

# Research Program Strategy

2026 - 2030

# Contents

## **04** About Lung Foundation Australia

---

## **05** Introduction

- 05** Our commitment to research and innovation
  - 06** What we have heard from our community
  - 08** Research vision
  - 08** Research mission
  - 09** Purpose
  - 09** Strategic objectives
  - 10** Alignment with the Corporate Plan
  - 10** Research priorities
- 

## **12** Research Strategy Framework

- 14** Focus Area 1 - Community
  - 15** Focus Area 2 - Partnerships and Influence
  - 16** Focus Area 3 - Funding and Infrastructure
  - 17** Focus Area 4 - Capacity and Capability Building
  - 18** Focus Area 5 - Research Impact and Translation
  - 20** Enabler 1 - Research governance
  - 21** Enabler 2 - Communication
  - 22** Enabler 3 - Data and systems
  - 23** Enabler 4 - Collaboration
- 

## **24** Monitoring and evaluation

---

## **26** Acknowledgments

---

# About Lung Foundation Australia

For more than 30 years, Lung Foundation Australia has walked alongside people living with lung disease and lung cancer, helping them navigate some of life's hardest moments with care, knowledge and hope. We provide trusted support through our nurses, peer support programs, and social workers. We fund research that leads to better treatments. We speak out for people who need lung health to be taken seriously.

Everything we do helps protect the gift of breath, so that more Australians can breathe easier, live well and feel less alone.

## Vision

# Healthy lungs for all.

## Mission

To lead lung health and transform lives through impactful programs, policy, campaigns, and research.

## Values

### Trusted

We are a credible, evidence-based authority in lung health, disease, and cancer.

### Excellence

We set the standard through expertise, leadership and innovation – striving every day for the highest quality in everything we do.

### Impact-driven

We create meaningful, lasting impact in lung health, with a commitment to equity and addressing disparities.

### Collaborative and inclusive

We listen deeply, value lived experience and work together for better outcomes.

### Curious and innovative

We embrace new ideas and technologies, challenge the status quo, and remain responsive and adaptable in a changing world.

### Empathetic and fair

We approach our work with care, compassion, and fairness, and with a deep understanding of those we serve.

# Introduction

## Our commitment to research and innovation

Lung Foundation Australia's **Corporate Plan 2026-2030** has positioned research and innovation as one of four strategic goals that will help support delivery of our vision of **"Healthy lungs for all."**



*Pillar 4 of our corporate plan "Drive life changing research and innovation" will help us deliver impact to our community.*

By aligning our research and innovation activities with community-identified priorities, we will deliver services, programs and activities that drive change, are agile and meet evolving environmental, social and economic challenges for people with lung disease and lung cancer.

As a national consumer organisation, we invest in evidence-based research, and empower our community to be active participants in their healthcare, provide them with knowledge to advocate for treatment and support, and enhance knowledge and understanding of contemporary practices for healthcare professionals. It provides hope for our community and a pathway for patients to understand and manage their lung health.

Lung Foundation Australia's **Research Program Strategy 2026-2030** has been developed in consultation with our lived experience community, supporters, research community, key opinion leaders, and partners. It provides a framework for supporting research excellence, amplifying consumer voice and creating broader impact across the national lung health research ecosystem.

This Strategy will be supported by an implementation action plan aligned to strategic horizons which will help guide delivery and progress over time. Lung Foundation Australia will advance its vision of **"Healthy lungs for all"** by delivering contemporary research, strengthening research capability, and building the evidence base through its research program.

# What we have heard from our community

Lung Foundation Australia has undertaken a review of its research activities and engaged with our community through targeted surveys and interviews with key opinion leaders to help guide the future direction of our Research Program.

Our community have overwhelmingly told us they want to see:

- A greater focus on prevention across the life course, particularly the early years of life.
- Continued research funding and support, particularly for early-mid career researchers and healthcare professionals.
- Greater strategic leadership and advocacy to address research funding gaps at a system level.
- Integration of consumer partnerships and lived experience in research priority setting activities, funding decisions and program design.

