

National Health and Medical Research Strategy – Webinar 2

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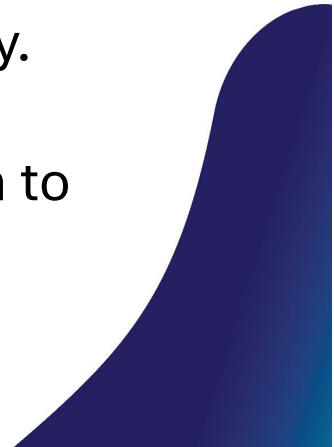
Australian Government



National Health and Medical Research Strategy




Development of a National Health and Medical Research Strategy

- Development of a National Health and Medical Research Strategy Chair (National Strategy) announced May 2024
 - Consistent calls from the health and medical research sector for a strategy of this kind
 - Intent of the National Strategy:
 - Cover the entire sector and include all levels of government, industry, philanthropy, academia and consumers.
 - Strengthen Australia's world-leading health and medical research capability.
 - Foster a strong research workforce.
 - Create an attractive investment environment from discovery and innovation to translation and commercialisation, improving the health of Australians.
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Role of the National Strategy Chair

- Work with the Department of Health and Aged Care (department) and the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) to lead the development of the National Strategy for the Minister for Health and Aged Care.
 - Provide objective and relevant advice to the department in the National Strategy development process.
 - Lead the consultation process with the health and medical research sector.
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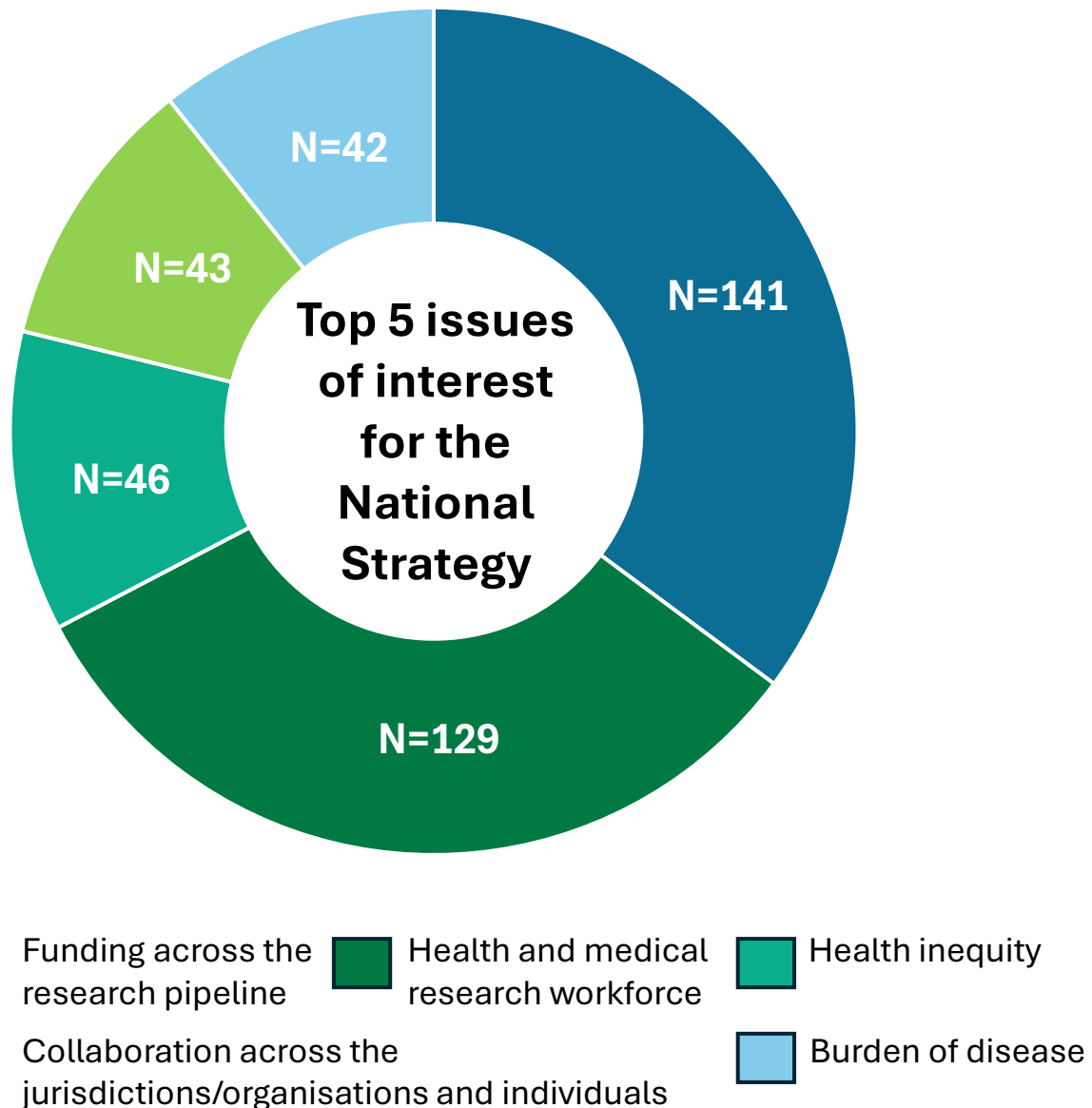
Webinar 1 - Recap

