

**South Australian Productivity Commission  
Inquiry into Health & Medical Research in  
South Australia**

**Adelaide Health Innovation Partnership:  
Response to the SA Productivity Commission  
Draft Report**

**October 2020**

## Adelaide Health Innovation Partnership Draft Response

The Adelaide Health Innovation Partnership (AHIP) understands the Commission was tasked with identifying action the South Australian Government might take to increase South Australia's share of Australian Government funding for health and medical research (HMR) and increase the scale, productivity and impact of that research.

AHIP recognises that excellence in HMR, particularly clinical research and translation, is fundamental to the state securing more grant funding, lifting the scale, competitiveness and productivity of research and delivering greater HMR impacts in terms of improved health and economic benefits to South Australians from a health and medical industries sector. We also agree that sustained long term reform of South Australia's institutional architecture – governance, accountabilities, roles and relationships between the state's key HMR organisations – is needed.

To progress in an industry of uncertainty, complexity and rising costs, extensive combined skills and expertise are required to develop innovative, world leading solutions to profoundly important and intractable health challenges. This is required to evaluate insights and sources, prioritise opportunities, and navigate information so the right actions for individuals' patients, and populations can be taken.

AHIP believes that in addition to seeking additional grant funding, a greater emphasis on innovation and commercialisation is required for a long-term sustainable model of HMR. A closer alignment of healthcare delivery and medical research, supported by academia and global innovation and commercialisation capability, is the single most effective way to drive better patient outcomes, improve operational efficiency, accelerate discovery and compete nationally and internationally.

A major key to success in HMR is the establishment and incubation of a connected ecosystem across the health landscape, led by global talent, and using industry-leading partnerships to create intelligent technology, underpinned by a world-class clinical and research community. This model of a single district, bringing together the functions of healthcare delivery, clinical excellence, research, education and innovation and commercialisation, is a global model proven to be effective by the exemplars in the field, including Texas Medical Centre, University Health Network Toronto, Mayo Clinic and Johns Hopkins.

Tapping into, and taking advantage of health ecosystems by connecting the knowledge, skills and capabilities needed most will:

- Drive remarkable clinical and research outcomes
- Accelerate discovery
- Create essential connections
- Heighten confidence

and therefore, attract grant funding, industry investment through strategic partnerships and innovative commercial models.

AHIP recommends a focus by HMR on key health challenges, to ensure maximum impact for the benefit of South Australia's community and economy, whilst being globally significant. These challenges may be:

- Cancer Care
- Heart Disease and Diabetes
- Critical Care
- Mental Health
- Emerging Infectious Diseases
- Health Equity
  - o Supporting healthcare for aboriginal communities
  - o Ensuring a healthy start to life for all
  - o Providing the best possible care for an ageing population

The key health challenges should be underpinned by the following platforms:

- Talent – Using and attracting the best local, national and international talent
- Clinical Practice – Unlocking capability and enabling clinicians to drive new and innovative models of care
- Commercial Digital Health – Creating, incubating and deploying new and emerging technology at scale to meet the needs of the health system in a sustainable commercial model, promoting economic development and creating the future workforce of STEM talent

AHIP agrees with SAPC and recommends the focus of this new health innovation and research capability is in the North Terrace precinct, distinct from the Bedford Park precinct. AHIP further recommends a closer alignment between the largest healthcare provider in the state (Central Adelaide Local Health Network) and the largest health research institution (SAHMRI) is critical to driving a better outcome for HMR in the state.

AHIP would like to recognise and thank SAPC for its support in reviewing HMR in South Australia and finding new ways of working.

NB: The views in this AHIP response are supported by both Central Adelaide Local Health Network (CALHN) and the South Australian Health and Medical Research Institute (SAHMRI).

### **About AHIP**

*The Adelaide Health Innovation Partnership is a formal alliance between Central Adelaide Local Health Network and the South Australian Health and Medical Research Institute, supported by the University of Adelaide and the University of South Australia.*

*Building on the strong relationships that have emerged from the challenges of COVID-19, the mission of the partnership is to address the most serious of health challenges through the highest level of research excellence and innovation, to translate new knowledge into advanced clinical practice*