



# Health, Disability and Compensation Research

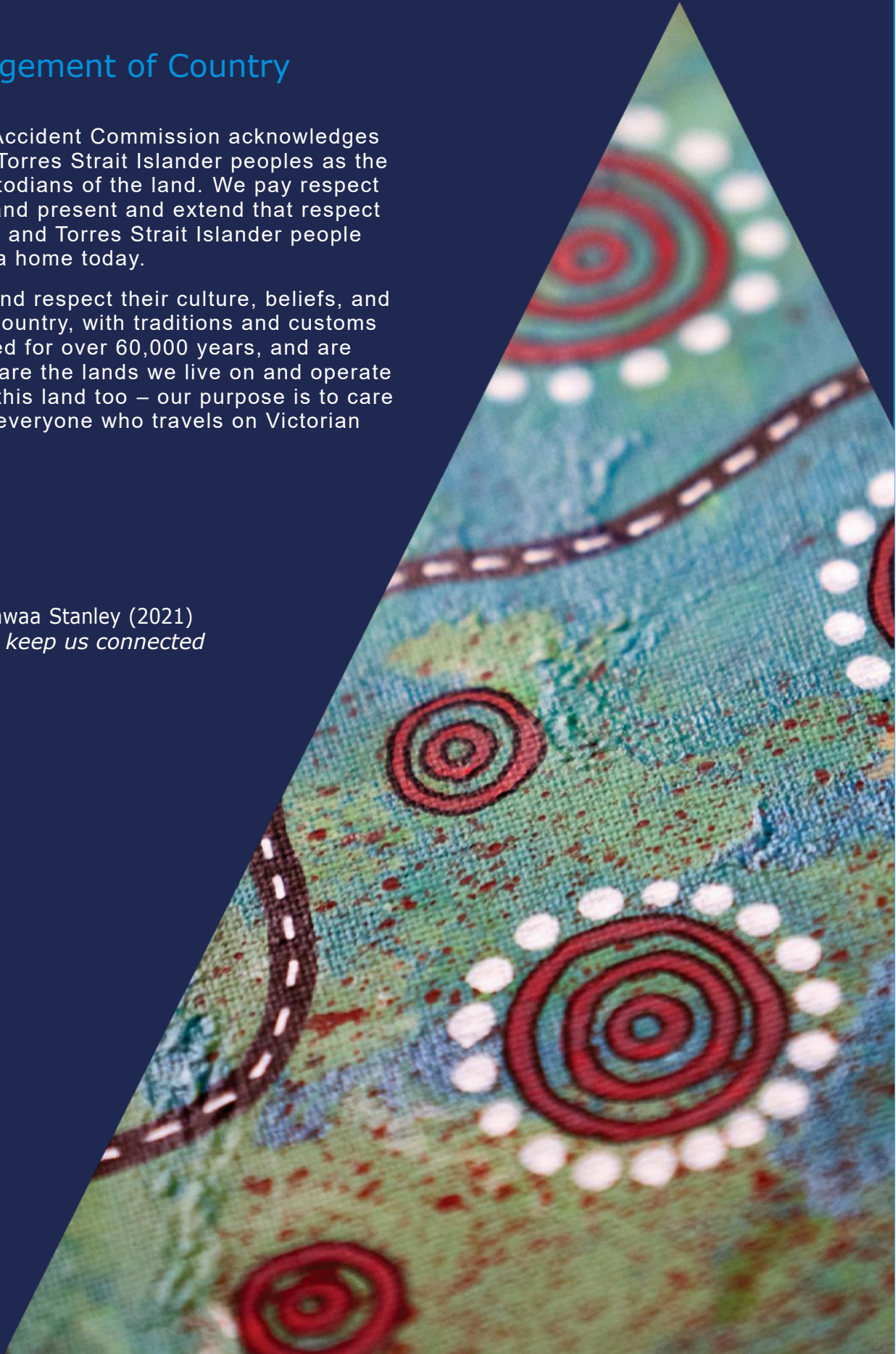
Strategic Research Investment  
Road Map 2024/27 and  
Annual Research Plan 2024/25

## 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 and present and extend that respect to 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 – our purpose is to care for the lives of everyone who travels on Victorian roads.

Artwork by Jurrawaa Stanley (2021)  
*The roads that keep us connected*





## Contents

The TAC Strategy .....	4
Strategic Research Investment Road Map 2024/27 .....	5
Annual Research Plan 2024/25 .....	6
New research needs .....	6
Continuing projects .....	7
Appendix 1 .....	13
Details of projects completed in 2023/24 .....	13





# The TAC Strategy

## Make Every Day Matter

The TAC's Health, Disability and Compensation Research program delivers significant value to the Victorian community by supporting people with transport accident injuries to recover and achieve the best possible outcomes. Evidence and knowledge delivered through the program is critical for developing the best practice solutions required to achieve the Best Client Outcomes goal in the TAC Make Every Day Matter strategy.