- Support for strategic research partnerships.
- Facilitation of knowledge translation, dissemination and implementation of research outcomes with our community.
- Regular communication of research outcomes and personal stories.
- Opportunities for consumers to be involved in research activities.
- Facilitation of fair, equitable and culturally safe consumer partnerships across the research pipeline, with dedicated focus on priority populations including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, who remain under-represented in research.

The research sector is currently experiencing significant funding challenges, that are having profound impacts on research capacity building and innovation. Consumers see research as a beacon of hope and an opportunity to improve outcomes for future generations.



# Research vision

Research that delivers better lung health outcomes and informs policy, practice and care.

# Research mission

To champion high-quality, consumer-informed research that strengthens prevention, improves care, and responds to emerging lung health challenges across the life course.



# Purpose

To guide Lung Foundation Australia's research investment, partnerships, and priorities to maximise impact and benefit for our community.

# Strategic objectives

Our Research Strategy is underpinned by five objectives. We are committed to:

- Positioning Lung Foundation Australia as the **consumer engagement research partner of choice** by ensuring research priorities are driven by the lived experience of people with lung disease and lung cancer, embedding consumer voice and facilitating meaningful consumer participation in research.
- Driving a coordinated national effort in lung health research through **meaningful partnerships and advocacy** efforts.
- Creating the conditions to support sustained scalable research through national funding initiatives and infrastructure projects.
- Strengthening sector-wide research capability by supporting the development of future **researchers, clinicians, public health professionals and lung health professionals while building** Lung Foundation Australia's **internal capacity and capability** to lead and contribute high-quality research.
- Supporting high-quality research that **delivers measurable community impact** by ensuring findings are translated into policy, practice and consumer-facing outcomes, with equity and accessibility embedded throughout.

# Alignment with Lung Foundation Australia's Corporate Plan (2026 – 2030)

Over the next five years, Lung Foundation Australia will prioritise research activities that are strategically aligned with our corporate goals identified under **Pillar 4: Drive life-changing research and innovation:**

## 4.1 Consumer-led research

Investing in research that reflects the priorities and lived experiences of our community, ensuring their voices shape the future of lung health.

## 4.2 Digitally enabled and data-driven

Leveraging data, technology and insights to inform best practice and expand access to inclusive, person-centred lung health services.

## 4.3 Impact measured, demonstrated and shared

Impact of services, research and innovation is consistently measured and transparently shared to drive continuous improvement and accountability.

## 4.4 Evidence translated into action

Research evidence is actively translated into policy and practice leading to integrated, evidence-based solutions that improve lung health outcomes.

We will take a collaborative approach to addressing lung health grand challenges, embedding the voice of our community in all that we do.

## Research priorities

Our Research Program will focus on addressing lung health research priorities across the life course, including:

- **Lung health within the first 1,000 days of life, childhood and adolescence:** healthy lung development and prevention of lung disease in the early stages of life.
- **Prevention and risk reduction:** tobacco and vaping harms, respiratory infections and immunisations, occupational exposures, and environmental factors e.g. climate change, air quality.
- **Screening, diagnosis, and treatment of priority lung diseases and lung cancer:** screening program participation and environmental monitoring, quality of life measures, targeted treatments, earlier diagnostic methods.
- **Supportive care, disease self-management and models of care for priority lung diseases and lung cancer:** integrating support across the care continuum, improving health literacy and disease self-management, informing consumers what excellent care looks like, pulmonary rehabilitation services, nurse-led and community-based services, supportive care.
- **Equitable health outcomes and access to healthcare:** equitable access and outcomes, and respectful care for priority populations including but not limited to people living in rural, regional and remote areas, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, cultural and linguistically diverse people, LGBTQIA+, people living with disability, and workers exposed to occupational hazards.



**Figure 1:** Lung Foundation Australia and community identified research priorities for lung health fall across five broad areas.

Research priority setting activities will use standard research prioritisation methodology<sup>1-3</sup> to identify community-identified areas of need. Focusing on these areas will allow us to create system-wide change for our community, reduce health inequity, particularly for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, and shift the community's focus and perceptions towards lung health across the life course. This will provide an opportunity for current and future generations to focus on what they can do to maintain healthy lungs and reduce lifestyle risks, while navigating future environmental challenges.

