

Research and Development Strategy 2022–2024

Through a strong commitment to being evidence-based and data-informed, we drive the conversations that help us shape the way we re-imagine our tomorrow, including developing new models, technology and innovation to meet the changing needs of our customers.

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The space we play in





Where we are coming from 2020–2021

Achievements so far

- Definition of the ACH Group Research & Development Framework
- 19 collaborative projects and several peer-reviewed research publications
- Development of extensive research networks and internal/external business partnerships
- Creation of internal capacity, capabilities and instruments
- Creation of a R&D Project Database with information on funding, partnerships, value, and operations
- Revision of internal policies and processes
- Development of reporting/communication mechanisms to provide 'dashboard' visibility
- Definition of ACH Group's role and the role of its partners in research collaborations
- Consultation with leaders across ACH Group and definition of seven strategic research priority areas

Where we are going 2022–2024

ACH Group will proactively establish research priorities, scope opportunities, and develop collaborations which will contribute to shape the way we re-imagine our tomorrow.

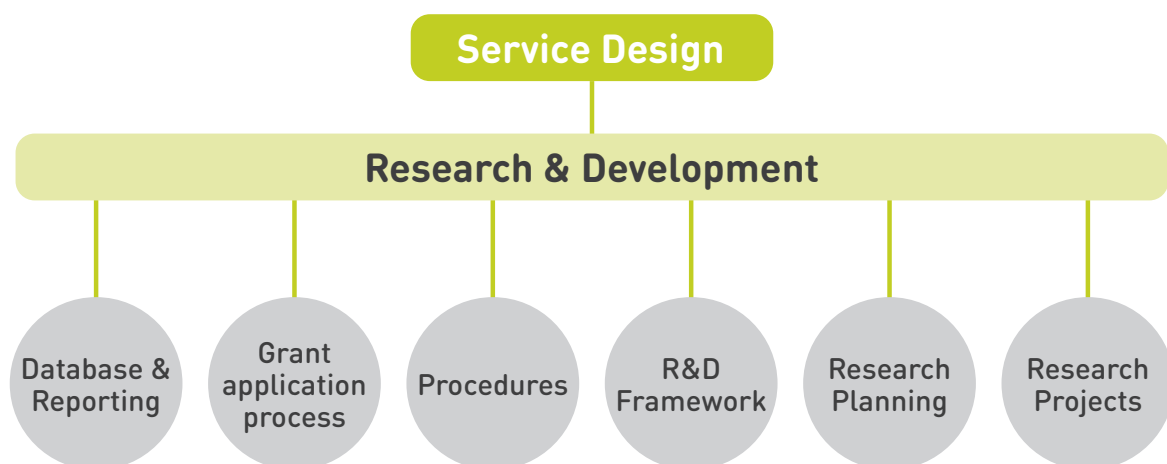
1. Assist ACH Group to become the recognised **leading aged care service provider for engagement in research** and translation of evidence-based practice
2. Strengthen and further develop ACH Group's commitment to **evidence-based approaches** in customer care
3. Strengthen and further develop ACH Group's **internal and external partnerships**
4. Strengthen internal and external understanding in **what, why and how we engage in research** activities

Capabilities, instruments, policies and processes

People

- GM Service Design
- Research and Innovation Lead
- CCQSR Committee
- Key business contacts (e.g., Hof)
- Legal team
- External research partners
- External human ethics committees
- Research participants

Systems and processes



Ethics procedure review


- Opportunity to fine-tune and strengthen ACH Group's ethics procedures, including assessing, approving, commencing, tracking and closing projects.
- Review of key documents and processes
- Good Lives alignment / integration of Good Lives Scorecard



Good Lives alignment

- 'Embedding Good Lives' in research and development activities
- Research project approvals identified as a key decision points
- Research and ethics approval documents updated with Good Lives Scorecard:
 - Ethics Approval Review Form
 - Research and Ethics Approval Procedure
 - Research Project Approval Application Form

Good Lives Scorecard - Form



ACH GROUP
Good Lives for Older People

PURPOSE & SCOPE: The Good Lives Scorecard is a tool to be used for assessing the degree to which an initiative / recommendation will move us further towards or away from our purpose of Good Lives for Older People. It is to be used in accordance with the requirements of the Good Lives Scorecard – Work Instruction.