For further information, please contact the Research & Evaluation team by email [research@tac.vic.gov.au](mailto:research@tac.vic.gov.au)

Our goals	Our aspirations	Success by 2030
 <b>SAFE TO TRAVEL</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Significant reduction in serious road trauma</li><li>2. Safety first road culture</li><li>3. Be bold in leading the necessary changes</li></ol>	 Halving <b>lives lost</b>  Significantly reducing <b>serious injuries</b>
 <b>BEST CLIENT OUTCOMES</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Client-centred recovery and independence</li><li>2. Best providers, best outcomes</li><li>3. Service excellence</li></ol>	 Achieving our best <b>client outcomes</b> score  >70% of our <b>providers</b> find the TAC <b>easy to deal with</b>
 <b>HIGH PERFORMING CULTURE</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Empowered and innovating</li><li>2. Accountable for outcomes</li><li>3. Lead and learn together</li></ol>	 <b>Employee engagement</b> is above the Australian norm*  Ideal state culture in <b>constructive behaviour styles</b> achieved
 <b>SCHEME FOR NOW AND THE FUTURE</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Financial sustainability</li><li>2. Community trusted</li><li>3. Leading in Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG)</li></ol>	 Our <b>insurance funding ratio</b> is around the mid target range  <b>ESG</b> is part of our every day



# Strategic Research Investment Road Map 2024/27

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.





# Annual Research Plan 2024/25

## New research needs

Table 1. New outsourced research projects to commence in 2024/25

Project title	Indicative time frame
<b>Co-facilitation of therapy sessions in spinal cord injury (SCI) rehabilitation by peer coaches</b>	2024/27
<b>Early intervention pathway for major trauma patients at risk of developing persistent pain</b>	2024/27
<b>Mental health maturity assessment</b>	2024/25
<b>Health and social welfare use before, during and after transport injury</b>	2024/29
<b>Evaluation of the Network Pain Management Provider Model in collaboration with WorkSafe Victoria</b>	2024/25
<b>Support for the Victorian Orthopaedic Trauma Outcomes Registry clinical database of major trauma cases</b>	2025/28
<b>Support for the Longitudinal Head Injury Outcomes Study</b>	2025/28
<b>Grants program to encourage innovative research projects in the health and disability sectors</b>	2025/27



Table 2. New insourced research projects to commence in 2024/25

Project title	Indicative time frame
<b>Evaluation support for value based health care pilots</b>	2024/25
<b>Evaluation support for the claims management service model</b>	2024/26
<b>Scans and evidence synthesis on high priority business topics</b>	2024/25
<b>Develop translation resources and communications for completed projects</b>	2024/25

### Continuing projects

There are currently 13 projects and 10 grants in the health, disability and compensation research portfolio. Five projects and nine 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 2023/24 can be found in Appendix 1.

Table 3. Projects in-progress

Project title	Project end date	Organisation	Total allocated
<b>H029 Intervention to manage Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and comorbidity after trauma</b> A randomised controlled trial to evaluate an early remote intervention for psychological problems (anxiety, depression or trauma related disorder) that develop after injury.	15/11/2024	Phoenix Australia	\$161,600
<b>T055 Connectivity – Improving lives after traumatic brain injury</b> Support to create a central information hub, enable codesign, disseminate best practice guidelines and provide	26/11/2024	Vision TBI Ltd	\$600,000





education to guide people with traumatic brain injury, their families and service providers.

**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.

31/03/2025

Funds in Court

\$149,500

**T109 Developing a global set of patient-centred outcome measures for trauma**

Aims to develop and define a global sets of measures that capture outcomes that matter most to patients being treated for physical trauma and drive the adoption and reporting of these measures worldwide.

31/03/2025

International Consortium for Health Outcomes Measurement

\$196,000

**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

**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.

30/06/2025

University of Wollongong

\$87,176

**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

30/06/2025

Monash University

\$2,361,271





Hospital Geelong and The Northern Hospital. Outcomes are collected at 6, 12 and 24 months post-accident.

**T066 Longitudinal Head Injury Outcomes Study (MERRC)**

30/06/2025

Monash University

\$2,154,601

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.

**T113 Pilot testing an episodic Injury Support Program for TAC clients**

31/07/2025

Honeysuckle Health Pty Ltd

\$102,600

Pilot and evaluation of an episodic injury support program for TAC clients with moderate to high levels of complexity.

**T114 Early multidisciplinary care to improve health outcomes and reduce chronicity after transport accident injuries**

31/10/2025

Axis Rehabilitation at Work Pty Ltd

\$117,228

Investigating the acceptability, feasibility and potential effectiveness of an early, stratified care rehabilitation program for TAC clients who have sustained non-hospitalised transport accident injuries.