1 Occupational lung disease research - Lung Foundation Australia

2 Top 10 research priorities for people living with pulmonary fibrosis, their caregivers, healthcare professionals and researchers | Thorax

3 Silicosis research priorities for health care, research, and health and safety professionals, and for people exposed to silica in Australia: a research priority setting exercise. MJA. (Hyperlink this with the weblink: and for people exposed to silica in Australia: a research priority setting exercise

# Research Strategy Framework

## Research Vision

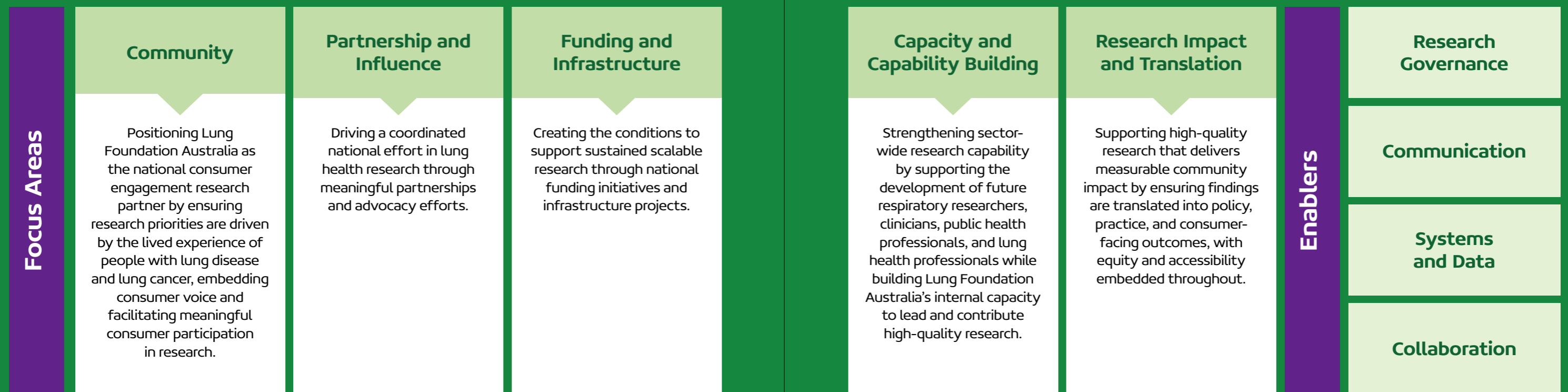
Research that delivers better lung health outcomes and informs policy, practice and care.

## Research Mission

To champion high-quality, consumer-informed research that strengthens prevention, improves care, and responds to emerging lung health challenges across the life course.

## Purpose

To guide Lung Foundation Australia's research investment, partnerships, and priorities to maximise impact and benefit for our community.



**Implementation Actions: (Initiatives to support strategy delivery)**

**Metrics: (Measures to evaluate success)**

**Governance: Research Advisory Committee**

# Community

Community voice and meaningful consumer engagement in research is at the heart of what we do.

## Objective

Positioning Lung Foundation Australia as the national **consumer engagement research partner** by ensuring research priorities are driven by the lived experience of people with lung disease and lung cancer, embedding consumer voice and facilitating meaningful consumer participation in research.

## Strategies

- 1.1 Align research funding and partnerships with identified community and consumer priorities.
- 1.2 Facilitate fair, equitable and balanced consumer partnerships with our research community.
- 1.3 Share outcomes and impact with our community.
- 1.4 Provide equitable and inclusive opportunities for consumers to engage in research as participants, partners and advisors.

## Outcomes

- Community engagement and co-design are embedded in standard research practices and supported by clear processes, shared decision making and defined roles.
- Consumers are equipped with the skills, knowledge and confidence to actively contribute to and participate in research.
- We have an actively engaged lived experience network that drives national research priorities in lung health and is representative of diverse perspectives and priority populations.

# Partnerships and influence

Strong partnerships and collective influence drive progress and amplify impact.

## Objective

Driving a coordinated national effort in lung health research through **meaningful partnerships and advocacy** efforts.

