

Health Services Research

Investing in health services research improves value in healthcare and represents an opportunity for Australia to secure its long term economic, health and social prosperity.

The Council of Australian Governments (COAG) has identified the need for long term system wide reform in the healthcare sector. Health services research plays a pivotal role in identifying affordable and innovative models of healthcare for the treatment and management of chronic disease.

AHHA POSITION:

- ✧ Health services research underpins effective management and delivery of services and should be aligned with the needs of the public health system.
- ✧ The government should invest in those areas of health services research that builds evidence in primary care.
- ✧ Effective health services research must include both clinicians and health services practitioners and be carried out in partnership with research experts and policy makers.
- ✧ Health services research must be embedded in community and public health settings in order to facilitate knowledge transfer and improve the health of patients with long-term conditions such as severe and enduring mental illness or chronic disease.
- ✧ Health Services research that translates evidence into practice, policy and public health improvements should be priorities through the Medical Research Future Fund (MRFF) and National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC). NHMRC and MRFF models should be reformed to more appropriately fund health services research through targeted short term and small scale pilot studies.
- ✧ MRFF and NHMRC funding should include resources to enhance the capacity of primary healthcare providers who want develop research skills and contribute to broader health system research.
- ✧ Support must be prioritised through the MRFF for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health and health services research.
- ✧ The integrity of peer review and transparency over all disbursements and funding decisions must be protected through amendments to MRFF legislation.
- ✧ The Government should commit to investing in the NHMRC Medical Research Endowment Account which supports the people and projects that drive translation.

For information: Alison Verhoeven, Chief Executive, 0403 282 501