



A new piece of national research infrastructure to increase Australia's global competitiveness

The challenge

Patient recruitment is a major barrier to doing human research in Australia. Less than 1% of the population are ever involved in a clinical trial and only 1 in 5 trials meet planned recruitment timelines. Participant recruitment is repeatedly identified as a primary barrier to doing research in Australia.

The opportunity

The Australian population have an overwhelming willingness to take part in medical research relevant to them. However they currently do not have a platform to do so. If the medical research recruitment challenge could be overcome, there is enormous scope to do more Australian medical research more efficiently – delivering better outcomes for researchers, funders, policy makers and the wider community.

What is Join Us?

Join Us is a national research register designed to engage the Australian community in diverse forms of medical research. Using a similar approach to the [Scottish SHARE program](#), which has recruited more than 282,000 volunteers, the Australian community will be asked to volunteer in medical research.

More specifically, the Join Us research register will:

- consent Australians to be contacted about medical research projects relevant to them;
- ask permission to use participants' routinely collected health data to match them to the most appropriate projects;
- provide Australian researchers with a novel disease agnostic recruitment option for their studies; and
- seek to make better use of the wealth of routinely collected health data available in Australia.

Increasing Australia's global competitiveness

Join Us will become a piece of national research infrastructure that will increase Australia's global competitiveness. In addition, it is hoped it will bring significant new efficiencies to the Australian medical research sector, facilitate more research at scale, and increase Australia's participation in multinational research studies. Join Us is designed to save lives by facilitating faster and more efficient medical research breakthroughs and increasing Australians' access to new treatments.

Current status

The initial development work has been done, start-up funding secured, ethics approval obtained and the Join Us website has been deployed and soft launched at www.joinus.org.au. We have signed on over 15 partner organisations including the Consumer Health Forum of Australia, Research Australia and the Victor Chang Cardiac Research Institute.

How does Join Us work?

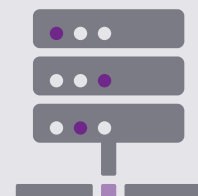
The *Join Us* research register is an easy online four step process. *It includes:*



1. Australians invited to participate online or via mass media



2. Sign up to be contacted about research opportunities



3. De-identified health data securely stored long term for ongoing research



4. Researchers connect with pre-consented participants



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