



# Western Alliance

Academic Health Science Centre

## 2023-2026 STRATEGIC PLAN

### Our vision

Healthy rural and regional western Victoria communities benefitting from evidence-based and research-informed healthcare.

### Our purpose

To improve community health and wellbeing by supporting our members to generate translational research and apply research evidence in their practice.

### Our strategic objectives

Stronger partnerships and collaborations

Greater team and individual capacity and capability

A strong enabling environment

Targeted support and funding to accelerate translation

### Our values

#### Collaboration

Success requires positive and respectful relationships and ongoing collaboration between consumers, Aboriginal Community, clinicians, researchers, health services, primary care, universities and other organisations.

#### Access

Rural and regional communities deserve fair local access to research-enabled quality health care.

#### Excellence

To achieve the potential of our partnership, we must strive towards excellence in what we do and learn, grow, evolve and improve continuously.

#### Impact

High quality research and translation lead to measurable impact and improvements in community and individual health and wellbeing.

### Our focus

Strengthening health sector-led collaborative research and research translation in the domains of:

- population and public health
- clinical care
- health systems



# Our strategic objectives and key strategies

## 1 Stronger partnerships and collaborations

- 1a) Consolidate a robust methodology to capture and refresh the priorities of our member organisations for translational research and research translation
- 1b) Actively support our member organisations to adopt multi-site and multi-partner collaborative approaches to translational research and research translation
- 1c) Broaden our membership to optimise engagement of appropriate rural health services in western Victoria
- 1d) Establish new partnerships and collaborations with Aboriginal organisations to advance the quantity, quality and impact of Aboriginal led research translation activities across western Victoria
- 1e) Continue to collaborate and seek out new partnerships across Victoria and Australia with other organisations that support translational research and research translation, to achieve tangible benefits for our member organisations and communities

## 2 A strong enabling environment

Continue to support and grow the Research Translation Coordinator program, in particular to foster engagement and strengthen research/translation capability and collaboration in health settings

- 2a) Continue to grow and utilise our regional network for consumer and community participation in translational research and research translation to ensure meaningful involvement of consumers and Aboriginal People across Western Alliance activities
- 2b) Continue to support improvements in the consistency and clarity of research ethics and governance processes across our region
- 2c) Continue to support our member organisations to conduct safe and effective clinical trials as a way to improve access to evidence-based healthcare in our region
- 2d) Redesign our governance structure to incorporate at least one Aboriginal board director and one community-based director to ensure the board is structured for effectiveness, equity and representation of our diverse membership

## 3 Greater team and individual capacity and capability

- 3a) Continue to build the capacity and capability of our members to engage in and conduct translational research and translate research findings into health policy and practice, including specific approaches to building this capacity and capability in Aboriginal People
- 3b) Provide opportunities for health practitioners to learn, grow, evolve, and continually progress their careers in translational research and research translation, including through scholarships and fellowships
- 3c) Continue to work alongside our Research Translation Centre colleagues under the Australian Health Research Alliance to strengthen capacity- and capability- building initiatives in the broader healthcare system
- 3d) Transition from an Emerging Research Translation Centre to a fully accredited Research Translation Centre under the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) Research Translation Centre accreditation program

## 4 Targeted support and funding to accelerate translation

- 4a) Explicitly define and communicate to stakeholders the components of the research and translation spectrum that we support and develop, and implement a framework that clearly demonstrates this support across the research priorities. As part of this, determine how this process can be strengthened by working more closely with existing health service Quality Improvement teams
- 4b) Consolidate a program of targeted, competitive grant funding for translational research and research translation that leads to tangible improvements in health policy and practice, including specific funding to advance the health of Aboriginal People
- 4c) Leverage investments other organisations are making in transforming health care through translational research and research translation to the benefit of member organisations
- 4d) Facilitate the translation and scaling of evidence throughout our member health services by providing a forum for researchers and clinicians to share their findings and connect with their colleagues from across western Victoria

Adopt and utilise a validated evaluation framework to periodically assess our impact across the region and drive continuous improvement in our approach to supporting impactful research and translation.