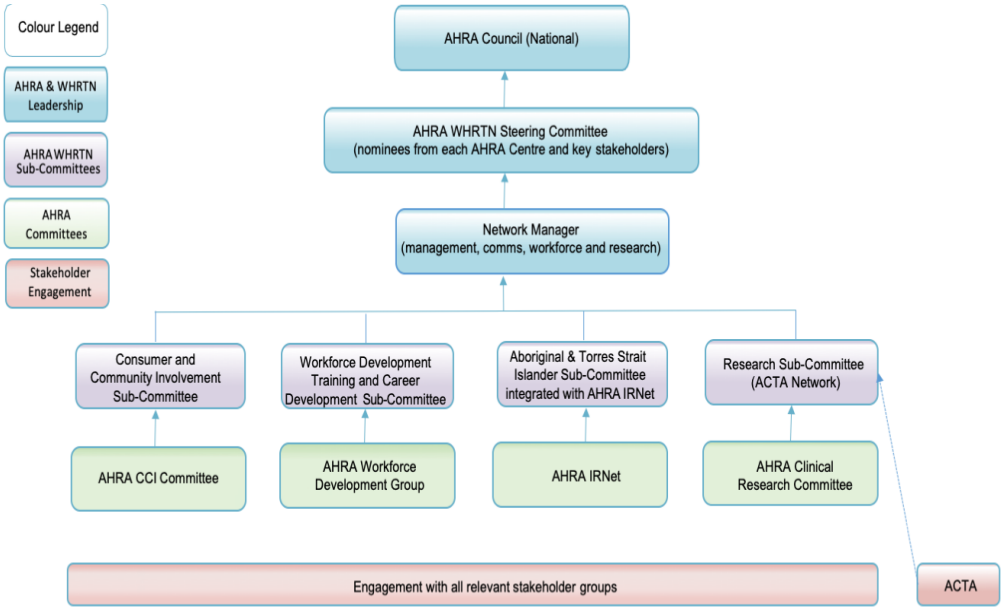
We work from prevention to cure and from preconception to the end of life, across all settings and populations nationally with grassroots engagement and national leadership and reach. This national collaboration which spans community, health services and academic institutions, will boost national and international collaboration on women's health and research, build health workforce capacity, develop leaders in women's health, and advance research and translation to deliver impact and better health for Australian women.

WHRTN is a broad national collaboration led by international multidisciplinary leaders in women's health, nominated by NHMRC-accredited Centres.

WHRTN Governance and Core Activities

The WHRTN's Steering Committee is responsible for the Network's strategic direction, and overseeing delivering on the priorities/objectives, timelines and budget, reporting to AHRA Council. Members are internationally recognised women nominated by their Centres from across the breadth of women's health. Funding will be applied to network commitments including:

- Networking, collaboration and enabling of large-scale, national collaborative effort to improve women's health
- Partnering, engaging, training and empowering women in our communities in research and translation
- Building capacity in women researchers across under-represented groups, diverse disciplines and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander researchers, and
- Sparking national collaborative research, translation and impact in agreed priority areas.



The Steering Committee governs four Sub-Committees, who lead the Network's four platforms. These Sub-Committees will be tasked with:

- Research – developing and administering large-scale collaborative research in priority areas. This will include networking, seed funding initiatives, and strategies to improve quality, breadth and reach of women's health research and translation. This will include establishing an Australian Clinical Trials Alliance (ACTA) Clinical Trials Network which will work with the Perinatal Society of Australia and New Zealand (PSANZ)

- Consumer and Community Involvement (CCI) – engagement with the AHRA CCI National Systems Level Initiative and collaboration to establish the CCI WHRTN strategy and deliver widespread meaningful consumer partnership and engagement in all activities

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander – engagement with AHRA's Indigenous Research Network (IRNet) and collaboration, which will involve creating Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Ambassador roles, advisory committee, and cohort of champions to support and build the capacity of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander female researchers across the country
- Workforce Development – engagement with the AHRA Workforce Development team and other stakeholders, and collaboration to establish the WHRTN strategy, building capacity, capability and credibility in nationally collaborative women's health research, and developing careers of women in research and translation in women's health.

Each of these committees will be supported by the Network Manager and the four platforms will link into the relevant AHRA national systems level initiatives as key stakeholders.