- The first webinar, held by the Chair on 5 December 2024, provided an overview of:
 - The approach for development of the National Strategy.
 - The Australian Health and Medical Research Workforce Audit (commissioned report).
 - Next steps.
 - Ways in which you can get involved.
- Post-webinar survey.

Webinar 1 recording

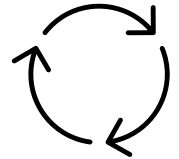


Webinar 1 - Survey Outcomes



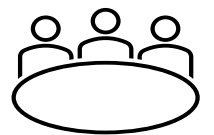
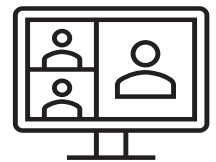
Frequency of National Strategy review


- 5 years
- 3 years
- Other




Preferred consultation method

- Webinar
- Written submission
- Survey
- Roundtable

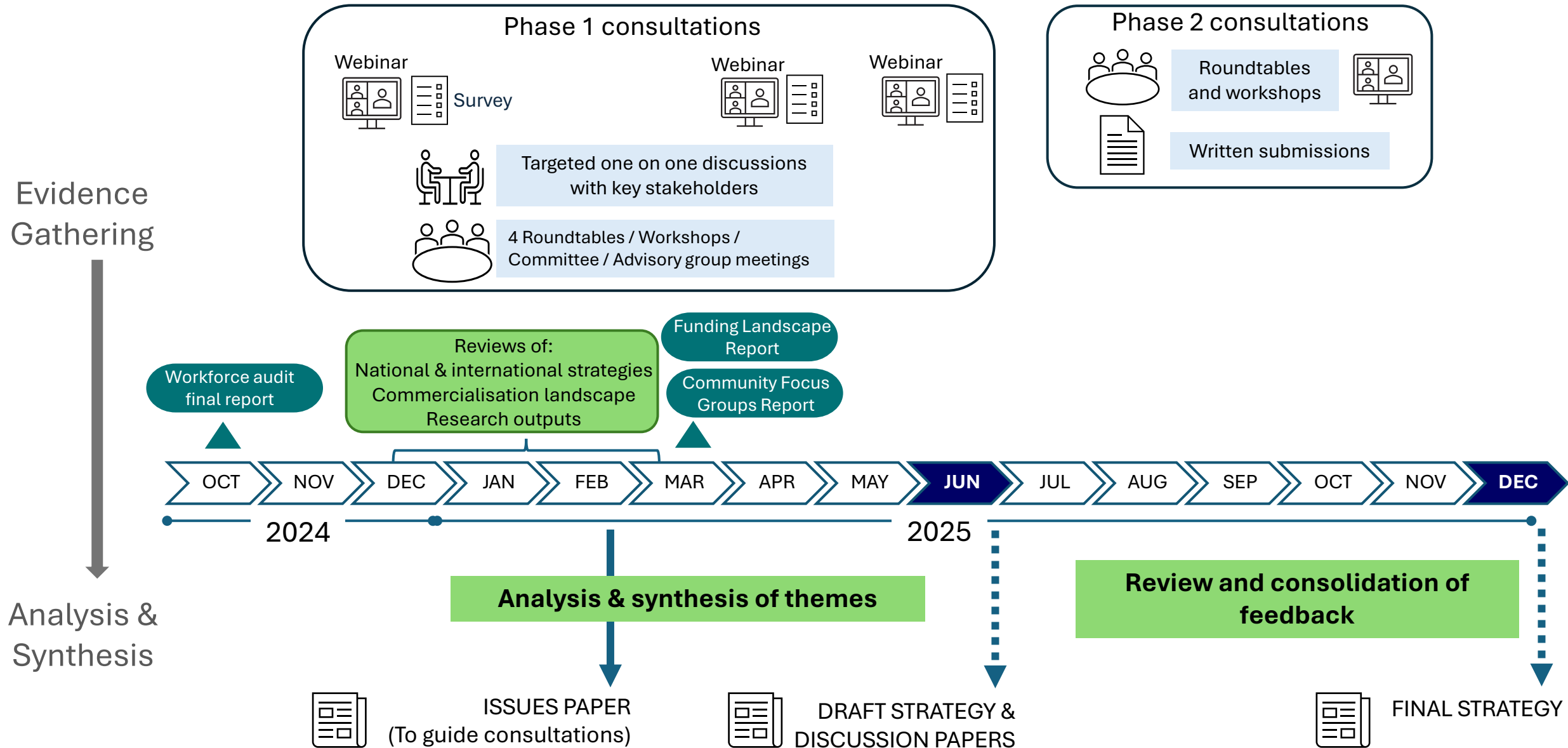




Webinar 2 - Overview

- Recap from Webinar One, including:
 - Health and Medical Research Workforce Audit
 - Progress since (December 2024 to March 2025):
 - Themes emerging from early consultations
 - Update on commissioned report:
 - Health and Medical Research Community Focus Groups