## Strategies

- 2.1 Establish consumer and research partnerships that drive system-wide change, are equitable, fair and sustainable.
- 2.2 Partner with The Thoracic Society of Australia and New Zealand (TSANZ), Cancer Australia, peak bodies, health services, government, industry, and research institutions to fast-track innovation and impact.
- 2.3 Fund innovative and translation-ready projects that promote cross-sector partnerships through contemporary co-investment models.
- 2.4 Advocate for policy change based on research evidence.
- 2.5 Implement streamlined processes for supporting research partnerships and advocacy efforts.

## Outcomes

- A coordinated national approach to lung health research that embeds lived experience from the outset and drives faster systemic change.
- Advocacy efforts are grounded in consumer data and research evidence leading to more responsive policies and engaged communities.
- Partnerships reflect a multidisciplinary approach to solving research priorities.
- Sustainable long-term cross-sector partnerships improve the research translation pipeline and reduce implementation timelines.

# Funding and infrastructure

Financial sustainability and shared infrastructure support the research ecosystem.

## Objective

Creating a positive lung health research environment through promotion of **national funding initiatives and strategic infrastructure projects**.

## Strategies

- 3.1 Secure sustainable philanthropic and government support and diversify funding to ensure stability and growth of Lung Foundation Australia's research program.
- 3.2 Launch targeted funding programs that are equitable and inclusive (challenge-based calls, seeding grants, travel grants, community grants), representative of diverse communities and aligned with consumer priorities.
- 3.3 Continue to support basic science through funding of stipends and strategic research partnerships.
- 3.4 Facilitate and promote access to national shared research infrastructure to strengthen collaboration, efficiency and sustainability across the research ecosystem (e.g. registries, data platforms, digital tools, biobanks, clinical trial networks).
- 3.5 Establish and embed culturally appropriate research governance structures that embed best practice and ensure safe, respectful and inclusive engagement with our community.

## Outcomes

- Diversified and sustainable funding streams for research activities.
- Multi-sector approach to solving grand lung health challenges.
- Robust national infrastructure to support a national coordinated approach to lung health research.
- Research impact is fast-tracked using contemporary digital technologies.

# Capacity and capability

We support capability building, invest in research roles and support strategic collaborations.

## Objective

Strengthening sector-wide research capability by supporting the development of future **researchers, clinicians, public health professionals and lung health professionals while building Lung Foundation Australia's internal capacity and capability** to lead and contribute high-quality research.

## Strategies

- 4.1 Foster and embed evaluation, and a positive high-performing research culture at Lung Foundation Australia.
- 4.2 Build and facilitate national research networks across areas of lung health, lung disease and lung cancer.
- 4.3 Facilitate linkages between healthcare professionals, industry, research community and consumers to solve complex systemic issues.
- 4.4 Support growth of early-mid career researchers and healthcare professionals from basic science, health services and public health research backgrounds.
- 4.5 Develop pathways to build research capacity in priority populations.

## Outcomes

- Positive high-performing research culture embedded at Lung Foundation Australia and capability to deliver impactful outcomes.
- High-performing national networks that support solving of systemwide-problems and provide greater visibility of Lung Foundation Australia in shaping national lung priorities.
- Cross-sector linkages that accelerate research translation into practice.
- Lung Foundation Australia research alumni become national respiratory health leaders and attract national funding to drive outcome driven research that reflects community needs.

# Research impact and translation

We enable rapid translation, implementation and evaluation to drive research impact.

## Objective

Driving high quality research that **delivers measurable community impact** by ensuring findings are translated into policy, practice and consumer-facing outcomes, with equity and accessibility embedded throughout.

## Strategies

- 5.1 Invest in translational projects that embed evidence-based innovations into policy and practice.
- 5.2 Share real-world stories of research impact and lived experience to drive fundraising targets.
- 5.3 Build research literacy within the community.
- 5.4 Monitor and evaluate research activities, programs, and service outcomes to promote equity in healthcare access and reduce gaps for priority populations.

