

8 November 2023

To the diabetes research community,

Diabetes research is at a critical juncture in Australia.

Funding for diabetes research has declined significantly over the past decade. Yet the number of people living with all types of diabetes continues to increase.

To change the trajectory of the diabetes epidemic, research must be at the forefront of our response. We have world-class researchers, undertaking world-class research, but this can't be sustained if funding continues to decline.

Diabetes Australia, together with our unifying health professional partner organisations, the Australian Diabetes Society (ADS) and the Australian Diabetes Educators Association (ADEA), are committed to addressing this significant challenge currently facing the diabetes research sector.

As the Group CEO of Diabetes Australia, I want to assure you that we have a plan to address this situation and are actively implementing strategies to affect change.

- To coincide with World Diabetes Day, together with the ADS and the ADEA, Diabetes Australia is launching a campaign 'Diabetes Research Changes Lives' to highlight the impact that research has had on the lives of people living with diabetes, and call for more funding for diabetes research.
- In the coming months, Diabetes Australia and the ADS will host a number of roundtable discussions with leading researchers from across the country to develop a national strategic roadmap for research. It is critical we have a clear plan that outlines priorities for research and investment.
- Diabetes Australia has appointed a Director of Research (announcement of successful candidate in December 2023) to provide leadership as we collectively work with the research community to develop a national diabetes research strategy.
- Diabetes Australia has bolstered our fundraising and philanthropy efforts, with the appointment of a senior philanthropy leader to grow funding so that Diabetes Australia can continue to fund and provide research grants across Australia.
- We are stepping up our political engagement and advocacy efforts to lobby the Australian Government and other funders to increase investment in diabetes research.

Diabetes research changes lives and creates hope for the future. Research is critical in our fight to drive change to prevent, treat and, ultimately, cure diabetes.

Be assured, Diabetes Australia shares the concerns of the diabetes research community, and we are absolutely committed to addressing the need for more research funding to improve the lives of people living with or at risk of diabetes.

To support us in our very public drive to increase research funding please go to our [Spark Change platform](https://www.diabetesaustralia.com.au/issue/declining-diabetes-research-investment) (<https://www.diabetesaustralia.com.au/issue/declining-diabetes-research-investment>) and add your support to our petition to increase funding.

Yours sincerely

Justine Cain
Group CEO
Diabetes Australia