



The Hon. Greg Hunt MP
Minister for Health and Aged Care

MEDIA RELEASE

25 October 2021

Record female representation on new NHMRC Council

The Morrison Government has announced the membership of the Council of the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC).

The new Council will play a key role in supporting the NHMRC in its mission of building a healthy Australia.

The Council will serve a three-year term to June 2024 and will be chaired by Professor Caroline Homer AO.

Membership of the Council brings together expertise in biomedical science, clinical and public health, nursing, health care training and the medical profession, as well as business and consumer perspectives, and expertise in the health needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

Eleven of the 15 non-ex-officio members are women, a record in female membership of the Council.

Professor Homer is an internationally-renowned midwifery researcher, scholar and leader in maternal and newborn health care and service delivery. With more than 25 years' experience in clinical practice, research, education and international development, she is Co-Program Director of Maternal, Child and Adolescent Health at the Burnet Institute and an Emeritus Professor of Midwifery at the University of Technology Sydney.

Professor Homer is current Deputy Chair of the Australian Medical Research Advisory Board and Chair of the NHMRC's Peer Review Analysis Committee. She was a member of the Council in 2018–2021 and has previously been a member of the NHMRC's Research Committee and Chair of the NHMRC's Women in Health Science Committee.

The NHMRC is the nation's leading body supporting excellent health and medical research to improve health outcomes for all Australians. It provides the foundation for Australia's medical research capability, funding the best research and researchers, ensuring consistent health standards and advising on ethical issues in health. The Council's role is to ensure that robust expert advice reflecting a wide range of perspectives is provided to the NHMRC Chief Executive Officer, Professor Anne Kelso AO, to support these functions.

I would like to thank the former Chair of the NHMRC Council, Professor Bruce Robinson AC, and all members of the former Council for their contributions and commitment to supporting the work of the NHMRC throughout the previous triennium (2018–2021).

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Authorised by Greg Hunt MP, Liberal Party of Australia, Somerville, Victoria.

NHMRC Council 2021–2024:

Appointees	Position	Expertise
Professor Caroline Homer AO	Chair	
Professor Steve Wesselingh	Member and Chair, Research Committee	Expertise in public health research and medical research issues
Professor Ingrid Winship AO	Member and Chair, Australian Health Ethics Committee	Expertise in ethics relating to research involving humans
Professor Emily Banks AM	Member and Chair, Health Research Impact Committee	Expertise in public health research and medical research issues
Professor Yvonne Cadet-James	Member	Expertise in the health needs of Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islanders
Ms Ainslie Cahill AM	Member	Expertise in consumer issues
Ms Bronwyn Le Grice	Member	Expertise in business
Professor Ian Frazer AC	Member	Expertise in public health research and medical research issues
Professor Jane Gunn	Member	Expertise in health care training. Other expertise: mental health
Professor Elizabeth Hartland	Member	Expertise in public health research and medical research issues. Other expertise: basic/biomedical science
Professor Richard Murray	Member	Expertise in professional standards Expertise in the medical profession and postgraduate medical training
Professor Carolyn Sue AM	Member	Expertise in rare diseases
Professor Nicholas Talley AC	Member	Expertise in public health research and medical research issues
Professor Debra Thoms	Member	Expertise in the nursing profession
Professor Alison Venn	Member	Expertise in public health
Professor Paul Kelly	Ex-officio Member	Chief Medical Officer of the Commonwealth
Dr Kerry Chant PSM	Ex-officio Member	Chief Health Officer, New South Wales
Dr Kerryn Coleman	Ex-officio Member	Chief Health Officer, Australian Capital Territory
Dr Michael Cusack	Ex-officio Member	Chief Medical Officer, South Australia
Dr Hugh Heggie PSM	Ex-officio Member	Chief Health Officer, Northern Territory
Professor Tony Lawler	Ex-officio Member	Chief Medical Officer, Tasmania
Dr Andrew Robertson	Ex-officio Member	Chief Health Officer, Western Australia
Professor Brett Sutton	Ex-officio Member	Chief Health Officer, Victoria

Appointees	Position	Expertise
Dr Jeannette Young PSM	Ex-officio Member	Chief Health Officer, Queensland