FORM

1. Challenging the stereotypes of ageing

Challenges the stereotypes of ageing			Reinforces the stereotypes of ageing		
5	4	3	2	1	n/a
Evidence: <i>[Provide a brief description of the evidence to support the score you selected for this scale]</i>					

2. Promoting local connections and relationships

Promotes local connections and relationships			Discourages or prevents local connections and relationships		
5	4	3	2	1	n/a
Evidence: <i>[Provide a brief description of the evidence to support the score you selected for this scale]</i>					

3. Increasing equity, diversity and access

Increases equity, diversity and access			Decreases equity diversity and access		
5	4	3	2	1	n/a
Evidence: <i>[Provide a brief description of the evidence to support the score you selected for this scale]</i>					

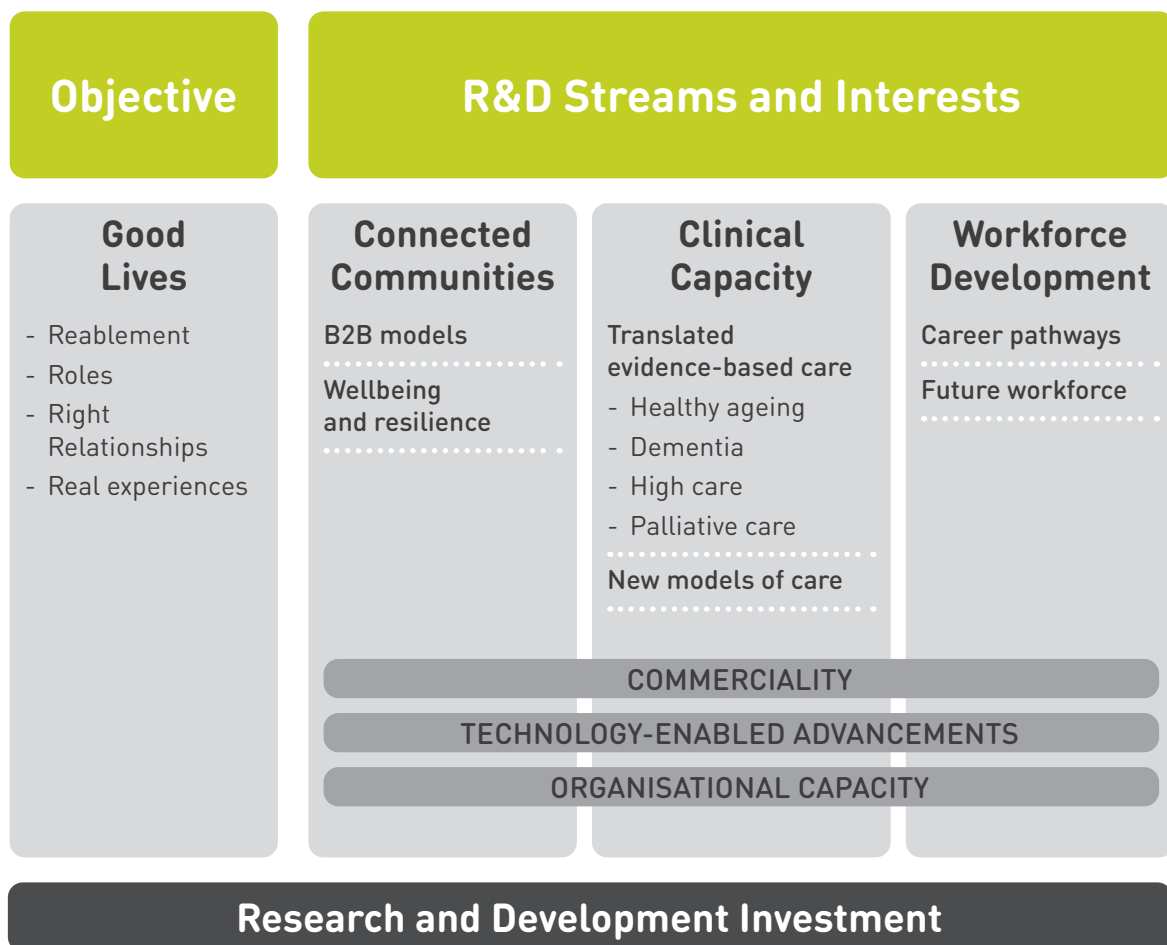
4. Creating and encouraging active roles