## Outcomes

- Lung Foundation Australia engages in high impact research activities that are meaningful, prioritised by our community and have broad reach.
- Feedback loops are created with our community.
- Policy changes are evidence-based and address the needs of our community.
- Research impact stories drive donations and fundraising activity.

# Enablers

The successful delivery of Lung Foundation Australia's Research Strategy is supported by four key enablers: research governance, communication, data and systems, and collaboration. These enablers provide the essential capabilities to implement the strategies outlined across the five research focus areas effectively and equitably.

## Enabler 1

# Research Governance

## Goal

Governance structures, policies and oversight mechanisms ensure research activities are ethical, compliant and strategically aligned.

## Strategies

- 1.1** Strengthen culturally safe and best practice research governance by embedding appropriate structures and re-establishing a research governance committee to guide and oversee activities.
- 1.2** Establish and implement transparent, contemporary funding and review processes that uphold integrity and support high-quality decision-making.
- 1.3** Ensure research activities are aligned with national research standards (National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC), Medical Research Future Fund (MRFF), National Safety and Quality Health Service Standards) and meet recognised benchmarks for quality and safety.

## Outcomes

- Increased trust and credibility in Lung Foundation Australia's research funding processes.
- Research processes are culturally responsive, respectful and reflective of diverse perspectives.

## Enabler 2

# Communication

## Goal

A coordinated communications strategy enables clear and consistent dissemination of research findings and impact to internal teams, stakeholders, policymakers and the community.

## Strategies

- 2.1** Communicate research activities and outcomes effectively by using a range of channels (digital platforms, newsletters, webinars, social media) to share progress, opportunities, and impact.
- 2.2** Ensure consistent, accessible messaging for internal teams, stakeholders, and the community, including building capability in plain-language communication so findings are easily understood.
- 2.3** Embed stakeholder and community feedback through structured feedback loops that inform and improve ongoing research planning and priorities.

## Outcomes

- Research communication is timely, transparent, and accessible to all stakeholders.
- Increased community awareness and engagement with research activities.
- Stakeholders report improved clarity and trust in Lung Foundation Australia's research processes.
- Feedback mechanisms are embedded and actively inform research decisions.

# Data and systems

## Goal

A coordinated communications strategy enables clear and consistent dissemination of research findings and impact to internal teams, stakeholders, policymakers and the community.

## Strategies

- 3.1 Leverage digital tools, interoperable data systems and AI-driven analytics to accelerate dissemination of research insights, translation into practice, and support collaboration and innovation across the research ecosystem.
- 3.2 Implement data governance frameworks that ensure ethical, compliant, and culturally appropriate data use.
- 3.3 Build internal capability for data literacy and digital system use among staff and partners.

## Outcomes

- Robust, secure, and user-friendly data systems that enable efficient research collaboration.
- Increased use of shared infrastructure and digital tools across research projects.
- Data governance processes are trusted and culturally responsive.
- Research impact is accelerated through advanced analytics and real-world data integration.

# Collaboration

## Goal

Frameworks, tools and best practice guidelines encourage multidisciplinary collaboration, drive innovation and leverage collective expertise.

## Strategies

- 4.1 Strengthen cross-departmental collaboration across Lung Foundation Australia, enabling the translation of research evidence into policy, program, and practice.
- 4.2 Build new collaborations across public, private and not-for-profit sectors through creation of new communities of research practice across lung health.
- 4.3 Build organisational research capability through an internal research capability framework, supported by toolkits (e.g. data sharing agreements, intellectual property clauses, grant templates) and templates that enable consistent high-quality research partnerships.

## Outcomes

- Collaboration is fostered across the research ecosystem and within Lung Foundation Australia.
- Coordinated approach leads to new innovations and infrastructure, that support growth of lung health.
- Internal research frameworks, toolkits and templates support organisational research capability building and ensure consistent, high-quality research practices.

# Monitoring and evaluation

This Research Program Strategy provides a clear and accountable framework for guiding research investment, partnerships, and delivery of activities at Lung Foundation Australia. Success is expected to be realised through short, medium, and long-term outcomes supported by a staged implementation approach.

