

RESEARCH STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK 2026-2031

Acknowledgement of Country

The Nursing Research Institute acknowledges the Traditional Owners of Country throughout Australia and acknowledges their continuing connection to land, waters, and community. We pay our respects to the people, the cultures, and the Elders past and present.

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Introduction

The Nursing Research Institute (NRI), a collaboration between St Vincent's Health Network Sydney, St Vincent's Hospital Melbourne and the Australian Catholic University (ACU), has established a national and international profile as a leader in rigorous, high-quality, nurse- and allied-health-led research. Since its inception in 2009, the Institute has brought together researchers, clinicians, universities, policymakers, industry partners, consumers and the community to lead clinical research that strengthens health services and supports the delivery of high-quality, evidence-based care.

Central to the work of the NRI is a sustained commitment to advancing implementation science and expediting the translation of evidence into routine clinical practice. Through high-quality multidisciplinary research, targeted capacity-building initiatives, and strategic partnerships, the Institute aims to improve patient outcomes, strengthen health systems, and cultivate a productive, inclusive research environment acknowledging the priorities of its partner organisations.

The 2026–2031 NRI Research Strategic sets a formal direction for the Institute's next phase of development. It articulates a clear vision for the NRI to be a national and international leader in health services and cardiovascular research. This Framework provides a coherent, strategic pathway for delivering impactful research, strengthening nurse-led research, improving patient outcomes and enhancing health systems.

Our Vision

To be a national and international leader in health services and cardiovascular research, delivering innovative, equitable solutions that lead to system-level change and improve health outcomes, with local relevance and global impact.



Strategic Priorities

Strategic research priorities will guide our efforts to achieve our vision and realise our overarching objective.



Research Excellence

Lead high-quality, nurse-led, multidisciplinary research to advance health service delivery and cardiovascular care, and drive productivity with national and international partners.



Accelerate Evidence Translation

Integrate implementation science into health services and cardiovascular research to enhance the translation of evidence into scalable, sustainable practices and policies with measurable impact.



Improve Patient Safety, Care Quality, and Equity

Conduct health services and cardiovascular research to drive continuous improvement, reduce care variation and promote equitable outcomes for patients and health systems.



Enhance Clinical - Academic Partnerships

Foster collaboration among researchers, clinicians, universities, policymakers, industry partners, consumers and the community to strengthen health services research and cardiovascular care.



Build Research Capacity and Capability of Nurses

Cultivate a strong research culture by providing mentorship and supervision for nurses including higher-degree research students, clinician-researchers, and early to mid-career researchers, to develop leadership in research and health.

Focus Areas

Key research domains intended to realise the Strategic Priorities outlined in the NRI Research Strategic Framework.

Implementation Science

The study of methods and strategies that support the systematic implementation, deimplementation and sustainability of research findings and evidence-based practices into routine care and health policy.



Health Services Research

A multidisciplinary field that studies how healthcare is delivered and improved across all clinical settings and therapeutic areas, focusing on systems, processes, and policies to enhance quality, access, equity, and outcomes. Often incorporating implementation science methods to examine how evidence-based practices are adopted, adapted, and sustained in routine care and health systems.



Stroke

Stroke occurs when a blood vessel supplying the brain is blocked or ruptures, leading to neurological impairment and potential long-term disability. Stroke and related cerebrovascular conditions represent a significant burden for patients, carers and health systems, impacting both health outcomes and overall quality of life.



Cardiac

Heart disease and related cardiac conditions occur when the heart or its blood vessels are damaged or function abnormally, often due to blocked arteries, structural defects, or rhythm disturbances. Heart disease and related cardiac conditions represents a significant burden for patients, carers, and health systems, impacting both health outcomes and overall quality of life.

Enablers

An enabling environment forms the foundation of a successful research institute, providing the essential supports required to deliver on all priorities and focus areas of the NRI research strategy.



Nurse Researcher Workforce

Supporting a skilled nurse researcher workforce is essential for translating evidence into practice, advancing research education, driving workforce planning and fostering a research-positive culture.



Infrastructure and Education

Leverage existing facilities, embed sustainable infrastructure (including trial managers, research officers, finance and administrative personnel) and provide access to research education and training.



Funding

Securing funding from health and academic organisations, industry and philanthropic sources to sustain high-quality research endeavours.



Clinical - Academic Ecosystem

Sustaining an environment where clinicians and academics work in close proximity, fosters rapid identification and alignment of partner research priorities. These collaborations expedite and enable the development of large-scale transformative research.



Data, Technology and AI

Accessing contemporary IT platforms and building workforce capability in data, technology, and AI creates an environment that supports advanced analytics, enables digital collaboration and fosters future-ready research that is outcome driven.

Acknowledgements

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Partners

