

27th October 2023

To whom it may concern,

Letter in response to the Green Paper Consultation for Delivery of the South Australian Health and Medical Research Strategy

The Public Health Association of Australia (PHAA) is recognised as the principal non-government organisation for public health in Australia working to promote the health and well-being of all Australians. It is the pre-eminent voice for the public's health in Australia, and seeks to drive better health outcomes through increased knowledge, better access and equity, evidence informed policy and effective population-based practice in public health. PHAA has clear policies on health promotion and illness prevention, including the Health Promotion and Illness Prevention Policy Position Statement

(<https://www.phaa.net.au/documents/item/2880>), with the intention of improved population health.

We write further to the release of the Green Paper Consultation for Delivery of the South Australian Health and Medical Research Strategy. We are pleased to see that public health research has been included as part of the strategy, in line with our previous submission (April 2020) in response to the initial inquiry undertaken by the South Australian Productivity Commission.

PHAA are cognisant of the fact that SA is one of the only (in fact we believe may be the only state) that does not invest funds in health and medical research. With regard to the strategies long term plan *'Increasing the volume of 'research-ready' participants for research projects in South Australia to grow the baseline of research being undertaken in this state.'* we strongly recommend SA Government fund priority driven research grants dedicated to public health research, as well as health services research and biomedical research. Such funding will allow researchers to develop their concepts and pilot their studies which will increase the research capacity in SA, and increase researchers' competitiveness for securing category 1 funding (e.g. through NHMRC, MRFF and ARC) which will be of value to South Australia.

We also note that there is only a brief mention of the universities in regard to the merger, and that SAHMRI, nor SA's other key universities including Flinders University and Torrens appear to be mentioned.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment, PHAA looks forward to the outcomes of the Green Paper Consultation process.

Yours sincerely,



Prof. Jacquie Bowden
PHAA Branch President
Public Health Association of Australia

