

1. Championing research in stroke

Stroke research is a core part of Stroke Foundation's mission to prevent stroke, save lives and enhance recovery. We stand alongside stroke survivors and their families, healthcare professionals and clinical researchers who will pave the way forward to the next innovation in stroke prevention, treatment and care.

Stroke Foundation's [Strategy 2022](#) identifies championing research in stroke as one of five key strategic goals. To achieve this goal Stroke Foundation will:

- Advocate for increased stroke research funding
- Increase our funding for and participation in stroke research
- Develop and strengthen our research network partnerships

External collaborations and partnerships play an essential role in our strategic commitment to championing stroke research. Stroke Foundation regularly partners with like-minded organisations to conduct stroke research, providing in-kind support and expertise. We have a strong track record in consumer engagement and co-design of consumer resources for stroke care. Many of our consumer and health professional digital tools are used and referenced internationally.

2. Engaging with Stroke Foundation

We invite researchers and research teams at all career and project stages to engage with Stroke Foundation in taking a next step towards significant breakthroughs in stroke research.

Proposals should be made using the application form provided and with as much lead time as possible. We strongly encourage early engagement with researchers, during development of potential projects, and in advance of funding calls, so that we can determine in-principle support, and refine these as commitments when specific funding calls are known.

Stroke Foundation encourages the Australian stroke research community to prepare for future funding opportunities arising from the Australian Government's Medical Research Future Fund [Cardiovascular Health Mission](#) (over 10 years from 2019-2029).

3. Stroke Foundation's Strategic Priorities

Stroke Foundation's work in clinical guidelines, audit and quality improvement has been at the forefront of many improvements in stroke care. This work has identified Stroke Foundation's Research Priority Areas. Proposals directly addressing Stroke Foundation's Strategic Goals and Research Priority Areas will be favourably considered, although proposals addressing other areas of stroke research will also be considered.

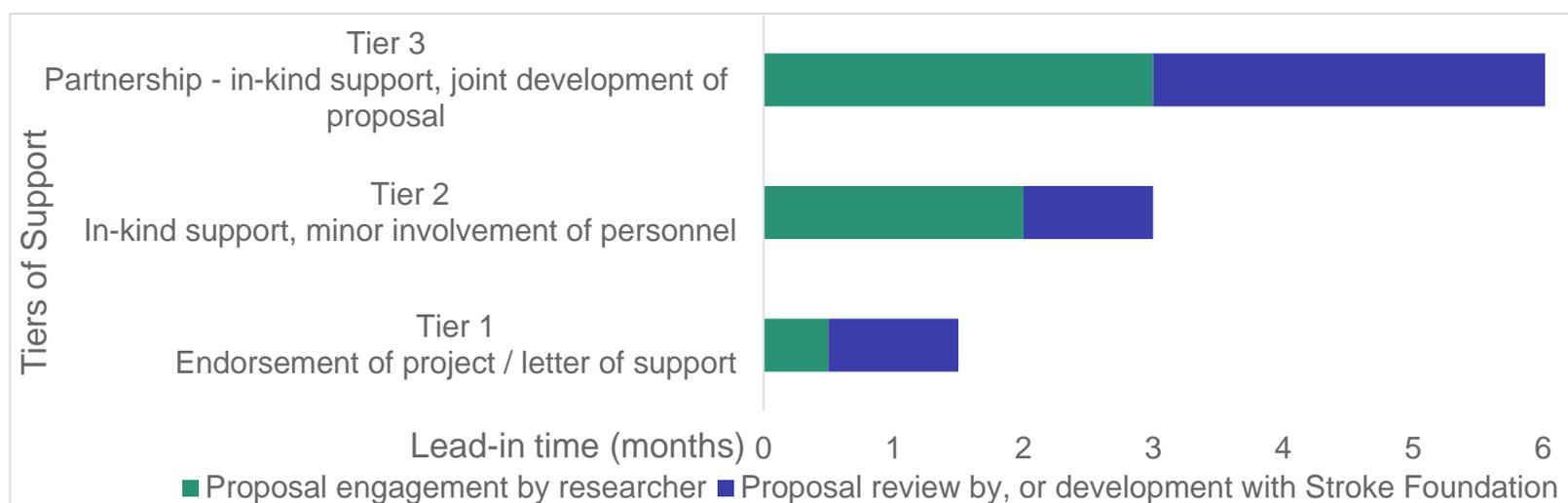
Stroke Foundation is particularly interested in innovative and collaborative projects with potential for significant impact, and has an increasing focus on efficacy and implementation studies.