 - Internal development work (research impacts, commercialisation, international strategies)
 - Next steps
 - Q&As
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National Strategy Development Process



Consultations – Completed and Upcoming



Who have we heard from?

- Whole of sector through webinars and surveys
- Thought leaders from the health and medical research sector across the research ecosystem
- Commonwealth representatives and advisory groups
- State and territory advisory groups (HCEF)
- Peak bodies and advocacy groups (ASMR, AAMRI, AAHMS, Universities Australia, Research Australia, AusBioTech)
- Biotech and industry representatives
- Community and consumer representatives

What are the current challenges?

Lack of strategic coordination among funders

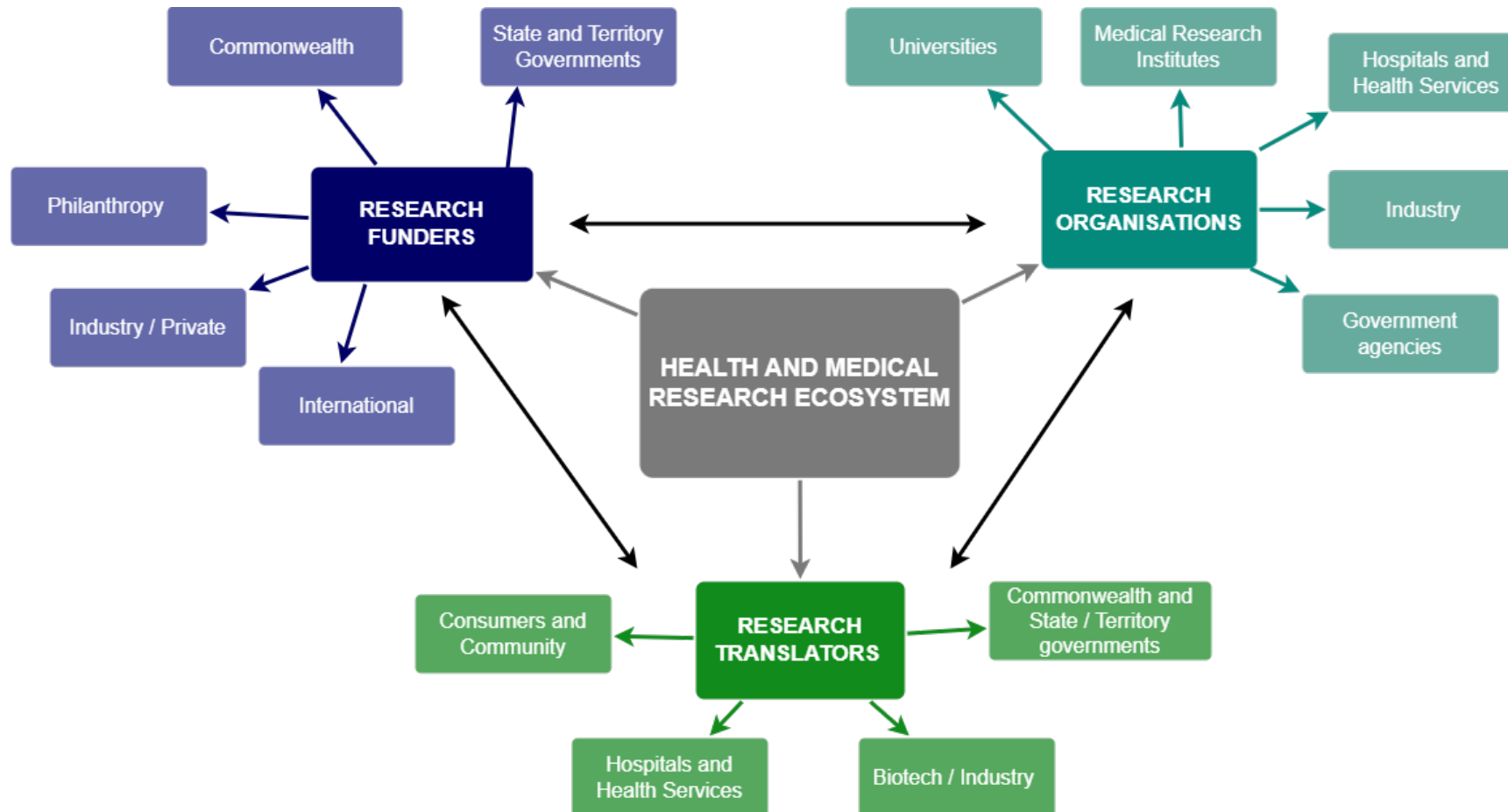
- Uncoordinated priority setting
- Duplication of schemes
- Areas of unmet need
- Low success rates
- Unplanned workforce

