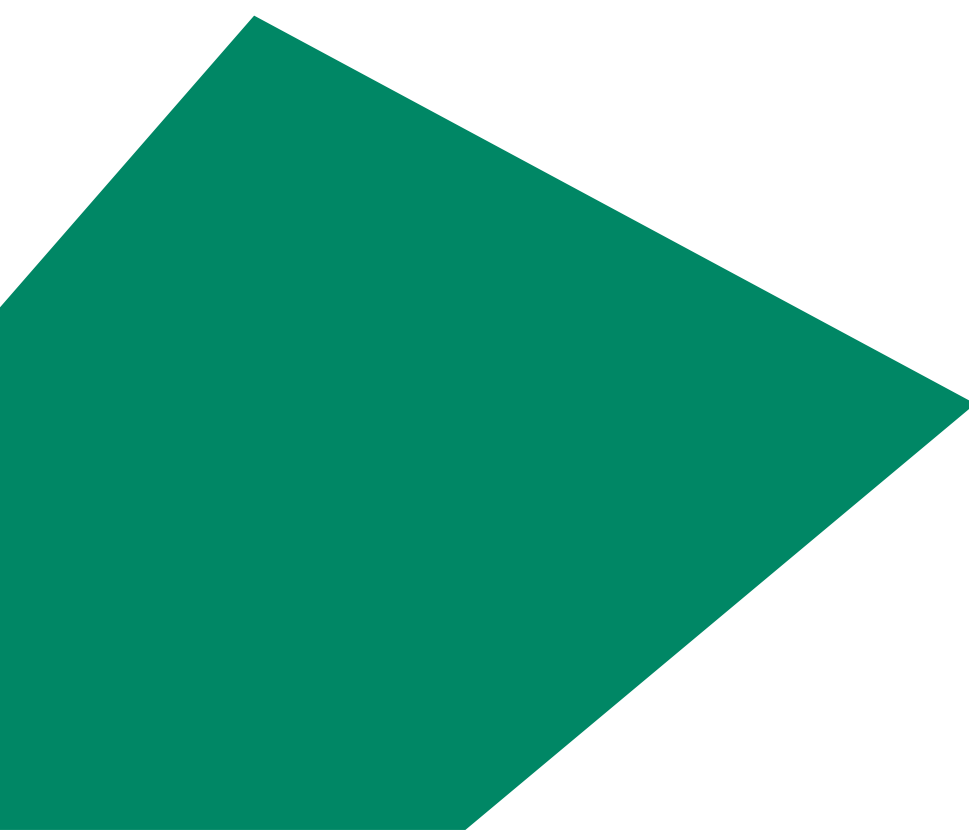


Research Partnerships Guide

Strategy 2027: Stronger Together



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1. Our Strategy and Research

Our [*Strategy 2027: Stronger Together*](#) reflects our commitment to partnership and collaboration recognising that meaningful positive change can only be achieved by working together.

Research supports the delivery of our mission to prevent stroke, save lives and enhance recovery. It drives our ability to scale our impact, respond to emerging challenges, and ultimately prevent stroke and improve the lives of Australians affected by stroke.

Our goal is to progress stroke research that makes a difference to our community.

We invite requests from researchers for:

- › Letters of support (or acknowledgement of support)
- › Partnership in research.

This Guide outlines the criteria and requirements for these requests.

- › Early engagement is strongly encouraged, e.g. during development of potential projects, and in advance of funding calls.
- › Our team may initiate engagement with researchers where synergy with a program opportunity/strategic project is identified, such as through our research grant round, programs or networks.

2. Letter of Support

A letter of support could be used in a grant application and would confirm that the project aligns with Stroke Foundation's assessment criteria and may include support available for research projects, such as promotion for recruitment (refer [List your research | Stroke Foundation - Australia](#)).

2.1. Letter of support requirements

- › A **minimum of one month** is the expected lead time
- › Completion of our module on [working effectively with people with lived experience](#)
- › Completion of the application form
- › Provision of a draft letter of support that reflects the funding opportunity's requirements.

