



A new piece of national research infrastructure available to all Australian researchers

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

At the same time the great majority of the Australian population indicate a willingness to take part in research relevant to them and Australia is a world leader in health and medical research, with a very high-quality research infrastructure. If the recruitment challenge could be overcome, there is enormous scope to do more research more efficiently – delivering better outcomes for researchers, funders, policy makers and the wider community.

What is Join Us?

Join Us is national research register designed to engage the Australian community in diverse forms of medical research. Using a similar approach to the SHARE program, which has recruited more than 250,000 volunteers in Scotland, the Australian community will be asked to engage actively in the national medical research agenda.

More specifically, the Join Us research register will:

- consent community members to be contacted about 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.

Expected outcomes

The project is intended to become a piece of national research infrastructure available to all. It is hoped that Join Us will bring significant new efficiencies to the Australian research sector, facilitate more research at scale and increase Australia's participation in multinational research studies. Join Us is also designed to save lives by facilitating faster and more efficient 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



How does Join Us work?

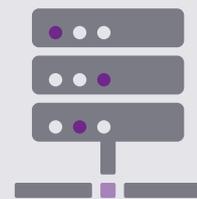
The *Join Us* research register is an easy online four step process. *It includes:*



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