

To Join Us participants,

We hope you're enjoying the festive season.

As we wrap up a busy year for the Join Us Research Register, we'd like to share a few updates on our journey to improve health outcomes and save lives through medical research participation.

2023 in numbers:

• 2,725 Join Us participants - the number of Australians who have signed up to be connected about research studies relevant to them, an incredible

- 212% growth in the last 12 months
- 42 research studies supported

• 2 years of Join Us! We celebrated 2 years of connecting to health and medical research across the country.

Supporting Australian Research

Join Us has supported 42 research studies since 2021.

This year alone, we've helped Australian researchers find suitable candidates for studies involving:

- Depression and anxiety through Swinburne University's <u>Breaking down Barriers</u> study
- Diabetes with the St Vincent' Institute's Why Doesn't Everyone Get T1 Diabetes? Study
- Peripheral Artery Disease with James Cook University and UNSW Sydney researchers through the <u>SHAPE Trial</u>
- Microbiome Health Research with the UNSW Microbiome Research Centre's <u>Healthy</u> <u>Optimal Australian Microbiome (HOAM) Study</u>

For the full list of studies we support, visit our Research Studies page here.

The Join Us Team

Our team have been speaking to interested Australians across community and healthcare events, spreading awareness on the importance of health research participation, and how easy it is to get involved.

From university open-weeks, weekend markets, hospital waiting rooms and library events, the Join Us team have had the opportunity to connect with so many community members eager to take part in the national research effort.

Looking Ahead to 2024

Whether you've participated in a clinical trial, completed a survey on your experiences as a health consumer, spoken about Join Us to your friends and family, or supported us in countless other ways, your efforts have been the driving force behind our achievements. Recruitment of human participants to research studies is often difficult and time consuming and researchers fail to meet recruitment target for their research which eventually cause delays in breakthroughs in health and medical research.

As we roll into the end of the year, we're looking forward to new ways to connect with interested Australians and help researchers find suitable study participants.

Our mission is to help more Australians take part in health research that matters to us. We want to wish you a very happy holiday season and a healthy, happy new year from the team at Join Us.

Kind regards,

The Join Us team