Lack of consistent funding

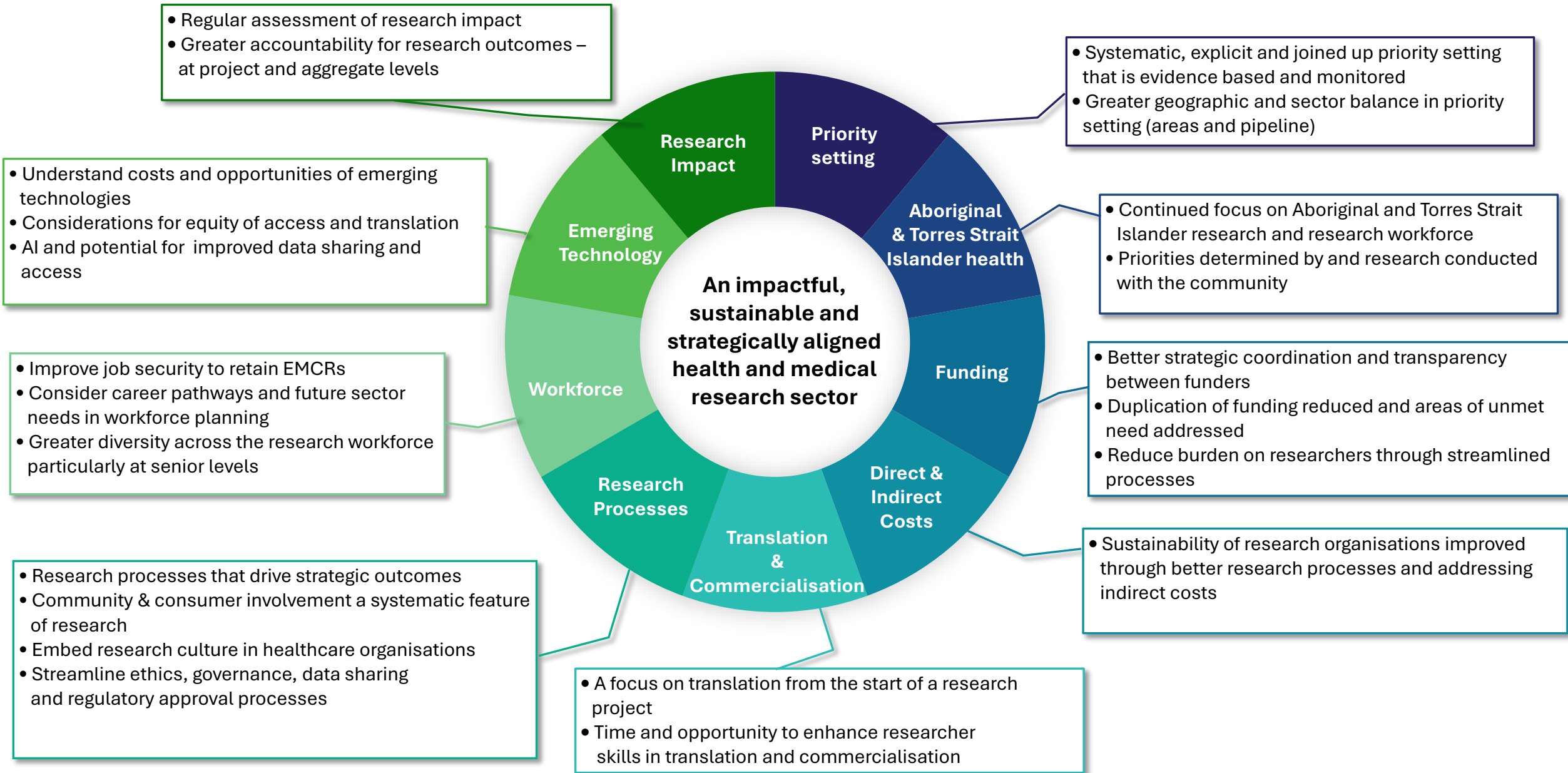
- Insufficient funds for the full costs of research
- Funding for small shorter projects rather than programs of work