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Priorities and Principles

*Aligned with the national Women's Health Strategy, AHRA Centres have established a set of priorities and principles through a rigorous multistage process**

Our Priorities

1. Preconception, pregnancy, postpartum and intrapartum health of women and babies
2. Mental health
3. Reproductive health
4. Chronic disease and preventative health including cancer and heart disease
5. Healthy lifestyle, nutrition, physical activity and the prevention of obesity
6. Violence and abuse
7. Indigenous health
8. Healthy ageing
9. Sexual health.

"WHRTN aims to collaborate for better health through research in these priority areas."

Our Overarching Principles

1. Women in their lived environment including social determinants of health
2. Responsibility for co-design and translation and impact
3. Community engagement and empowerment
4. Primary, secondary, and tertiary prevention across all priorities
5. Health literacy and shared decision making
6. Equity for priority and vulnerable populations including Indigenous, culturally and linguistically diverse, refugee, gender diverse individuals, and those in rural and regional areas
7. Research processes require partnership, transparency, governance, priority setting, stakeholder engagement and large-scale collaboration – hence it requires sophisticated processes and organisations with the capacity, credibility and capability to undertake these processes.

* https://insightplus.mja.com.au/2019/21/womens-health-research-and-translation-activities-needed/

Next Steps, Activities and Timelines

All platforms are developing their strategies over 2020. These will include a range of national engagement and networking activities. The WHRTN will also offer a national collaboration funding scheme, which will include:

Seed projects to kickstart research or to translate and implement priority projects focused on advancing careers of women. This program pairs junior and senior researchers to build collaboration and capability.

Network projects to spark large-scale high quality national projects (e.g. clinical research, epidemiology, implementation/health services research, systematic reviews) aiming towards large-scale funding such as Centres for Research Excellence..

Co-production projects using best practice methodology to bring together the country's best around the most important priority areas.

The eligibility criteria and application process are currently being defined with the Network Steering Committee, AHRA Council and in liaison with government. Details regarding these opportunities, which will align with the priorities and principles, will be released in early 2021.

The Network has received funding of $5 million over five years from the Federal government and the Medical Research Future Fund. It is acknowledged that $1m/year is a limited funding and the intention is to support networking, collaboration, workforce development, including for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women, and consumer and community involvement. Grant funds will be used strategically to support or seed larger scale research initiatives.

How do I engage with the Network

You can engage through the AHRA Research Translation Centres listed on the AHRA website. This can be through your nominated representative or senior Centre leadership team.

The Network's communications include:

- AHRA website
- A national newsletter
- Regular events.

To sign up to the Network newsletter, please get in touch.

Women's Health Research Translation Network Contacts

Key Contacts

Following are the contact details of the manager of the Women's Health Research Translation Network:

Helen Bolger-Harris
National Program Manager
Women's Health Research Translation Network
helen.bolger-harris@monash.edu

For direct contact with your state or territory WHRTN representative, please find details below.

Location	Australian Health Research Alliance Centre	Women's Health Research Translation Network Representative
VIC	Melbourne Academic Centre for Health	Professor Martha Hickey
		Professor Sue Walker AO
	Monash Partners Academic Health Science Centre (administering organisation)	Associate Professor Jacqueline Boyle
		Professor Helena Teede (Inaugural Chair)
		Associate Professor Sarah Zaman
NSW	Sydney Health Partners	Dr Tanya Nippita
	Maridulu Budyari Gumal (SPHERE)	Professor Georgina Chambers
		Professor Janette Perz
	NSW Regional Health Partners	Professor Julie Byles
		Professor Deb Loxton (Incoming Chair)
QLD	Brisbane Diamantina Health Partners	Professor Vicki Clifton
		Professor Gita Mishra
	Tropical Australian Academic Health Centre	Professor Sarah Larkins
		Professor Cate Nagle
SA	Health Translation SA	Ms Karen Glover
		Professor Maria Makrides
WA	Western Australian Health Translation Network	Dr Jacqueline Frayne
		Professor Roger Hart
NT	Researcherenye Wappayalawangka, Central Australian Academic Health Science Network	info@caahsn.org.au
Consumer Representative		Ms Leslie Arnott, Consumer Co-Founder Lamaze Australia

Please make contact with your WHRTN representative or the national program manager with any queries you may have about the AHRA Women's Health Research Translation Network.