



Improving health care outcomes through sex and gender policies in health and medical research – March 2023



The George Institute
for Global Health

Facts:

- In a 2019 review of sex and gender policies of funding agencies and medical journals in Australia, only two funders and six medical journals had such policies.
- Policies on inclusion of sex and gender in health and medical research enables the inclusion of sex and gender-related phenomena in analysis, thereby promoting better targeted treatments and improved health outcomes.

Project Cycle:

2019 - 2023

Partners:

The George Institute Australia
The Australian Human Rights Institute, UNSW Sydney

Supporters:

Philanthropic funding awarded to:
The Australian Human Rights Institute, UNSW Sydney
The George Institute for Global Health

Principal Investigators:

Prof Robyn Norton
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Dr Kelly Thompson

Background:

- There is a long-standing assumption that medicine, and the research underpinning medical interventions, is sex and gender neutral, however there is a growing body of evidence describing sex and gender differences in disease prevention, diagnosis, treatment and health outcomes.
- Despite this, much research continues to be done without taking sex and gender into account, leading to gaps in the evidence base informing our health care policy and practice.

Aims:

- To address gaps in the collection, analysis and reporting of sex and gender in health and medical research in Australia.
- To build capacity among researchers, scientists and clinicians, and drive change in this area.

Methods:

The project involves three phases:

- Surveys, interviews, web-based searches;
- Development and evaluation of policy frameworks and training materials; and
- Health economic analysis.

Impact:

- Each stakeholder within the health and medical research sector in Australia encourages and supports the collection, analysis and reporting of sex and gender.
- Improving the safety and quality of research will result in greater equality in health care outcomes for all.

Contact:

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

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