**T107 Victorian State Trauma Registry (VSTR)**

30/06/2026

Monash University

\$1,254,410

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.

**T040 Functional electrical nerve stimulation to improve peripheral nerve health**

31/08/2026

University of Melbourne

\$589,817

Investigates a method to preserve nerve



quality and function prior to nerve transplantation.

**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

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

Project title	Project end date	Organisation	Total allocated
<b>T082 Investigating the effectiveness of a vocational rehabilitation smartphone application to support return to work</b> Aims to evaluate the efficacy of the return to work application in improving return to work outcomes following brain injury.	2024	Epworth Healthcare	\$81,076
<b>T103 Accelerating value-based health care adoption in primary allied health TAC practitioners</b> Using the PX Accelerator change approach to upskill TAC allied health practitioners in the essential elements of value-based health care and apply the learning to improve patient experiences and outcomes.	2024	Allied Health Professions Australia	\$150,000
<b>T104 Pain educator role in the community setting</b> Trial of a pain educator role in a multi-disciplinary integrated team to support people recovering from injury related	2024	Gippsland Lakes Complete Health	\$138,264



pain in a rural community setting.

**T105 Precision mental health care for chronic pain, trauma and mental health**

2024

Psychology Outcomes

\$150,000

Measuring the efficiency, effectiveness and scalability of organisations treating chronic pain, trauma and mental health via a unique patient-provider matching process.

**T106 Teach-ABI: Participatory customisation and pilot testing a virtual teacher resource**

2024

Royal Children's Hospital

\$149,979

Co-design and pilot test an Australian customisation of Teach-ABI in the hospital to school reintegration pathways of children with brain injury.



Table 5: Small Grants Program for disability services projects in-progress

Project title	Project end date	Organisation	Total allocated
<b>T115 EnAccess maps</b> Improving the accessibility and usability of a web-based platform that helps mobility aid users find and review accessible events and locations.	2024	EnAccess Maps	\$47,653
<b>T116 My guide to circles of support</b> Creating a freely available, practice and resourcing guide for people with brain injury, their families, supporters and service providers to create circles of support.	2025	Inclusion Melbourne	\$49,875
<b>T117 Advocacy advice line for people with acquired brain injury</b> Meeting a critical, unmet need in Victoria for individual advocacy support for people with brain injury.	2025	Victorian Advocacy League for Individuals with Disability (VALID)	\$50,000
<b>T118 Community singing group for chinese people with a disability</b> Improving the quality of life and inclusion of TAC clients and Victorians with disability from a Chinese background through the power of music and community.	2025	Care Companions Monash	\$49,950
<b>T119 Embedding smart technology to increase student participation in physical activity</b> Using smart technology devices to increase participation in physical activity among senior students.	2025	Barwon Valley School	\$45,623



# Appendix 1

Details of projects completed in 2023/24

Project title	Project start year	Organisation	Amount paid
<b>T097 Resources for ageing with a traumatic brain injury</b>	2023	Monash University	\$47,858
<b>T098 Public health system opportunities for pain</b>	2023	Victorian Healthcare Association	\$150,000
<b>T101 Diagnosing pre-hospital blood requirements</b>	2023	Monash University	\$10,000
<b>T099 Evaluation of Amber Community</b>	2023	Phoenix Australia	\$149,540
<b>T080 Screening for Pelvic Floor Dysfunction (PFD)</b>	2022	Melbourne Health	\$109,203
<b>T081 Early intervention for distress</b>	2022	Independence Healthcare Provider	\$58,023
<b>T083 Multi-trauma rehabilitation</b>	2022	Epworth Foundation	\$40,394
<b>T084 Cyberscam recovery intervention</b>	2022	Monash University	\$49,934
<b>T085 Digital care pathway for back pain</b>	2022	Northern Health	\$149,650
<b>T092 Building relationships post brain injury</b>	2022	Brain Injury Matters	\$49,860
<b>T093 Cook Chat Eat</b>	2022	Heads Together for ABI	\$46,004



<b>T094 Disability Confident Communities</b>	2022	Australian Federation of Disability Organisations	\$50,000
<b>T095 Accessible Mobility Maps</b>	2022	Stonnington City Council	\$50,000
<b>T096 Disability Pride</b>	2022	Youth Disability Advocacy Service	\$50,000
<b>T045 Effectiveness of virtual healthcare for non-hospitalised clients</b>	2021	Deakin University	\$396,096
<b>T042 Physiotherapy guidelines for spinal cord injury</b>	2020	Austin Health	\$134,150
<b>T027 Mild traumatic brain injury follow up study</b>	2019	University of Melbourne	\$43,638
<b>T002 Early vocational intervention for people who have experienced traumatic injuries</b>	2018	Monash University	\$1,692,301
<b>T012 Trial of smart home technology following traumatic brain injury</b>	2018	Monash University	\$795,544

