

RESEARCH  
AWARENESS  
SUPPORT



Prostate Cancer  
Foundation of Australia

# Research Strategy 2023-2027

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## About Prostate Cancer Foundation of Australia

*The Prostate Cancer Foundation of Australia (PCFA) is a broadly-based community organisation and the peak national body for prostate cancer in Australia. It is dedicated to reducing the impact of prostate cancer on Australian men, their partners and their families through:*

- 1 Promoting and funding world leading, innovative research into prostate cancer
- 2 Implementing awareness and advocacy campaigns and education programs for the Australian community, health professionals and Government
- 3 Supporting men and their families affected by prostate cancer through evidence-based information and resources, support groups and prostate cancer specialist nurses.

## PCFA's Research Program



Prostate cancer is a major burden in the lives of many men and their families. It is the most commonly diagnosed cancer in Australia. Recent data from the Australian Health Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) estimates that 25,487 Australian men will be diagnosed with prostate cancer in 2023 and over 3,700 will die from the disease. With an ageing and increasing population, these numbers are likely to grow at an accelerating rate into the future. Research holds the key to tackling this trend and reducing the impact of prostate cancer on men and their loved ones.

PCFA has been actively involved in research for over 20 years. We have invested over \$70 million in world class research studies and partnered with research organisations, clinical trial organisations, industry and other funding bodies to support research and build the prostate cancer research community. PCFA's efforts have consistently focused on generating internationally competitive research outcomes and supporting clinical translation of research for the benefit of men with prostate cancer and their families.



**PCFA has been funding world class prostate cancer research for ALMOST 20 YEARS and is the only Australian organisation to exclusively focus its funding activities on this disease.**

# PCFA's Research Strategy

PCFA's research program has been underpinned by a clear strategy to ensure that the funds generously donated by the Australian public are wisely and responsibly spent.

This strategy builds on our previous strategy to guide the research activities of PCFA to ensure that our research program delivers outcomes that provide maximal benefit for men with prostate cancer, their partners and their families.

## IN THIS STRATEGY, PCFA:

- › States its research niche and goals
- › Informs researchers, clinicians, consumers and the wider community about the research that PCFA will support fund and the ways it funds it
- › Identifies research gaps that align with PCFA's research niche
- › Develops specific research questions
- › Makes decisions about research funding
- › Measures outcomes from its research
- › Ensures the research we support is nationally and internationally competitive
- › Considers future research funding – where the research questions, topics or technologies are not yet known.



## PCFA'S STRATEGIC RESEARCH GOAL

The goal of PCFA research funding is to create and promote the uptake of knowledge that will improve the lives of Australian men with prostate cancer, their partners and their families.

## OBJECTIVES OF PCFA'S RESEARCH PROGRAM

### PCFA'S RESEARCH PROGRAM WILL:

1

Support men with prostate cancer, their partners and their families

2

Build prostate cancer research capacity in Australia, including clinical trials

3

Contribute to PCFA's work in advocacy, and its awareness and support programs



PCFA has invested over \$70 million in prostate cancer research over the past two decades, contributing to a worldwide body of evidence that is improving outcomes for men. This 2023-2027 strategy promises to reveal new horizons that will get us closer to our ultimate goal of a world without prostate cancer.