	Stroke Foundation Strategic Goals	Stroke Foundation 2021 Research Priority Areas
1	Fewer preventable strokes in Australia.	None specified
2	Ensure all Australians have access to evidence-based stroke treatment.	Implementation studies of health services and pathways of stroke management that have already been shown to have efficacy (i.e. studies on how to translate these processes into acute and subacute practice). Feasibility or efficacy studies of interventions for long term psychosocial recovery (i.e. recovery of cognition, communication, and emotional and social wellbeing) with outcome measures beyond 6 months.
3	Enhance recovery to help Australians live well after stroke.	Feasibility or efficacy studies of long term community support (e.g. continuity of care, health services, and primary care) with outcome measures beyond 6 months. Implementation studies to improve the support of Carers.
4	Champion research in stroke.	As above

4. Types of Support

We understand that the type of support sought by researchers varies – from endorsement of a project through a letter of support, to minor collaborations involving in-kind contribution, to fully formed partnerships with the Stroke Foundation where proposals are developed jointly and may involve both in-kind and financial support.

Stroke Foundation has established the following tiered approach to allow for adequate consideration of and contribution to proposals. For the assessment of proposals, Stroke Foundation seeks review and endorsement from its Research Advisory Committee, Clinical Council, Health Promotion Advisory Subcommittee, Consumer Council, Board of Directors, or as a representative member of an Alliance, as needed and on a case by case basis.



5. Assessment Criteria

Stroke Foundation considers its strategic alignment with, and capacity to fulfil, all requests for research support. The assessment of proposals is based the following criteria:

1. Alignment with and contribution to Stroke Foundation's Strategic Goals and Research Priority Areas;
2. Importance to stroke: how important are the questions, or gaps in knowledge, that are being addressed?
3. Evidence of or plans for consumer engagement (stages including project design, research team inclusion, implementation and dissemination of findings);
4. Consideration of inclusive research methods e.g. consumers with aphasia, disadvantaged groups;
5. Potential for translation into fundamental outcomes that impact stroke prevention, treatment, recovery and / or appropriate health policy;
6. Feasibility of the project;
7. Adherence to application process and clarity of proposal (including design, source population, outcomes and time points);
8. Strength of partnership with attention to quality of outcomes and impact;
9. Contribution requested: where financial support is requested, is the scale justified? Does the proposal represent good value for money? Is the in-kind support value quantified? What is Stroke Foundation's capacity to fulfil the request?
10. Demonstration of early and ongoing engagement with Stroke Foundation.

6. Stroke Foundation's Research Advisory Committee, Clinical Council, Consumer Council and Alliances

Further strengthening Stroke Foundation's Research Program is its [Research Advisory Committee, Clinical Council and Consumer Council](#), comprising some of Australia's leading minds in stroke and consumer/carers with a lived experience of stroke.

The [Research Advisory Committee](#) includes experienced researchers with established track records in stroke research and/or related fields, along with one consumer and one carer representative. The Committee advises on: the strategy underpinning, and the activities arising from, the Research Program; oversight of Stroke Foundation's Research grant program and the independent peer review process, requests for Stroke Foundation's support and participation in external research programs and projects, including partnership proposals.

The [Clinical Council](#) brings together Australia's leading clinicians, academics and researchers in the area of stroke. The Clinical Council's role is to provide advice and technical support and be a credible clinical and technical voice to the Board and the work of the Stroke Foundation. Sitting within the Clinical Council, the Health Promotion Advisory Sub-Committee provides advice on health promotion policy, resources and program activity for the foreseeable future.

The [Consumer Council](#) includes stroke survivors and carers from across the community, each bringing a unique experience of stroke and access to a wider stroke community. The Consumer Council provides advice and input into consumer issues relating to strategy, policy, campaigns, program development and evaluation, consumer engagement and the research priorities of the Stroke Foundation.

Stroke Foundation's key Alliances are acknowledged in our [Annual Reviews](#).

We look forward to supporting Australia's leading and emerging stroke researchers in projects with breakthrough potential to prevent stroke, save lives and enhance recovery. For queries, please contact research@strokefoundation.org.au