Creates and encourages active roles and a sense of identity			Reduces opportunities for active roles		
5	4	3	2	1	n/a
Evidence: <i>[Provide a brief description of the evidence to support the score you selected for this scale]</i>					

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Research and Development (R&D) Framework



Strategic Research Priorities – Consultation

- 35 ACH Group leaders invited to a consultation to ensure we appreciate the breadth of interests, needs and aspirations across the organisation that can be addressed through research.
- Their input informed the establishment of **7 priority areas** and **5 strategic functions**, which will guide the way we will scope opportunities and develop research and development collaborations
- Consultation was conducted through one-on-one meetings with (face-to-face and online) and written submissions from eight Head of and one manager representing:
 - Health and Wellness
 - Home Care
 - Clinical
 - Social
 - Residential
 - Hospitality
 - People and Culture
 - Digital Operations
 - Business Development

Strategic Priority Areas

1

Evidence-based care (CL; WD)

- Research translation
- Palliative care
- Dementia
- Quality of Life
- Care and diversity
- Trauma-informed care
- Dimensions of health and wellbeing
- Innovative models of care
- Innovative methodologies and methods

R&D Streams /Interests

CC: Connected Communities

CL: Clinical Capacity

WD: Workforce Development

2

Workforce (WD)

- Workforce attraction
 - Perceptions of aged care
 - Improved pathways
- Workforce retention
 - Optimisation opportunities
- Training and development
 - Capabilities/competencies
 - Commercial literacy

3

Impact evaluation (CC; CL; WD)

- Health & Wellbeing, HCP, Residential services

4

Housing and built environment (CC; CL)

- Housing for ageing well
- Innovative accommodation and care models

5

Food provision (CL; WD)

- Food and resident wellbeing
- Consumer-informed food provision
- Nutrition
- Innovative/new models
- Dining experiences

6

Psycho-social wellbeing (CC; CL; WD)

- Social participation/engagement in men
- Intergenerational connections
- Loneliness, social isolation and social connectedness
- Motivation and goals
- Relations with others
- Meaningful/productive activity (paid/unpaid)
- Roles
- Service models for Engagement With Life
- Adapted sport/recreation
- Families and carers

7

Tech-enabled innovation (CC; CL; WD)

- Digital health and devices
- Augmented Reality
- Digitally connected workforce
- All ages-friendly sensory deprivation tank

Strategic Functions

Through consultation, we identified five key functions that can be enhanced through a strategic approach to research

Organisational proactivity

- Proactive scoping
- Ongoing engagement
- Consultation

Business partnering

- Our strengths
- Sense-making
- Data structuring
- Social work
- Partnership opportunities