Inadequate levels of research translation and insufficient measures of research impact

- Lack of investment and skills gap in taking research outcomes to scale
- Lack of accountability for research outcomes



What we are hearing a Strategy should aspire to

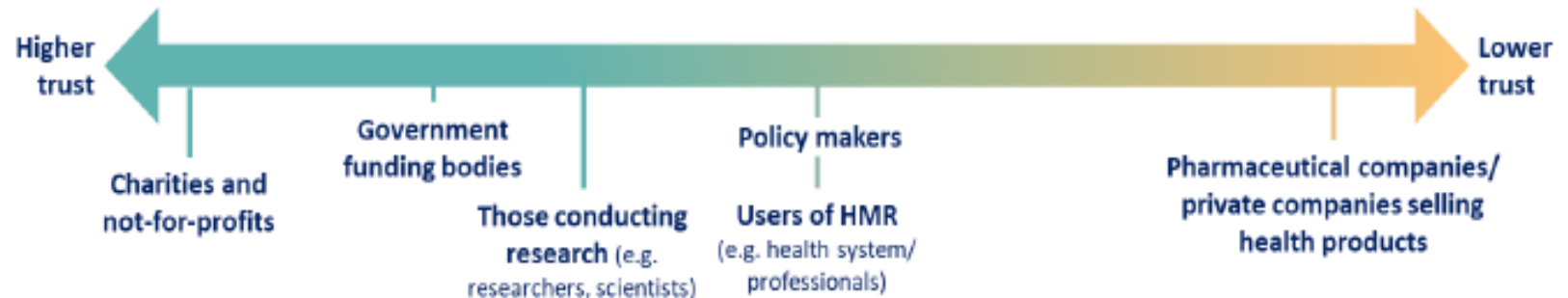


Potential aims of a National Strategy



Community Focus Groups

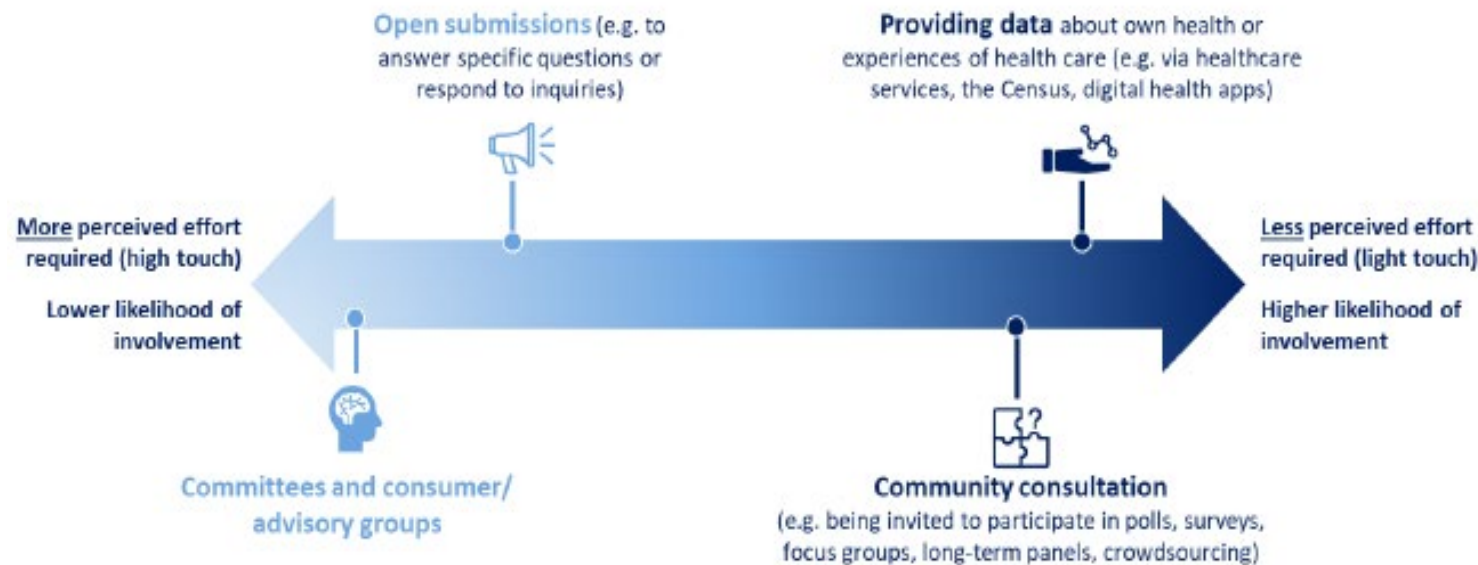
Perceptions of health and medical research



Community Focus Groups

Involvement in health and medical research

Types of community involvement



Barriers to participating in research activities

- Not being aware of opportunities
- Time constraints and/or competing priorities
- Overly complex information or involvement options
- Limited confidence
- Negative past experiences
- Limited physical access
- Being uncomfortable discussing their personal health conditions
- Feeling that contributions would not be valued or listened to

Community Focus Groups

Priority Setting



Research Commercialisation Landscape

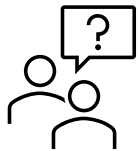
ISSUE	CHALLENGE	OPPORTUNITY
1. Fragmentation and lack of coordination of commercialisation programs and support	High level of fragmentation and a lack of coordination leading to little connection between initiatives	Develop a route map through programs and services, to assist with improving fragmentation and coordination
2. Changing landscape of commercialisation programs and support	Confusing or poorly communicated changes post-launch of large-scale programs and strategic plans	Consistent, clear and accurate communication and promotion of programs that are current or upcoming