Professor Jeff Dunn AO  
Chief of Mission & Head of Research



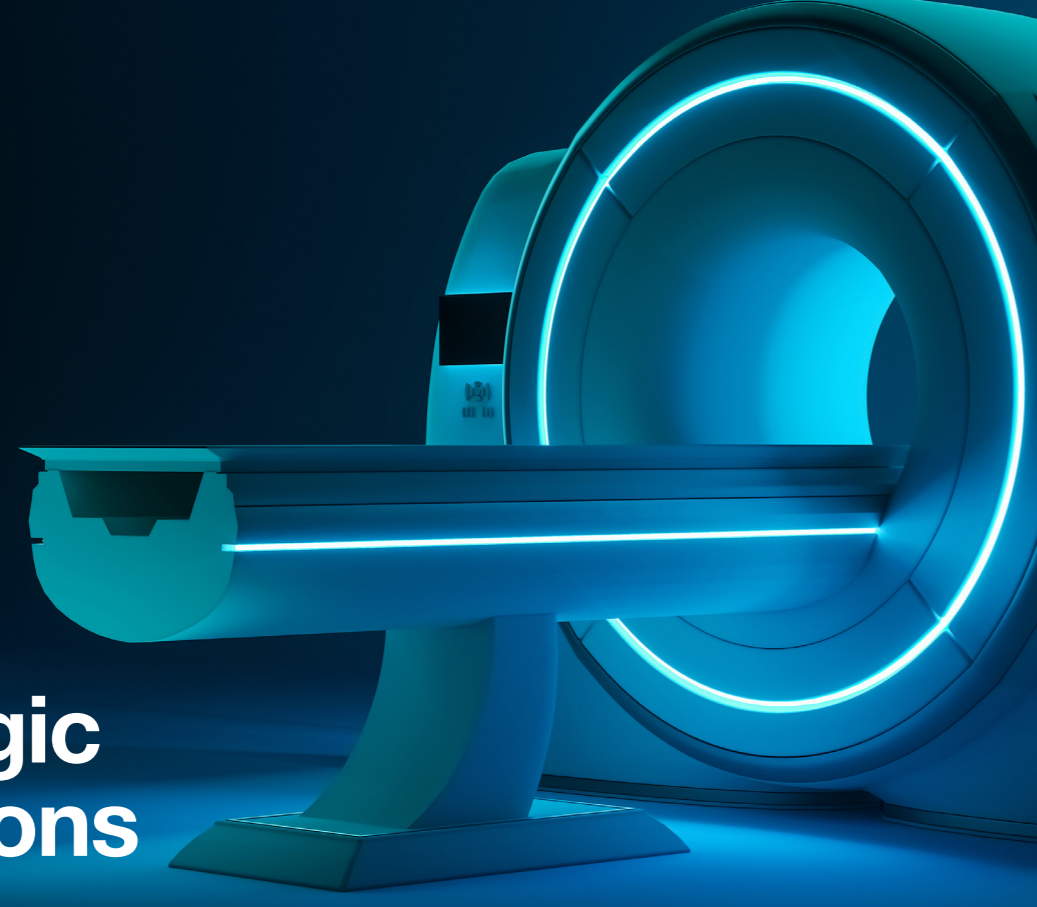
## Principles of PCFA's research program

PCFA's research program aims to address the top priorities of the Australian community, reducing the burden of prostate cancer on men and their families.

### TO DO THIS PCFA:

- › Funds and engages in research that has the most impact on men with prostate cancer, and all who care for them
- › Consults with men and their families, healthcare providers and researchers to identify the gaps where more research is needed
- › Supports researchers and projects of the highest quality and ethical standards
- › Seeks to facilitate the translation of research results into clinical practice, policy or clinical guidelines
- › Promotes sustainability of the PCFA research community by supporting capacity development, particularly early and mid-career researchers
- › Recognises the value of partnerships and makes optimal use of partnership opportunities to achieve our strategic research goal
- › Strives for equality and equity by supporting research that benefits all people who may develop prostate cancer, including priority groups such as people in rural and remote areas, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, people from culturally and linguistically diverse communities, people at known high risk of prostate cancer and members of the LGBTIQ+ community.

# Strategic directions



PCFA will fund and support practical research with direct implications for men with prostate cancer, their partners and their families on issues related to treatment, care and support. Such research will include:

**Clinical research projects** that deliver near-term outcomes developed through PCFA's collaboration with ANZUP and high value research built on them.

**Prostate cancer survivorship research** conducted through partnerships with Universities, Medical Research Institutes, industry and informed by PCFA's programs such as the Prostate Specialist Nursing and Tele-Nursing services.

**Research in priority directions** identified through broad consultation with PCFA's stakeholders.



**PCFA's Research Strategy plays a key role in leading Australian efforts to reduce the burden of prostate cancer on men and their families, improving prostate cancer diagnosis and treatment, and reducing deaths from the disease. As Australia's most commonly diagnosed cancer, guided investment in prostate cancer research has never been so important.**

Professor Lisa Butler  
Chair, PCFA Research Advisory Committee

## Research priorities

Through wide consultation with men with prostate cancer, their partners and families, as well as health professionals, researchers and policy makers, we have developed specific research priorities:

Application of precision approaches to therapies across the prostate cancer continuum, including hormone sensitive prostate cancer.

