



Health, Disability and Compensation Research

Strategic Research Investment Road Map 2023/26
and Annual Plan 2023/24



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

The Transport Accident Commission acknowledges Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the Traditional Custodians of the land. We pay respect to Elders past, present and future, and all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people that call Victoria home today.

We recognise and respect their culture, beliefs, and connection to Country, with traditions and customs that have existed for over 60,000 years, and are privileged to share the lands we live on and operate in. We respect this land too – and our purpose is to care for the lives of everyone who travels on Victorian roads.



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Introduction

Now in it's sixth year of operation, the TAC's Health, Disability and Compensation research program continues to deliver significant value and support people with transport accident injuries to get their life back on track.

Since launching in 2018, 50 research projects and 13 grant projects have been successfully completed. The current investment portfolio comprises 30 projects and cuts across gold standard clinical data registries, bespoke research projects with academic and clinical experts across Australia and innovative grant programs.

Evidence from the TAC's research investment informs the delivery of high value health and disability services that focus on outcomes that matter most, as well as the ongoing improvement of the TAC's business model, systems and processes.

The Strategic Research Investment Road Map 2023/26 and Annual Research Plan 2023/24 aligns with the priorities articulated in the TAC 2025 Strategy.

If you would like further information on the health, disability and compensation research program please contact the Research & Evaluation team by email research@tac.vic.gov.au





Strategic Research at the TAC

HEALTH, DISABILITY AND COMPENSATION RESEARCH

Our Strategic Research Investment Road Map articulates how strategic research investment supports the TAC corporate purpose, vision and mission. The TAC's research purpose and principles guide investment decisions and help us administer the health, disability and compensation research program in a financially responsible manner. The strategic research objectives define our broad focus over the next three years, and individual Annual Research Plans detail specific research activities for each financial year.

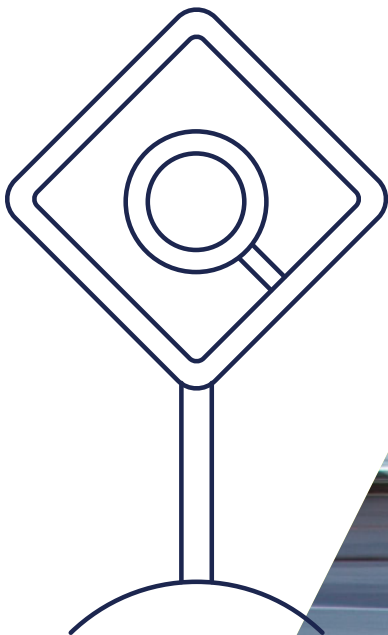




Figure 2: TAC Strategic Research Investment Road Map 2023/26

THE TAC'S RESEARCH INVESTMENT MODEL

Our research investment model provides a range of insourced and outsourced options for commissioning health, disability and compensation research.

Outsourced	1	Panel to purchase new research, deliver complex evidence reviews and syntheses, scanning analyses and data analyses.
	2	Supplemented by a small grants program and collaborative funding on a needs basis and/or when opportunities arise.
Insourced	3	TAC Research and Evaluation Team providing strategic research planning, research program management, evidence and evaluation, and translation and communication functions.

Figure 3: Research investment model

GOVERNANCE OF THE RESEARCH PROGRAM

Our research governance framework provides a clear line of authority for decision making, issue escalation and pathway for seeking strategic advice on the direction of the health, disability and compensation research program.

The framework is aligned with enterprise wide TAC governance processes.



Figure 4: Research Governance Framework (correct as of October 2023)

Annual Research Plan 2023/24

NEW RESEARCH NEEDS

New research needs have been identified and prioritised in consultation with internal TAC stakeholders and governance committees. The \$8.0 million budget for the TAC's 2023/24 research program has been allocated across the program; research projects and grants \$4.4 million, data registries \$2.1 million and operating costs \$1.5 million.

Table 1: New outsourced research projects to commence in 2023/24

Title and description	Strategic direction	Indicative time frame
Support for the Victorian State Trauma Registry clinical database of major trauma cases	Digital & Data	2023/26
Data analyses by the clinical data registries for major traumatic injuries		2023/24
Developing a global set of patient-centered outcome measures for trauma	Value Based Health Care	2023/25
Innovation grants program to support value based health care		2023/24
Small grants program to enhance inclusive disability services and practice		2023/24

Table 2: New insourced research activities to commence in 2023/24

Title and description	Research objective	Indicative time frame
Identifying contemporary translation strategies to facilitate use of evidence in business decisions	Drive evidence-based decision making	2023/24
A health, disability and compensation scanning program to identify emerging insights on priority topics		2023/25
Exploration of clinical supervision models to support the well-being of frontline claims managers		2023/24
Deliver translation resources and impact activities for completed projects		2023/24

CONTINUING PROJECTS

There are currently 19 projects and 11 grants in the health, disability and compensation research portfolio. Ten projects and 10 grants are due for completion this financial year. For detailed information on continuing projects and grants please refer to Tables 3, 4 and 5. Information on projects completed in 2022/23 can be found in Appendix 1.

