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Australia announces $3.7 M funding boost for infection prevention and control in aged care

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To minimise and stop the transmission of infections are critical in all environments



The Australian government is investing more than $3.7 million in funding towards targeted research into improving infection prevention and control (IPC) in aged care homes as part of its commitment to delivering high quality person-centred care for older Australians.

Four projects funded under the National Health and Medical Research Council's (NHMRC) Targeted Call for Research*(TCR): Improving infection prevention and control in residential aged care homes 2023* aim to stimulate research to better understand the factors that influence the successful implementation of IPC programs in aged care homes.

Effective IPC measures and practices reduce the risk of transmission of infections and the development of antimicrobial resistance. When implemented within aged care settings, IPC programs protect older people, healthcare providers and others from harmful infections.

Each of the four research projects funded will receive close to $1 million to inform evidence-based interventions for IPC programs that meet the varying needs of both public and private aged care homes across Australia and will also inform what actions are required for these programs to be successfully implemented.

Of those receiving funding, Monash University, with chief investigator Professor Anton Peleg, will lead a research programme to develop optimised models and approaches for IPC in aged care homes. Through a highly engaged co-design process with people with lived experience and end users, Professor Peleg's programme aims to improve the lives of residents by reducing their risk of infection.

University of Technology Sydney researcher, Dr Su-yin Hor, will partner with people in care, their families and carers, residential aged care providers and infection control experts to investigate how residents, staff, and the community can be kept safe from infectious diseases without compromising the rights, health and wellbeing needs of older people in care.