

## Clinical Trials Advisory Committee Communiqué

### 21 May 2014

The Clinical Trials Advisory Committee (CTAC) was established to provide advice to the Department of Industry and Department of Health on the Australian Government work program to progress clinical trials reform. The Committee comprises senior representatives from Commonwealth, State and Territory Governments, industry, health consumer organisations and the clinical research community.

The Committee Chairs acknowledged the work of the former Clinical Trial Action Group (CTAG) Coordination Group and that many of the CTAG Report recommendations have been progressed through its members' work and collaboration.

The new Committee has been established to ensure the authority, expertise and a broad representation of the clinical trial sector can be harnessed to expedite progression of the work program and continue to advance the recommendations for clinical trial reform. The CTAC members also represent an important mechanism to disseminate outcomes of the clinical trials reform.

The Committee Chairs outlined new Budget measures for health and medical research, which impact on the clinical trials area and the opportunities arising.

The members of CTAC raised broader aspects of key reforms, from their stakeholder perspective, in particular:

- Clinical trials are essential for evidence-based health outcomes.
- Improving rates of patient recruitment is crucial.
- Improving the efficiency of clinical trials processes is critical.
- The States and Territories, in collaboration with the Commonwealth are working towards improving the environment for multi-jurisdictional clinical trials.

The CTAC members reviewed work being implemented by the Department of Health, Department of Industry and the National Health and Medical Research Council towards clinical trial reform, which includes:

- Facilitating the development of a nationally consistent approach to clinical trials.
- Determining prices for a list of clinical trial items to help promote transparency of standard costs for clinical trials.
- Developing a clinical trials interactive portal.
- Providing education and training to improve clinical trial conduct and timeliness.

Issues raised by members included:

- Concern regarding the pace of reform.
- the need to consider national accreditation for education and training that supports clinical trials proponents.

The Committee will meet four times a year with the next scheduled meeting to be held in August/September 2014.