Table 3: Projects in-progress

Project title	Project end date	Organisation	Total allocated	Strategic direction
T042 Physiotherapy guidelines for spinal cord injury Aims to develop clinical practice guidelines for the physiotherapy management of people with spinal cord injuries.	29/09/2023	Austin Health	\$134,150	Value Based Health Care
T067 Victorian State Trauma Registry (VSTR) A database of all major trauma cases, including injuries, treatment, complications and outcomes for all major trauma admissions to any Victorian hospital. Outcomes are collected at 6, 12 and 24 months post-accident.	30/09/2023	Department of Health	\$527,813	Digital & Data
T045 Effectiveness of virtual healthcare for non-hospitalised clients Aims to understand experience, effectiveness, impact and sustainability of telehealth delivered service for non-hospitalised TAC clients.	30/10/2023	Deakin University	\$396,096	Next General Claims Model
H029 Intervention to manage Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and comorbidity after trauma A randomised controlled trial to evaluate an early remote intervention for psychological problems (anxiety, depression or trauma related disorder) that develop after injury.	15/12/2023	Phoenix Australia Centre for Post-traumatic Mental Health	\$161,600	Value Based Health Care
T101 Diagnosing pre-hospital blood requirements The aim of this project is to establish the correlation between point-of-care lactate measures and laboratory measured lactate levels.	31/01/2024	Monash University	\$10,000	Value Based Health Care
T012 Trial of smart home technology following traumatic brain injury Investigating the effectiveness of smart home and mobile technologies with people living in the community who have cognitive impairment following brain injury.	29/02/2024	Monash University	\$795,544	Value Based Health Care
T099 Evaluation of Amber Community Evaluation of the value and effectiveness of the Amber Community counselling and support (art therapy) service for TAC clients and the broader Victorian community.	22/03/2024	Phoenix Australia – Centre of Post-traumatic Mental Health	\$149,540	Value Based Health Care

Project title	Project end date	Organisation	Total allocated	Strategic direction
T002 Early vocational intervention for people who have experienced traumatic injuries Translation of a randomised controlled trial that aimed to identify if providing early vocational interventions to people with traumatic injuries is an effective way to improve their work readiness and return to employment.	31/03/2024	Epworth HealthCare	\$1,692,301	Value Based Health Care
T054 Communication facilitators pilot To empower individuals with complex communication needs to have their needs and preferences understood and considered in VCAT and other civil settings.	12/04/2024	Funds in Court	\$149,500	Value Based Health Care
T098 Public health system opportunities for pain Explores how the public health system could enhance the utilisation, appropriateness and effectiveness of care to prevent and manage persistent pain among TAC clients.	31/05/2024	Victorian Healthcare Association	\$150,000	Value Based Health Care
T069 Electronic Persistent Pain Outcomes Collaboration (ePPOC) Measures client outcomes for Network Pain Management Programs. Facilitates benchmarking of providers in comparison to each other at a scheme and Australasian level.	30/06/2024	University of Wollongong	\$70,268	Digital & Data
T027 Mild traumatic brain injury follow up study Understanding neurological and cognitive recovery in the 12 months after mild traumatic brain injury.	01/07/2024	University of Melbourne	\$43,638	Value Based Health Care
T097 Resources for ageing with a traumatic brain injury Co-create a tailored educational resource with, and for, older people with traumatic brain injury and their families and caregivers.	26/08/2024	Monash University	\$47,858	Value Based Health Care
T055 Connectivity – Improving lives after traumatic brain injury Support to create a central information hub, enable codesign, disseminate best practice guidelines and provide education to guide people with traumatic brain injury, their families and service providers.	26/11/2024	Vision TBI	\$600,000	Value Based Health Care
T090 Compensation modelling To create a generic, modular and open-source computational model of the TAC using agent-based modelling that is co-designed with scheme managers, staff and stakeholders.	05/05/2025	University of Melbourne	\$259,142.66	Digital & Data
T066 Longitudinal Head Injury Outcomes Study (MERRC) A database on the long-term outcomes and experiences of people with brain injury admitted to inpatient rehabilitation at Epworth Healthcare. Outcomes are collected at 1, 2, 3, 5, 10, 20 and 30 years post-accident.	30/06/2025	Monash University	\$2,154,601	Digital & Data