The indicators below illustrate how progress against the Research Strategy will be assessed across key focus areas. They provide a practical way to track consumer involvement, research quality, partnerships, capability, and translation into policy and practice, and will be reviewed and refined over time. Ongoing evaluation will ensure that the strategy delivers meaningful benefit for the community by embedding lived experience in research processes, building research capability, and leveraging strategic partnerships to drive impact and sustainability. Regular monitoring will also support continuous improvement, ensuring the strategy remains responsive to community needs and adaptive to changes in the research and funding environment.

Focus area	Key indicators	
<b>Consumer-led research</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Proportion of grants and awards aligned with identified consumer priorities</li> <li>Number of consumers trained in research best practice (Consumer Competency Framework)</li> <li>Number of consumers with active roles in research governance, grant assessment, project teams, panels, and priority-setting activities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consumer-reported experience measures related to research engagement</li> <li>Frequency of consumer research priority-setting activities</li> </ul>
<b>Partnerships and influence</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of research advocacy submissions informed by evidence.</li> <li>Number of joint submissions to national funding schemes and policy processes (for example NHMRC, MRFF), including with industry, not-for-profit organisations, universities, and medical research institutes</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of formal research partnerships established to support ongoing research, evaluation, and education goals</li> <li>Use of standardised partnership tools and templates to support research activity (for example data sharing agreements, memoranda of understanding, intellectual property arrangements)</li> </ul>

Focus area	Key indicators	
<b>Funding and infrastructure</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Total investment in the research program</li> <li>Co-investment leveraged across research, programs, and services</li> <li>Number of research infrastructure initiatives supported or advocated for</li> <li>Number of challenge-based funding calls delivered to address priority lung health needs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Proportion of applications addressing areas of interest for priority populations and regions</li> <li>Proportion of applications received from priority populations and regions</li> <li>Number of projects accessing shared research infrastructure, including registries, data platforms, biobanks, and clinical trial networks</li> </ul>
<b>Capacity and capability building</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of grants awarded to early and mid-career researchers</li> <li>Progression of Lung Foundation Australia research alumni across funding and career pathways (for example seed funding, travel grants, fellowships, innovation grants)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of internal staff leading or contributing to research activities (for example chief investigators, associate investigators, and implementation roles)</li> </ul>
<b>Research impact and translation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Evidence of Lung Foundation Australia-supported research cited in policy documents, guidelines, or system reforms</li> <li>Reach and uptake of research-informed interventions, delivered by Lung Foundation Australia, including by priority populations and rural and regional communities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Research impact stories featured through communications and digital platforms, including reach and engagement metrics</li> </ul>

# Acknowledgements

Lung Foundation Australia acknowledges the strength and resilience of people living with lung disease, and their families. This Research Strategy has been created for you to ensure that our research investment reflects your priorities, addresses the challenges you face, and advances the care, support and outcomes you deserve.

Lung Foundation Australia also gratefully acknowledges the many individuals across our research, healthcare, supporter and consumer communities who contributed to the development of this Research Strategy. Your insights have helped shape the strategic goals, focus areas and future directions articulated in this strategy.

We also recognise the valuable insights and expertise shared by research and clinical leaders, key stakeholders and our partners, including the TSANZ, Cancer Australia and Centres of Research Excellence.

Finally, we extend our appreciation to our Board, executive team and staff for their ideas, input and guidance in defining the critical role Lung Foundation Australia can play in shaping research priorities and strengthening lung health research across Australia.



## Acknowledgement of Country

Lung Foundation Australia acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the lands on which we work throughout Australia and their unceded sovereignty of and continuing connection to land and sea. We pay our respects to First Nations' cultures and to Elders past and present.

We acknowledge the over representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in lung disease and lung cancer. We commit to working with communities to Close the Gap on lung health and build on the strengths of communities to lead the path to healthy lungs for all.



Lung Foundation Australia,  
Level 4, 12 Cribb Street  
Milton QLD 4064

PO Box 1949, Milton QLD 4064

[enquiries@lungfoundation.com.au](mailto:enquiries@lungfoundation.com.au)

[lungfoundation.com.au](http://lungfoundation.com.au)

Lung Health Helpline (Free call) 1800 654 301