Research (basic, translational, epidemiological) that capitalises on existing repositories of biological samples and clinical data from men with prostate cancer.

Better understanding the impact of prostate cancer on men's lives and improving the quality of life of men diagnosed with prostate cancer, their partners and their families

Better understanding the basis of, and approaches to address disparities in, prostate cancer outcomes based on ethnicity, socioeconomic status, and location.

Understand more about the scale and nature of adverse effects of treatments, and what is effective in reducing or managing these adverse effects

Better precision approaches to survivorship strategies (e.g. exercise, nutrition, mental and psychosocial supports)

Understand barriers to uptake of clinical guidelines and standardisation of care and how they might be addressed

Test ways of sharing information on best-practice diagnostic tests and treatment options - for clinicians, consumers, community - along the prostate cancer journey

Understand how digital technologies can improve access to information, monitoring, treatment and support

Test less invasive diagnostics that show promise but have not yet been fully assessed

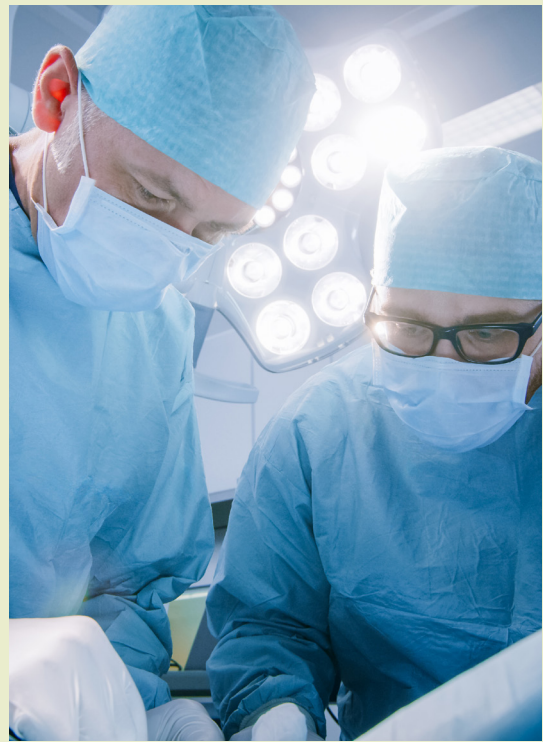
Understand better the strengths and weaknesses of different treatments and their communication to men, their partners and their families



# Research expectations

## IT IS EXPECTED THAT RESEARCH FUNDED BY PCFA WILL:

- › **Have a realistic plan for engagement** of end-users to whom the research results are relevant, e.g. men living with prostate, their partners and families, healthcare professionals and policymakers.
- › Engage end-users at **all phases of the research** including developing research questions, project design, conduct of the research and results analysis, dissemination and translation of research outcomes.
- › Have a formal translation plan that includes **implementation of translation of results to practice**. The plan should be developed with input from stakeholders, and facilitated by PCFA, where necessary.
- › **Engage early and mid-career researchers** including post graduate students and post-doctoral fellows in the conduct of the research where possible
- › **Contribute knowledge to the prostate cancer field** through mechanisms such as publication in peer-reviewed journals, presentations at national and international conferences, contributions to policy development, media activities and PCFA's website.
- › **Contribute knowledge** to PCFA's advocacy, promotional and marketing activities



## RESEARCH FUNDING MECHANISMS

PCFA will continue to fund research projects that address priority research areas to improve the lives of Australian men with prostate cancer, their partners and their families. Research funding will be offered through a combination of peer-reviewed competitive funding rounds and strategic investment or partnership in key priority-driven initiatives.

For any questions regarding this strategy please contact us at: [research@pcfa.org.au](mailto:research@pcfa.org.au)

 [pcfa.org.au](https://pcfa.org.au)

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