

## Case study: Mobilising Leadership and Collaboration to Strengthen Research Translation

When the third round of MRFF Rapid Applied Research Translation (RART) funding was announced in late 2018 the HTSA Board agreed to a new strategic approach for allocating the funds.

HTSA wanted to develop a process that reflected its mission to facilitate cooperation and collaboration between researchers, health care services and the community. To date funding allocations for previous funding rounds had still focussed on the traditional “researcher led” projects.

The first step in the process was to convene a **Board Research Advisory Working Group**. The group comprised Board members, researchers, SA Health Executives and consumers. The role of the Working Group was to determine Strategic Priority Areas that reflected real issues facing the health system and patients in South Australia and develop options for a process to distribute funds that facilitated collaboration and cooperation.

In developing the priorities, the Working Group considered the following

- MRFF priorities
- Current HTSA priorities
- Researcher strengths/themes from previous MRFF funding
- Strategic planning interests (findings from consultation with HTSA Partners)
- Community stakeholder interests (as per Stakeholder Forum outcomes)
- SA Health priorities
- AHRA priorities

### On the recommendations of the Working Group the Board endorsed the following

1. Five Strategic Priority Areas –
  - Aboriginal Health
  - Ageing
  - Data Access and Data Analytics
  - Mental Health
  - Health Services Interface
2. A Strategic Project Approach with the aim to encourage multi-sectoral and multi-disciplinary action to provide “scalable solutions to complex health service problems that directly benefits patients”.

HTSA approached experts in the fields identified as Strategic Priority Areas to a Roundtable Session held on 28 February 2019. These experts represented health services, academia and the community sector.

One hundred and twenty researchers, healthcare services staff, stakeholders and community members came together to design and develop projects. Importantly consumers were engaged in all aspects of co-design – from priority setting through to proposal and project development.

