Western Alliance

Academic Health Science Centre

STRATEGIC PLAN

2027-2030

About Western Alliance

Western Alliance is Australia's first rural and regionally focused academic health science centre. Accredited by the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) as a Research Translation Centre, Western Alliance brings together 11 member organisations across the Barwon, South West and Grampians regions of western Victoria, including eight rural and regional health services, a primary health network and two universities.

More than 700,000 people live in the three regions, approximately 45% of Victoria's rural and regional population. Health outcomes are significantly poorer in western Victoria than in Melbourne because of the challenges of distance and major variations in access to healthcare, socio-economic position, and infrastructure.

Our purpose

To improve health outcomes in rural and regional western Victoria by advancing research and developing the people, partnerships and systems that translate evidence and knowledge into policy and practice.





Our values underpin and inform everything we do:

Respect

We value diverse perspectives, knowledge and lived experience, treating everyone with dignity, integrity and consideration.

Equity

We champion fairness and opportunity, working to overcome barriers to participation in research and access to evidence-based healthcare.

Improvement

We continuously learn, adapt and improve, drawing on evidence, experience and diverse perspectives to support meaningful change.

Empowerment

We take a strength-based approach that values the capabilities, agency and leadership of individuals and organisations.

Barwon Health · Colac Area Health · Deakin University · East Grampians Health Service · Federation University · Grampians Health · MDHS · phn Western Victoria (An Australian Government Initiative) · Portland District Health · South West Healthcare · wdhs Western District Health Service · Australian Government National Health and Medical Research Council · NHMRC · NHMRC Accredited Research Translation Centre

Western Alliance Strategic Pillars

Partner

Foster impactful partnerships

We will **develop and maintain partnerships** that support the translation of evidence into improved health practice and outcomes.

KEY PRIORITIES:

- Co-design research and translation priorities and programs with **health settings and First Peoples' organisations** across western Victoria
- Place **consumers and communities** at the heart of research and healthcare by fostering relationships that drive evidence generation, translation and impact
- Strengthen **regional, state and national partnerships** and **broker new partnerships** to amplify impact and influence **policy, funding and system priorities**
- Leverage our **regional leadership role** to advocate for the needs of our member organisations and communities

Grow

Build capability for a high-performing regional research translation eco-system

We will strengthen the **people and systems** required to embed research and translation in everyday practice.

KEY PRIORITIES:

- Continue to build a **research-capable workforce** and foster an environment in which research skills are recognised, valued, and translated into career opportunities
- Strengthen opportunities for **First Peoples-led research capability and leadership**
- Build the capability of **consumers**, researchers and the health workforce in the co-design, development and implementation of consumer-centred research and translation initiatives
- Strengthen research capacity in **rural and regional health systems** across western Victoria
- Provide leadership for **national programs that improve access to research capability-building opportunities** for the rural, regional and remote health workforce

Translate

Drive research and translation that improves health outcomes

We will focus on supporting our members to **translate evidence into practice and policy**, with a clear line of sight to impact across population and public health, clinical care and health systems.

KEY PRIORITIES:

- **Prioritise, support and align funding** to initiatives with clear potential to improve practice and policy and deliver improvements in health outcomes and system performance
- Strengthen pathways and infrastructure for **sustainability and scaling of evidence-based practice** across western Victoria and beyond
- Support initiatives that improve **access to clinical trials** across western Victoria
- Support integration of research translation with **quality improvement and service delivery**
- Advance **translation of research and knowledges to improve First Peoples' health outcomes** across western Victoria, aligning with ***marra ngarrgoo marra goorri***
- Support the integration of **consumer and community perspectives** into all stages of the research and translation process

Our strategic pillars work together to create a pathway from partnership to impact:

Through PARTNER, we identify and respond to the priorities of our communities and health organisations

Through GROW, we build the people and systems needed to undertake and use research

Through TRANSLATE, we support our members to turn evidence into practice, policy and service improvements

Together, these pillars accelerate the translation of research into better health outcomes, more equitable care and stronger health systems across western Victoria.



