

19 April 2022

The Hon Scott Morrison MP
Prime Minister of Australia
Leader of the Liberal Party of Australia

Dear Prime Minister Morrison,

Call to Action for Research and Education in Primary Care

The Australasian Association for Academic Primary Care (AAAPC) is Australia and New Zealand's leading advocate for high quality multidisciplinary primary care research, education, policy and practice. A cost-effective healthcare system is underpinned by multidisciplinary primary care, which itself depends on high quality education and research to deliver evidence-based practice. During this Federal Election, we seek urgent consideration of the following key issues that the AAAPC raised during the consultation phase of the recently released 'Australia's Primary Health Care 10-Year Plan 2022-2032.'

- Sustainable funding for research and evaluation of primary health care innovation. Australia's Primary Health Care 10-year Plan requires an Australian Primary Health Care Research Strategy that informs models of sustainable funding for multidisciplinary primary care research.
- Creation of the proposed National Institute for Primary Health Care Translational Research (NIPHCTR). This should be a multi-institutional organisation that values the different expertise across institutions and health professions, similar to the UK NIHR School of Primary Care Research.
- The establishment of a national network of practice-based research networks (PBRNs) in Australia to provide coordinated and targeted research to address primary health care research priorities.
- Improved access to linked primary care data for researchers, with appropriate data governance systems, to support high quality health services research.
- Primary care-led research to understand the clinical utility, cost-effectiveness and education needs to support implementation of new health care technologies (e.g. genomics, point-of-care tests, computer decision support). This requires primary-care focused streams within a range of MRFF funding schemes.
- Vertical integration of education including greater involvement of medical schools in general practice vocational training, and greater exposure to primary care practice in nursing degrees, to deliver the necessary workforce in primary care.

Significant efforts have been made in the development of the 10-year plan for primary health care in Australia. It is imperative that momentum is not lost and the specific areas relating to primary care research and education are enacted by government after the federal election.

AAAPC would welcome the opportunity to engage in further discussions or to provide comment.

Yours sincerely,



Dr Phyllis Lau
AAAPC President

