



Join Us: Strengthening Australia's research capability

– March 2025

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS:

- Participant recruitment and retention is a major barrier in health research within Australia.
- In Australia only 1 in 5 trials meet deadlines for recruitment.
- Studies have shown that up to 90% of people would be willing to take part in research if it was relevant to them, yet less than 1% are ever involved.

PROJECT CYCLE:

Feasibility tested, scale up phase from 2025 onwards

PARTNERS:

The George Institute
UNSW Sydney

SUPPORTERS:

Join Us has been co-designed by more than 50 parties across the research sector, including academia, community and government. Ongoing and additional support provided.

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR:

Professor Bruce Neal

BACKGROUND:

- Australia is a world leader in health and medical research, however an ongoing research barrier is the slow recruitment of research participants across the country.
- Increasing community involvement in medical research is a key goal for the government's "National One Stop Shop" for clinical trials.
- Research registers are a proven way of connecting patients and researchers, but these registers typically address specific diseases, focus on people attending metropolitan centres of excellence, and can be difficult for patients to navigate.
- Disease-agnostic research registers offer patients of all types a single point of access to research.

AIM:

- Join Us is a not-for-profit, disease-agnostic health research register dedicated to connecting everyday Australians with meaningful research opportunities.
- Join Us aims to achieve better health and wellbeing for the Australian community by removing a major barrier to the recruitment of participants and facilitate more rapid translation of new interventions from research into practice.
- Join Us will strengthen Australia's research sector by enhancing opportunities and investment for research in the country, as recruitment efficiencies provided by the register are recognised.

METHODS:

- Join Us is open to all adults living in Australia.
- By joining the register, via a simple online form, individuals provide basic demographic and health information and consent to be contacted about relevant research opportunities.
- Researchers with their own ethics approval will be able to apply to use the register to find participants matching their eligibility criteria.
- The Join Us register connects the Australian community with relevant research studies, making it easier for researchers to find participants while giving people the opportunity to contribute to important health research.

IMPACT

- Join Us will strengthen clinical and public health research in Australia by enhancing access to pre-consented research participants and open up new research capacity across disciplines for whom patient populations and data were previously hard to access.
- It will enhance community participation in research by improving access to new therapies and treatments, leading to more impactful studies and better health outcomes.

CONTACT:

To find out more about this project, its investigators or The George Institute please contact Tina Wall +61 410 411 983 OR twall@georgeinstitute.org.au

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