3. Researcher capacity and capabilities gaps	Difficult for time-poor researchers to commit the resources needed for commercialisation	Addressing the gap in commercialisation skills capability and capacity
4. Complex regulatory processes to support commercialisation	Securing approval and listings for reimbursements can be considered too slow and too high-risk for a relatively small domestic market	Evaluation of how Health Technology Assessment (HTA) reforms currently underway impact the system and products considered

What are the current challenges in measuring Research Impact?



ISSUES IDENTIFIED

- Approximately 17 years is required to translate research outcomes at a clinical and community level¹
- In our current system, it is difficult to identify which projects are succeeding and which ones are not
- There is a view that incentives are skewed to publications, bibliometric impact factors and further grant success, rather than research translation and the generation of wider 'impact'



KEY QUESTION

What key indicators should be used to measure the success and impact of health and medical research in Australia and what tools are available to do this efficiently and effectively?

¹Morris ZS (2011) *JRSM* Vol. 104 (12)

International Health and Medical Research Strategies

Canada, United Kingdom, New Zealand and Japan



Establishing overarching coordination agencies

- UK Research and Innovation
- Japan Agency for Medical Research and Development (AMED)
- Canadian Institutes of Health Research

Prioritising national need

- New Zealand: Research prioritisation done through a lens of 'Why NZ?'



