

# Research pillars 2024-26

**Medibank Better Health Research Hub**



# Acknowledgement of Country

Medibank acknowledges Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the First Peoples of this nation.

We proudly recognise Elders past, present and emerging as the Traditional Owners of the lands on which we work and live.

We're committed to supporting Indigenous self-determination and envision a future where all Australians embrace Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories, cultures and rights as a central part of our national identity.

Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander peoples should be aware that this report may contain the images and names of people who may have passed away since publication.



# Introduction

The Medibank Better Health Research Hub (MBHRH) prioritises health and health services research in areas that address the quintuple aims of healthcare: improving health outcomes, affordability, patient experience, health equity, and the wellbeing of healthcare workers.

With a focus on collaboration and research translation, we partner with researchers, health services and organisations across the health sector. We have committed around \$10 million of funding for projects since 2013 for the benefit of our customers and the community.

# Vision

To build research partnerships aligned to our research pillars and broader strategic health priorities that lead to better outcomes, affordability, equity and experience of healthcare to achieve the best health and wellbeing for Australia.

# Mission

We aim to:

- Find evidence-based ways to improve healthcare delivery and health outcomes
- Strengthen engagement and collaboration with researchers
- Accelerate translation of research into policy and practice change.

# Value we bring

We collaborate with our research partners by providing:

- Funding and in-kind support for translational research
- Opportunity to collaborate with a network of research, clinical and industry experts
- Access to Medibank de-identified data and health services in line with relevant laws, policies and guidelines
- Support to recruit Medibank customers to research studies nationwide where appropriate
- Communication and engagement activities to promote research findings and drive translation.

# Supported research

## Who do we support?

- Universities
- Health services
- Medical research institutes
- Professional associations
- Not-for-profit organisations

## Which research areas?

- Population and public health
- Health services
- Primary care
- Clinical medicine

## What type of activity?

- Research projects and programs, including seed funding and co-contributions for direct research costs
- Education and training, including support for PhD students
- Externally administered grant programs

# Research pillars

Our research pillars seek to address health and health system need, and to support Medibank's 2030 vision to create the best health and wellbeing for Australia.

Our research pillars for 2024-25 and 2025-26 financial years are:



## Community mental health and wellbeing

Good mental health and wellbeing is impacted by a range of social, psychological and biological factors that must be understood when developing care and support interventions that are accessible and responsive to the needs of different communities and priority groups. This pillar supports Medibank's aim to support the health and wellbeing of the community, improve workforce wellbeing, and 10-year commitment to address loneliness.

### Priority research

Research will inform evidence-based, co-designed and tailored approaches to enable and promote good mental health and wellbeing in community, education, healthcare and workplace settings.



## Prevention strategies in primary care

Preventative health research seeks to find ways to better promote health and wellbeing to prevent, manage and minimise the long-term impacts of health conditions, disease or injury.

This pillar supports Medibank's focus on growth in prevention and integrated care models and will inform national policy and reform objectives in primary care.

### Priority research

Research will focus on interventions in primary care, including allied health and community health settings, to improve prevention, early detection and management of complex or chronic illness, to better support patient health and wellbeing.



## Care models for the future

Care models for the future aim to provide the community with greater choice, better access and more value in their healthcare while also supporting the sustainability of the health system.

This pillar supports Medibank's focus on the health transition that Australia needs to make to keep healthcare equitable and sustainable in the future.

### Priority research

Research will focus on implementation of care models for the future, including primary, integrated, home-based and virtual care, that improve equity of access, patient experience and personalised care.

Medibank's long-standing commitment to Reconciliation will continue to include funding and support for community-led research in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health.

# Research principles

Our research principles<sup>1</sup> reflect Medibank's values and underpin all partnerships to ensure research is designed to maximise health and healthcare outcomes.



## Person-centred

Research addresses patient and community needs by including consumer perspectives and involvement in research design and activity.

## Health equity and inclusion

Research addresses disparity or need and is inclusive of priority populations, under-served groups and communities<sup>2</sup>.

## Collaboration

Research considers multidisciplinary perspectives, including health, social and economic impacts.

## Translation

Research considers how knowledge can be transferred, with a clear pathway for findings to influence and be translated into policy and practice.

# Governance

Research supported by MBHRH is governed by the Health Research Governance Committee (HRGC), comprised of Medibank leaders with diverse professional and academic backgrounds. The HRGC considers research opportunities for alignment with MBHRH research pillars and principles, scientific merit and quality, feasibility, and potential for translational impact.

<sup>1</sup> Adapted from the Department of Health translational research priorities 2022-24 (Victorian Government).

<sup>2</sup> Research focus areas could include: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health; place-based or socioeconomic disadvantage; regional and rural populations; culturally and linguistically diverse communities; international students and visitors; sex and gender differences; LGBTQIA+ health; life course stages; neurodivergence; people with disability or living with complex or chronic conditions.

# Contact

We welcome opportunities to partner with researchers on projects that align to our research pillars and principles.

For further information, please visit

**Medibank Better Health Research Hub**

or email us at

**healthresearch@medibank.com.au**