

## Investing in research

### **Research plays a vital role in generating solutions for mental health care. Coordinating and prioritising research will enhance models of care, pioneer new approaches that lead to better outcomes and enhance policy development that improves service design, leading to better value for investments.**

Research must make a difference to the lives of people affected by mental illness through improving models of care and workforce practice, suggesting and pioneering new approaches that lead to better outcomes, or enhancing policy development that improves service design. Research that has clear practical application will be the key focus of future investment.

This investment will be directed at evaluating initiatives as they are delivered and making adjustments to improve the quality of implementation. Outcomes will be evaluated to identify whether goals are achieved and at what cost. This will inform decisions regarding ongoing delivery of initiatives and associated investment.

The Agency for Clinical Innovation promotes service delivery improvement and translation of innovative ideas into system-wide change through clinical networks. Two networks have been established for mental health and drug and alcohol. These networks will focus on research and evaluation, develop practice guidelines and information bulletins, and promote professional development activities.

The NSW Government is focused on developing partnerships that build and foster translation and innovation from research, and build world class research capacity across the state.

The NSW Health and Medical Research Hub Strategy brings together stakeholders to share knowledge and resources. This statewide approach helps to break down silos and provides a platform that drives local research right across the system.

NSW has a track record of strategic investment in translational research, with a focus on evidence-informed practice, clinician and service manager engagement, iterative development and formal evaluation of the impact of models of care on patient outcomes.

In addition, large research organisations have the potential to advance scientific knowledge and provide the opportunity to pioneer treatments and care approaches. Any investment in this research must also be linked back to practice with findings disseminated to improve uptake and care.