Project title	Project end date	Organisation	Total allocated	Strategic direction
T065 Victorian Orthopaedic Trauma Outcomes Registry (VOTOR) A database of orthopaedic injuries, treatment, complications and outcomes based on admissions to The Alfred, Royal Melbourne Hospital, University Hospital Geelong and The Northern Hospital. Outcomes are collected at 6, 12 and 24 months post-accident.	30/06/2025	Monash University	\$2,361,272	Digital & Data
T040 Functional electrical stimulation to improve peripheral nerve health Investigates a method to preserve nerve quality and function prior to nerve transplantation.	31/08/2026	University of Melbourne	\$589,817	Value Based Health Care
T091 Neuromodulation for spinal cord injury Investigates whether transcutaneous electrical spinal cord neuromodulation (TESCoN) impacts autonomic function in spinal cord injury.	29/10/2027	University of Melbourne	\$154,742	Value Based Health Care

Table 4: Value Based Health Care innovation grant projects in-progress

Project title	Project end date	Organisation	Total allocated
T081 Early intervention for distress Pilot testing an early intervention to mitigate distress in motor vehicle accident claimants identified as being at risk of developing chronic pain.	01/12/2023	Independent Healthcare Provider	\$58,023
T083 Multi-trauma rehabilitation Evaluating the strength and relationship between the costs of inpatient rehabilitation and trauma injury severity, and patient reported health-related quality of life outcomes.	15/12/2023	Epworth Foundation	\$40,394
T085 Digital care pathway for back pain Co-develop, implement and evaluate a digital care pathway for back pain patients who present to Emergency at Northern Health.	29/12/2023	Northern Health	\$149,650
T084 Cyberscam recovery intervention Co-designing an effective and evidence-based cyberscam disengagement and psychological recovery intervention and written resources for people with brain injury.	31/12/2023	Monash University	\$49,934
T080 Screening for Pelvic Floor Dysfunction (PFD) Improving care continuity for pelvic trauma with a screening and referral process from the acute setting into the community.	31/12/2023	Melbourne Health	\$109,203
T082 Vocational rehabilitation smartphone app Investigating the effectiveness of a vocational rehabilitation smartphone application to support return to work after traumatic brain injury.	30/09/2024	Epworth Foundation	\$81,076

Table 5: Small Grants Program to Enhance Inclusive Disability Services and Practice projects in-progress

Project title	Project end date	Organisation	Total allocated
T096 Disability Pride Co-designing and producing resources for young people with a disability to foster disability pride and positive community attitudes.	10/08/2023	Youth Disability Advocacy Service	\$50,000
T093 Cook Chat Eat Co-designing a virtual and in-person cooking program to support young adults with brain injury to learn cooking skills with peers, build autonomy, confidence and connections.	29/02/2024	Heads Together for ABI	\$46,004
T095 Accessible Mobility Maps Producing printed and interactive mobility maps for priority areas within the Stonnington municipality to support people with disability to travel safely and independently.	01/02/2024	Stonnington City Council	\$50,000
T092 Building relationships post brain injury Co-designing, piloting and evaluating training workshops designed to support people living with an acquired brain injury to re-establish, build, and navigate positive relationships.	28/02/2024	Brain Injury Matters (BIM)	\$49,860
T094 Disability Confident Communities Co-designing and evaluating a training program and resources to build the capability of small to medium businesses to be disability confident and inclusive.	29/02/2024	Australian Federation of Disability Organisations	\$50,000

CONCLUSION

The TAC's health, disability and compensation research program accelerates improvement in the quality of programs, services and supports accessible to people with transport accident injuries. The flexibility offered by our insourced / outsourced investment model means we can attract the very best academic research experts, clinicians and people with lived experience to work collaboratively on projects tackling unmet needs of TAC clients. On a program level, in 2023/24 the number of outsourced research projects is expected to remain stable, with a constant flow of new projects commencing and continuing projects coming to completion. Our innovative Value Based Health Care

(VBHC) research grants program will be offered again to support clinicians to focus on experience, outcomes that matter most and delivering efficient and effective services. Insourced functions will prioritise capability to manage and promote the research program, support TAC 2025 strategic initiatives, and focus on translation to uplift utilisation of evidence in business decision making to impact client outcomes. Our presence in the broader research and industry environments will continue to grow as we support a small number of health, disability and compensation conferences strategically aligned to TAC 2025, and maintain the strong relationships we have established with cross-jurisdictional research functions.

Appendix 1:

Details of Projects Completed in 2022/23

Project title	Start year	Organisation	Amount paid
T047 The uptake, benefits and impacts of telehealth care for hospitalised TAC clients and service providers	2021	Monash University	\$199,058
T063 Evaluation of care coordination for TAC clients	2022	Health Consult Pty Ltd	\$110,443
T100 Effectiveness of interventions to prevent chronic pain following injury: A review update	2022	Monash University	\$32,622
T043 Leading your best life: Optimising the wellbeing of young men living with spinal cord injury	2020	Monash University	\$575,840
T086 Time series analysis and modelling to predict attendant care actuaries	2023	Monash University	\$48,000
T062 Contemporary practice horizon scanning program	2022	Monash University	\$119,447

