

## Researchers pioneer Australia-first research to inform vaccine policy

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### To study the clinical and immunological responses to COVID-19 vaccines



A leading group of New South Wales (NSW) experts, including from the University of Sydney, have received funding from the NSW Government to pioneer Australia-first research to inform vaccine policy in the state and beyond.

The Vaccine, Infection and Immunology (VIIM) Collaborative Research Group will receive more than \$4.5 million in funding from the NSW Government over three years to study the clinical and immunological responses to COVID-19 vaccines in NSW recipients.

VIIM brings together the leading vaccine, infection and immunology researchers and practitioners in NSW.

It incorporates expertise from two universities, four medical research institutes, the state-wide pathology service, adult and paediatric health services, and the National Centre for Immunisation Research and Surveillance.

Professor Kristine Macartney, from the University of Sydney and director of the National Centre for Immunisation Research and Surveillance, says although extensive research on the available vaccines is underway abroad, the rollout in NSW was a unique opportunity to study COVID-19 vaccines with some of the world's most complete data on virus transmission, taking on the "trickiest questions" about the vaccines in certain populations and up against new variants.

NSW Chief Health Officer Dr Kerry Chant said the program will boost our knowledge of COVID-19 vaccines, including their efficacy on variant strains of the virus in future years.