



Developing a National Allergy Centre of Excellence in Australia

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Background

In Australia, 20 per cent of the population live with allergic disease, including 10 per cent of infants diagnosed with clinically confirmed food allergy. Following a bipartisan Parliamentary Inquiry into Allergies and Anaphylaxis (2019-2020), the *Walking the Allergy Tightrope* report¹ made 24 recommendations to address critical needs with a national action plan. In August 2022, the Murdoch Children's Research Institute received \$10.2 million Australian Government funding to transition the Centre for Food & Allergy Research (CFAR) into the National Allergy Centre of Excellence (NACE).

Objective

As Australia's peak allergy research body, the NACE aims to unify Australian allergic disease research, accelerate translation of evidence into practice and foster the next generation of allergy researchers. The NACE will unite experts in drug, food, insect and respiratory allergic disease to help build the tools and resources needed to deliver the national plan of action. It will provide consumers, clinicians and policy makers access to the latest evidence-based research findings and clinical research.

Methods

Governance structures include an Executive Committee (Director and Pillar Leads) and International Scientific Advisory Board, overseeing the NACE body of work. A Consumer Advisory and Leadership Group (Executive Committee and elected Co-chairs of the Drug, Food, Insect and Respiratory Allergy Streams); and Stream Advisory Groups, acting as a sustainable

Conclusion

The foundations of Australia's innovative NACE infrastructure have been established to uniquely accelerate and sustain allergy research at scale. Together with the new patient focused National Allergy Council, the NACE will help transform the lives of people living with allergic disease.

References:

¹House of Representatives Standing Committee on Health Aged Care and Sport. *Walking the allergy tightrope: addressing the rise of allergies and anaphylaxis in Australia*. 2020. Available at: www.allergy.org.au/images/docs/Walkingtheallergytightrope.pdf

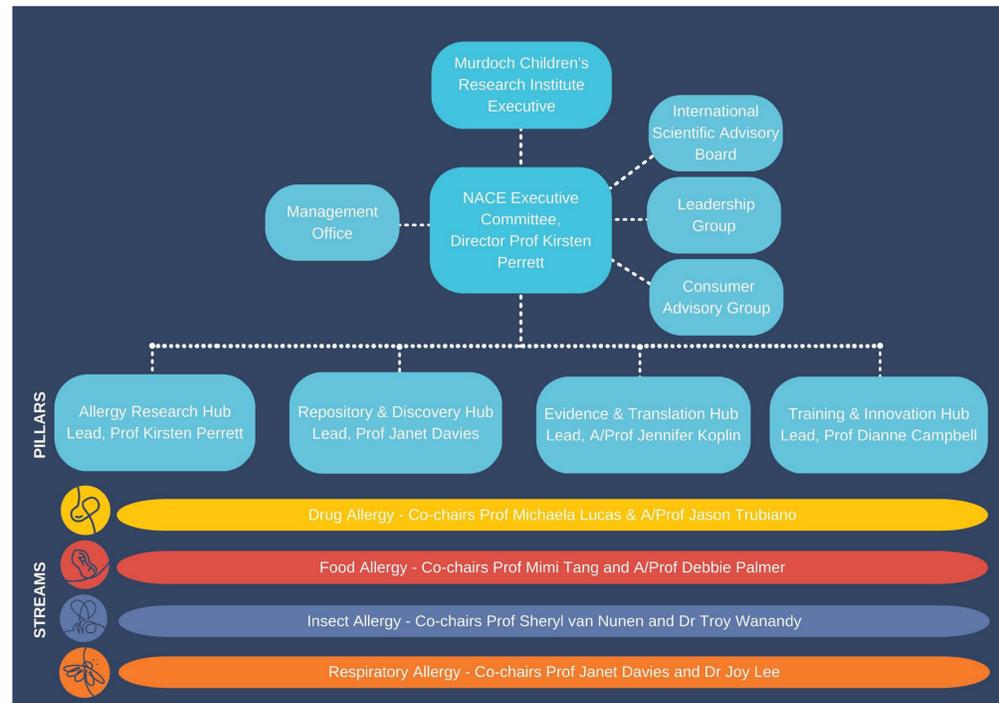


Fig 1: Australia's National Allergy Centre of Excellence governance structure.

framework for collaboration and communication among allergy researchers across Australia.

Results

The NACE activities are underpinned by four interconnected Pillars designed to maximise outcomes while developing the infrastructure, systems and processes for the future.

- Allergy Research Pillar:** facilitating embedded, national, large-scale studies in routine clinical care.
- Repository and Discovery Pillar:** establishing a biorepository to store clinical and research datasets integrated with biospecimens.
- Evidence and Translation Pillar:** undertaking living systematic reviews of evidence to underpin our embedded clinical studies.
- Training and Innovation Pillar:** supporting and mentoring the next generation of allergy researchers through competitive PhD scholarships and postdoctoral fellowships.