Communication of research impact

- Marketing and communication
- Reporting

External partnerships

- Universities
- Research institutes
- Public sector
- Private and NFP sectors

Commerciality

- Business partnerships
- IP
- Sustainable financial models

Strategic Priority Areas and functions*



*To be reviewed in 2025

ACH Group's role in research projects

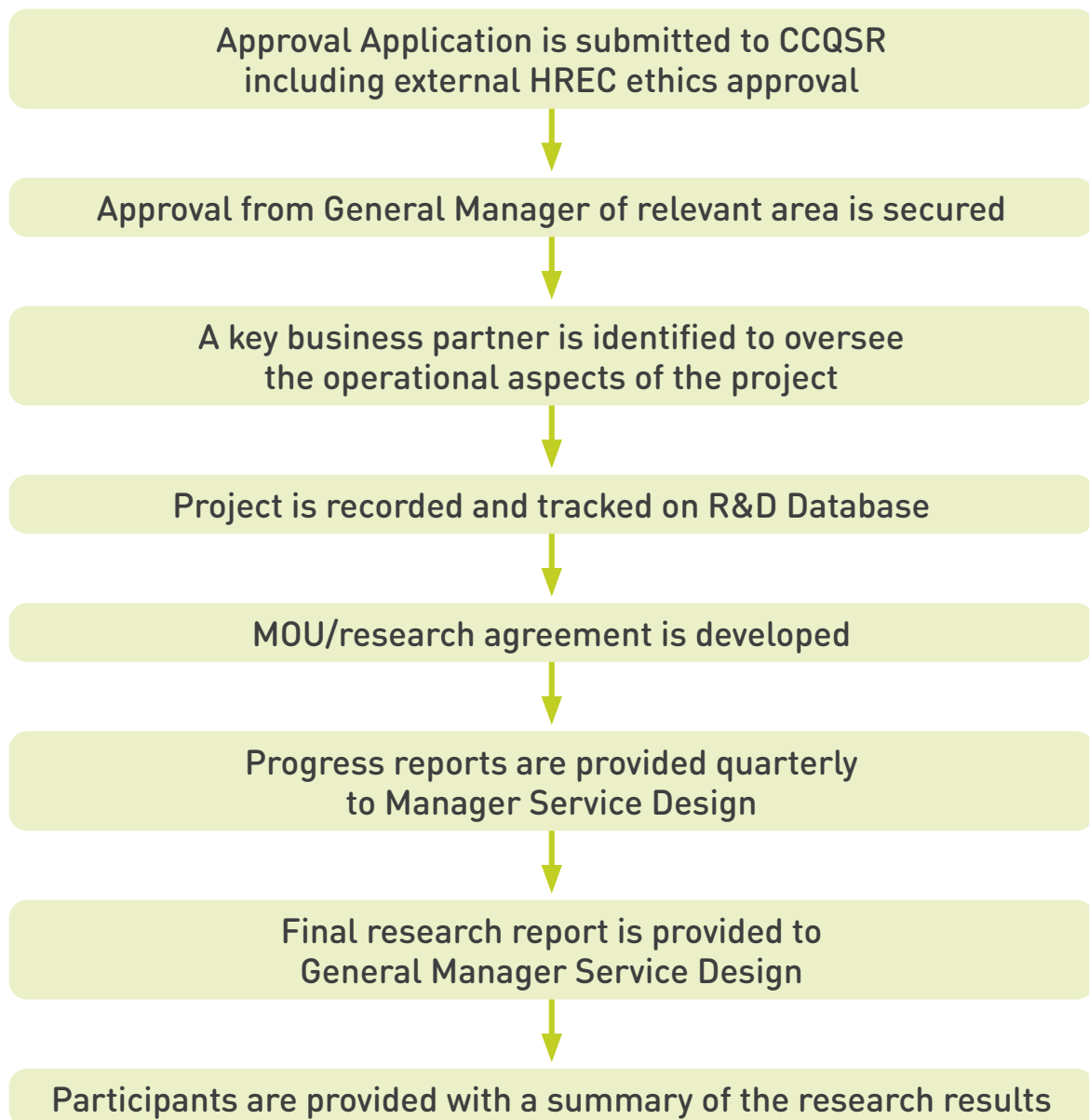
ACH Group as the leading organisation

- Identify opportunities
- Scope opportunities, partnership and roles
- Lead application process
- Lead project

ACH Group as a partner organisation

- Identify R&D priorities
- Communicate R&D priorities to partner (e.g. research inst.)
- Provide partner with internal lead person
- Collaborate with partners as required

Research approval pipeline



(Research Lead remains responsible for the general oversight of the project in partnership with key business partner)

This strategy will provide structure and guidance to ACH Group and its research partners in identifying, scoping and pursuing research and development opportunities, developing synergies and undertaking projects in a proactive, deliberate sustainable way

ACH Group is a not-for-profit community organisation promoting opportunities and services to support good lives for older people since 1952.

Let's talk **1300 22 44 77** Visit **achgroup.org.au**

