

ACvA Strategic Initiatives

Our Strategic Initiatives underpin our vision for a vibrant and collaborative cardiovascular research ecosystem. They provide an opportunity for national inter-disciplinary engagement to address the big CV unmet needs.

CV Clinical Themes Initiative

The aim of the ACvA Clinical Themes Initiative is to bring together the CV and Stroke research sector to address unmet needs initially in six clinical theme areas that include:

- **Heart Failure**
- **Stroke**
- **Hypertension**
- **Arrhythmia**
- **Coronary Artery Disease**
- **Improving CV outcomes for Indigenous and Torres Strait Islander peoples**

An open EOI was undertaken with the community identifying their top 3 research priorities.

Since then, we have met with key opinion leaders from Stroke and Hypertension and have commenced discussions in the other clinical areas to identify the emerging topics, champions, and additional stakeholders.

National Implementation & Policy Roundtable

The Joint National Cardiovascular Implementation & Policy Roundtable was hosted by the Cardiac Society of Australia and New Zealand, The National Heart Foundation of Australia and the ACvA 10 March 2022.

The initiative was led by the ACvA Implementation and Policy Flagship Co-Directors Professors Garry Jennings AO and Julie Redfern and was a chance to convene and document a whole-of-nation discussion in partnership with the national cardiovascular peak bodies to identify and action cardiovascular disease implementation and policy gaps and develop pathways to drive implementation. The roundtable focused on the areas of prevention, acute treatment and secondary prevention.

The outcomes will form the foundations for a national implementation roadmap and priorities. The ACvA Implementation and Policy Flagship will also use this opportunity to identify key research and evidence gaps for further work.

You can read the Draft Joint National Cardiovascular Implementation and Policy Report [here](#).

We envisage more roundtables to be held in the future, ideally with more face-to-face interactions and with the ability to invite international experts and leaders to contribute to the discussion.

Health Leadership Research Forums

The cardiovascular Health Leadership Research Forums (HLRFs) provide strategic forums at both a state and national level to bring together data/evidence and expertise and allow health leadership to:

- **Identify gaps and inequities**
- **Prioritise areas for research investment and translation**
- **Support prioritised implementation into the health system**

On 17th November, 2021, ACvA facilitated the first national HLRF co-chaired by Dr Nick Coatsworth and Professor Keith McNeil. It was attended by senior officers from all States, Territories and the Commonwealth, as well as the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, the Safety and Quality Commission and the National Heart Foundation of Australia.

There is now national agreement regarding the need for aligned CV clinical quality indicators and the concept of national and state-based HLRFs to allow gaps and inequities to be identified and to galvanise the research sector to address them.

Another national HLRF is being planned for later this year and we are working with each state and territory to establish local forums to ensure relevance at the jurisdictional level and feed up in to the national HLRF.

Specialist Working Groups

Specialist Working Groups are developed by members in areas of special interest and need. They bring together established researchers with a joint focus. They provide support for researchers in these specialist areas across Australia and meet to discuss research activities in the field, develop collaborations and create grant/funding opportunities.

We hosted a national forum on Environmental and Cardiovascular Health, driven by a specialist working group and currently have ongoing Specialist Working Groups for:

- **Cardio-oncology**
- **Peripheral Arterial Disease.**