2.2. Letter of support assessment criteria

- › Alignment with our strategic goals and lived experience priorities
- › Driven by evidence and/or learning
- › Evidence of, or plans for, engaging people with a lived experience of stroke (stages including project design, research team inclusion, implementation and dissemination of findings)
- › Consideration of, and methods for, inclusion across diverse groups, including priority populations relevant to the study, and/or people who face barriers to equitable inclusion or access (e.g., people who have difficulty with language).
- › Indication of a pathway to positively impact on stroke prevention, treatment, recovery or appropriate health policy.

3. Partnership

Stroke Foundation partnership on a research project would mean that there is active, fit for purpose participation from the Stroke Foundation team, at relevant stages of the project (e.g., design phase, dissemination and implementation) and an associated budget for partnership activities.

Examples may include (but are not limited to)

- › Involvement of Stroke Foundation personnel in the project (e.g., on the research team, in a steering committee/working group or advisory role)
- › Advice from Stroke Foundation Councils, Committees and/or relevant networks for consultation
- › Promotion/engagement of research opportunity through our networks and digital platforms including EnableMe and InformMe
- › Promotion of the project's outputs, new evidence and consensus recommendations, as aligned with Stroke Foundation's strategic plan, through our networks and digital platforms
- › Ongoing management of tools and resources planned to be developed (e.g., patient information, websites, handbooks, guides).

3.1. Partnership requirements

- › A **minimum of 3 months** is the expected lead time
- › Completion of our module on [working effectively with people with lived experience](#)
- › Completion of the application form. Stroke Foundation will initiate the next step after receiving an application - this may involve an initial conversation to discuss the next steps for engagement.
- › Funding support for Stroke Foundation partnership activity is expected (from 2026). In addition, in-kind or cash support from Stroke Foundation will be considered where appropriate.
- › An agreed process of regular communication between Stroke Foundation and research team members.

3.2. Partnership assessment criteria

- › Alignment with our strategic goals and lived experience priorities
- › Stroke Foundation capacity to fulfil the request
- › Appropriate research question and methods
- › Feasible and respectful plans for project resources, budget and timeframe
- › Evidence of, or plans for, engaging people with a lived experience of stroke (stages including project design, research team inclusion, implementation)
- › Consideration of, and methods for, inclusion across diverse groups, including priority populations relevant to the study, and/or people who face barriers to equitable inclusion or access (e.g., people who have difficulty with language)
- › A clear pathway to positive impact on stroke prevention, treatment, recovery or appropriate health policy (e.g., translation plan, potential funding pathway, sustainability, i.e., building on resources currently available or as part of planned co-development, which may involve Stroke Foundation and/or other partners)
- › There are no reputational or relational risks that would prevent the partnership from going ahead
- › Demonstration of early and ongoing engagement with Stroke Foundation.

4. How to submit a request

1. Read this Guide

2. Reach out if you have questions about applying

Contact our Research Coordinator at research@strokefoundation.org.au or phone 03 9918 7215 to ask any questions.

3. Download and email your completed application form to research@strokefoundation.org.au

5. How we assess requests

1. Stroke Foundation Management review requests in accordance with this Guide and organisational policies.
2. Requests with shorter lead times than expected may not be considered due to the time involved in reviewing and responding to the request.
3. We may invite further engagement as appropriate - this might include meeting with relevant team members and providing further information.
4. Our assessment considers our priorities, work plans, capacity, costs/budget and the benefits of the project overall.
5. Advice will be sought from Stroke Foundation's Councils and Committees as appropriate, including our Research Advisory Committee, Lived Experience Council and Clinical Council.
6. The project lead/applicant should ensure they have completed the required learning module during the application process. In any research supported by Stroke Foundation (letter of support and/or partnership) it is expected that the project lead/applicant ensures their research team members have completed the module as part of the project's implementation.
7. The assessment outcome will be provided within an appropriate timeframe, with attention given to the recommended lead times and funding application deadlines.

6. Resources

- › Take our module on [working effectively with people with lived experience](#).
- › [Stroke Trials CRE Co-design and Collaboration Resources](#)
- › [The MRFF's principles for consumer involvement in research](#)
- › [Consumers Health Forum of Australia and NHMRC Statement](#)

- › [“Towards the Consistent Inclusion of People With Aphasia in Stroke Research Irrespective of Discipline”](#) (Shiggans et al., 2022), for methods to enable inclusion, including recommendations, resources, and guidance.
- › The Aphasia Handbook (Stroke Foundation and the Australian Aphasia Association, 2023)