

Stroke Foundation Strategy and Research

Research is a critical part of Stroke Foundation's mission to prevent stroke, save lives and enhance recovery. Since 1996, we have worked alongside survivors of stroke and their families, healthcare professionals and researchers to build stroke awareness and knowledge so that action can be taken to reduce its impact on our community. Our work is underpinned by evidence and lived experience.

Our [Stroke Strategy 2024 | Empowering, Supporting, Connecting](#), aims to increase our investment and impact in stroke research.

Our overarching [Research and Innovation Framework](#) supports our strategy and guides our approach.

To align our research for greatest impact, we will:

- › Partner with others and target research and innovation projects that have significant potential to advance our mission.
- › Ensure that the experiences of survivors of stroke, their families, and carers sit at the heart of everything that we do.

We listen to and enable people with a lived experience to inform our work. We amplify the voices of people with lived experience by advocating at a national, state and territory level to support stroke prevention, access to treatment and enhanced recovery.

We actively pursue research opportunities and prioritise monitoring and evaluation to ensure that there is a robust evidence-base that informs our work and advocacy efforts.

Partnering with Stroke Foundation

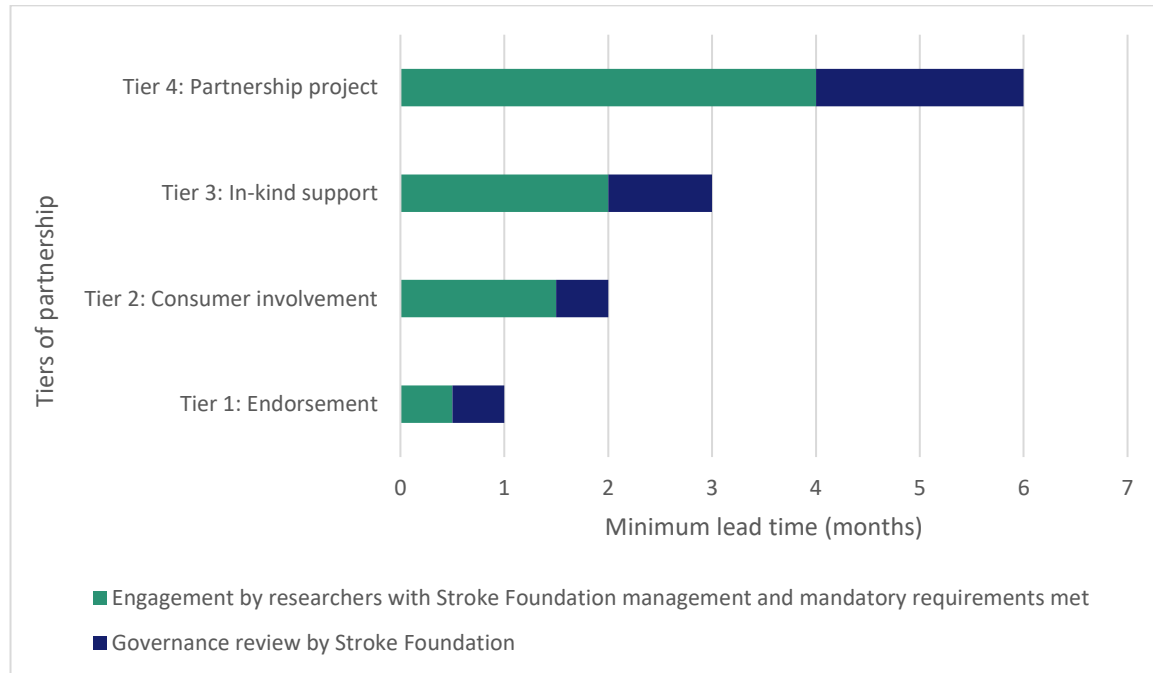
Researchers and research teams at all career and project stages are invited to engage with us to drive the next step forward in stroke prevention, treatment, and recovery.

Proposals that align with [Stroke Strategy 2024](#) or address Research Priority Areas identified through our [Research Grants](#) and [Endowment sub-funds](#) are encouraged.

The Australian stroke research community is encouraged 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).

Levels of partnership with Stroke Foundation can vary, and to reflect this we have developed a tiered approach to allow for adequate assessment of proposals, based on four tiers and time required for engagement and review as shown in figure 1. The level of partnership moves from endorsement of a project through a letter of support (Tier 1), to requests for consumer involvement (Tier 2), to minor collaborations involving minimal in-kind contribution (Tier 3), and finally to fully formed partnership projects (Tier 4) with Stroke Foundation where proposals are developed jointly and may involve both in-kind and financial support.

Figure 1: Tiers of partnerships and minimum lead times



Early engagement is strongly encouraged, e.g. during development of potential projects, and in advance of funding calls, so that in-principle support may be determined then refined as commitments for specific funding calls.

To initiate a proposal: [complete the application form](#) and return to research@strokefoundation.org.au. Please note the **minimum** lead time required for each tier of partnership.

Partnership Assessment Criteria

Stroke Foundation considers its strategic alignment with, and capacity to fulfil, all requests for research support. To assess proposals, Stroke Foundation may engage its Research Advisory Committee, Consumer Council, Clinical Council, Stroke Prevention Advisory Committee, Board of Directors, or Alliance representatives, for review and endorsement, on a case-by-case basis. Assessment criteria includes:

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, engaging people with a lived experience of stroke (stages including project design, research team inclusion, implementation and dissemination of findings);
4. Demonstration of research team completion of our co-designed e-learning module on [how to work effectively with people with lived experience](#);
5. Consideration of inclusive research methods, e.g. consumers with aphasia, disadvantaged groups;
6. Potential for translation into fundamental outcomes that impact stroke prevention, treatment, recovery or appropriate health policy;
7. Feasibility of the project;
8. Adherence to application process and clarity of proposal (including design, source population, outcomes and time points);
9. Strength of partnership with attention to co-design, quality of outcomes and impact;
10. 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?
11. Demonstration of early and ongoing engagement with Stroke Foundation.

Governance

Governing Stroke Foundation's Research Program is its [Research Advisory Committee, Clinical Council and Consumer Council](#), and [Stroke Prevention Advisory Committee](#) comprising some of Australia's leading minds in stroke and people with a lived experience of stroke. Stroke Foundation's [Board](#) is responsible for overarching governance, and financial, investment and risk by its [Finance, Investment and Risk Committee](#).

The [Research Advisory Committee](#) includes experienced researchers with established track records in stroke research and/or related fields, and people with lived experience of stroke. 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 partnership in external research programs and projects.

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 Stroke Foundation. Sitting within the Clinical Council, the [Stroke Prevention Advisory Committee](#) provides advice on health prevention and promotion policy, resources and program activity for the foreseeable future.

The [Consumer Council](#) includes survivors of stroke, carers and family members 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 Stroke Foundation.

Input is also sought from Stroke Foundation's key Alliances are acknowledged in our [Annual Reviews](#).

For queries please contact research@strokefoundation.org.au