

# Research, translation and AI: New is now



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So much of what we take for granted in healthcare today is a result of the research and innovation of yesterday.

In my clinical work as an anaesthetist, the reason we have modern anaesthetic drugs that allow our patients to wake up feeling so bright and with a reduced risk profile is because of ongoing research and understanding in that area.

Gene-based treatments are gamechangers in the health system, but they only happen with research.

In every area of our clinical work there are examples of advancements because of research.

Research is vital in healthcare. Yet, because we are so busy delivering all important services 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, research often doesn't get the attention it deserves. But the fact is, healthcare is not just about service delivery. If you just do service delivery in healthcare, you will always do what you've always done. In fact, high levels of research activity within a healthcare organisation are a predictor of high health service performance in general.

Healthcare is evolving all the time as we understand things more, develop more insights and better ways of working, develop greater interventions, investigations and treatments. We also need to further leverage the investments Queensland has made in electronic health records and data to grow these insights.

We need to be able to make sure that we can incorporate all of this 'new' into the way we understand healthcare and into healthcare provision in an efficient and permissive way but also in a way that manages the risks and protects privacy.

As healthcare providers, we all appreciate the complex environment in which healthcare is delivered and why then it can be challenging to translate research and innovation into practice. This is why the Queensland Clinical Senate shone a light on the importance of research innovation in healthcare at our meeting in June 2023.

We're focusing on the lifecycle of research and innovation within health in Queensland. We focused on research equity, research as transforming system, and how we can streamline the flow of research from idea conception to integration of the 'new' into the everyday clinical situation

in a way that is safe and low risk while also maximising the benefits that come with it. Artificial intelligence and machine learning are great examples of this.

We also want to explore the role of universities and industry partnership in relation to research and innovation and how do we play to our strengths and maximise the opportunities that come from partnerships.

We're focusing on how we can better harness research innovation to improve the health and wellbeing of Queenslanders.

The 'New is Now' meeting was held in Brisbane on 2-3 June.

## Update from the Senate's First 2,000 Days meeting

In my Spring 2022 column, I wrote about the Senate's meeting on the 'First 2,000 Days – the opportunity of a lifetime' and how we must better support parents and families to give their children a healthy start to life. We've since released our recommendations, including:

- ▶ Queensland Health taking an enhanced leadership role in 'First 2,000' days matters at the whole of government level, in partnership with other government departments.
- ▶ Support and develop place-based services that include integrated maternity, child health and family hubs as they relate to the First 2,000 days.
- ▶ Improve and standardise postnatal care processes between maternity and child health services.
- ▶ Clarify and strengthen the governance and authorising environment for child health in Queensland, including policy, standards and quality assurance across all relevant sectors in Queensland, which is integrated with other First 2,000 Days governance areas.

You can read the full list of recommendations at our website: [clinicalexcellence.qld.gov.au/priority-areas/clinician-engagement/queensland-clinical-senate](https://clinicalexcellence.qld.gov.au/priority-areas/clinician-engagement/queensland-clinical-senate)