Embedding clear benchmarks, mechanisms and responsibilities for prioritisation, delivery and measurement of impact

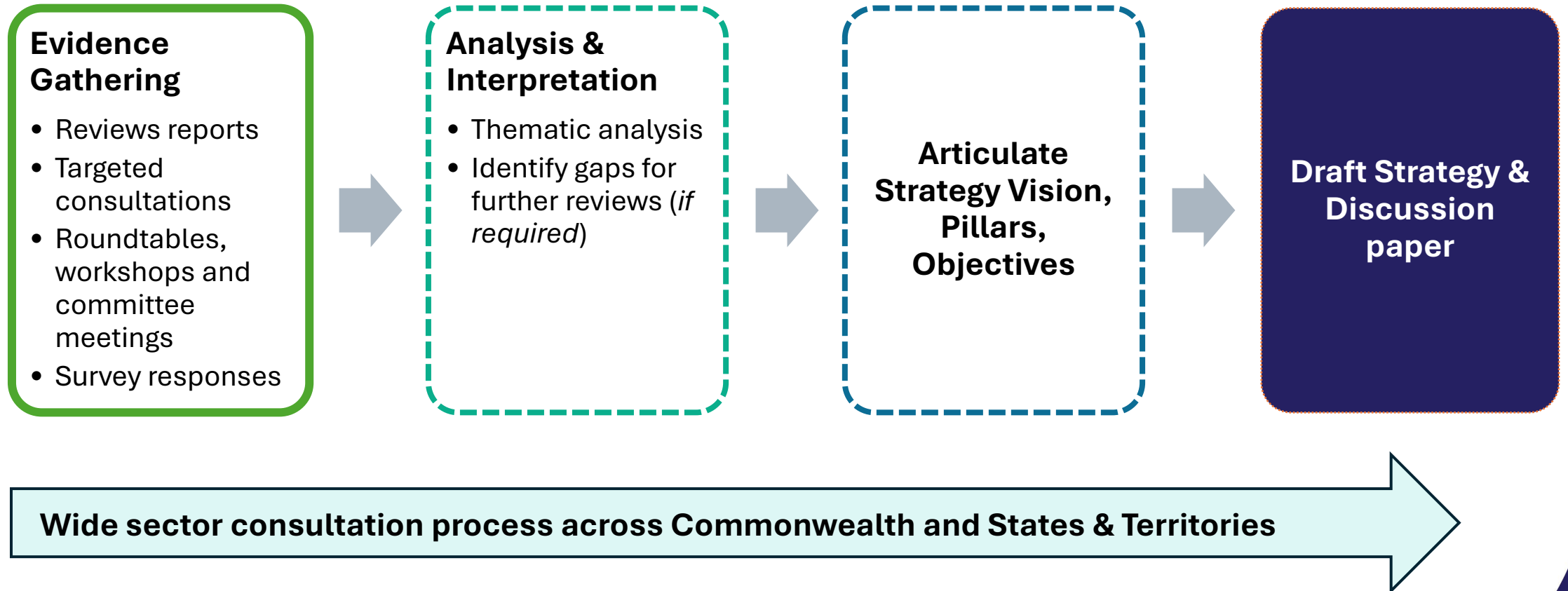
- Canada: The Plan is supported by a performance measurement framework and annual monitoring and reporting mechanism
- The specificity of priorities is important (impact can only be measured with clear objectives)



Alignment with other Strategic Initiatives


	Priority Setting	Funding	Translation & Commercialisation	Research processes	Emerging technology	Workforce	Measuring Impact
National Science and Research Priorities			✓	✓		✓	
Strategic Examination of Research and Development	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	
Australian Digital Health Strategy					✓	✓	✓
Health Technology Assessment Review			✓		✓	✓	
National Health Reform Agreement Negotiations	✓		✓				
Clinical Trials One Stop Shop			✓	✓	✓	✓	
MRFF / MREA Alignment		✓		✓			
State and Territory Strategies	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓

Next Steps





Common questions submitted so far

- Scope/priority setting
 - Involving Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and communities
 - Grant application and assessment processes
 - Linkages with other key strategic pieces of work concurrently underway
 - Workforce
 - Consumer and community involvement
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National Strategy – stay connected and involved



Give us your feedback
through the National
Strategy sector survey.

Opens 7 April 2025
Closes 12 May 2025



Check out the National Health
and Medical Research
Strategy Website

www.health.gov.au/our-work/national-health-and-medical-research-strategy



Send any questions on the
National Health and Medical
Research Strategy to

HMRStrategy@health.gov.au

Questions and discussion