



The experience of establishing a new
cardiovascular CTN

Why?



- Strong history in investigator-initiated CVD Trials
- World class CVD trials groups
- Evidence that recruitment in Australian and NZ has fallen below previous standards
- Era of industry-funded trials of new “blockbuster” therapy in decline leading to challenges in maintaining infrastructure
- Lack of coordination of efforts – individual pockets of excellence

In the beginning....



2016 Clinical Trials Council Meeting - August

- Do we need a clinical trials network?
- General Consensus:
 - “It’s a good idea”
 - “Probably need to engage wider audience”
 - “Lots of issues to discuss!”
 - “Don’t want to wait another year to get it going”

Process of establishing the network

First meeting – Feb 2017

- Convened by the NHMRC Centre of Research Excellence in CVD Outcomes Improvement
- ~100 participants
- All Australian states and NZ, wide disciplinary representation
- Interim Steering Committee endorsed to establish Terms of Reference

CSANZ August 2017



- Terms of Reference and potential membership benefits distributed to all members of the Clinical Trials Council and workshop participants
- Supported by Clinical Trials Council
- Agreed on the agenda for a second meeting to progress establishment of a network

Second meeting – Feb 2018

- Confirmed broad consensus and commitment to principles of ToR and membership benefits
- Discussed broad governance and operational principles
- Discussed a few trial ideas
- Agreement that interim Steering Committee would:
 - Establish governance structure and establish key committees
 - Establish policies and procedures
 - Develop and implement an initial strategic plan focusing on membership, funding, networking, scientific functions, capacity development and branding

Birth of ANZACT



Key appointment

- Executive officer appointed in April 2018



Major outcomes to date

Vision



- For Australia and New Zealand to lead and participate in the development and conduct of cardiovascular trials of the highest domestic and global relevance, and to achieve this utilising established clinical trial facilities and state & national cardiovascular registries.

Terms of reference

- Support the development of high-priority research questions
- Support the design and conduct of investigator-initiated trials
- Facilitate the establishment of collaborations with the full skill set to deliver high quality trials in Australia and New Zealand
- Facilitate engagement of clinical sites in trials across Australia and New Zealand
- Facilitate the involvement of Australia and New Zealand in key investigator-initiated trials led from elsewhere
- Facilitate the exchange of ideas and information on relevant trials being conducted globally

Proposed benefits of membership

Membership aims to be *inclusive and broad-ranging*:

- Individual membership (no fee, at least initially)
 - Access to information
 - Opportunities to propose and participate in ANZACT trials
 - Access to career development opportunities
 - Participation in scientific meetings
- Organisational membership (fee-based)
 - Lead the establishment and growth of ANZACT
 - Committee representation
 - Opportunity to promote and provide scientific and operational capabilities
 - Participation in scientific meetings

Membership



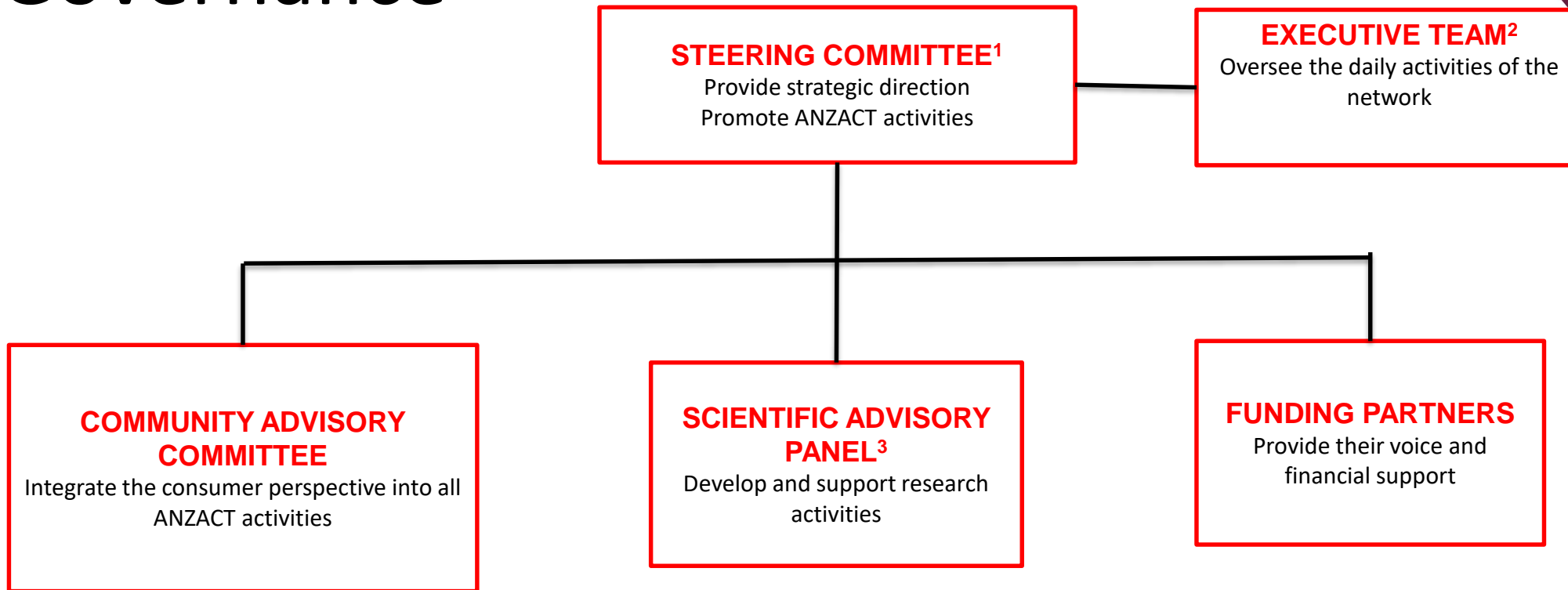
192 members

40% women

NSW = 40
WA = 39
Vic = 39
SA=27
NZ = 22
QLD = 16
TAS = 4
ACT=1
Overseas = 4

Physicians (cardiology, general, endocrinology), surgeons (cardiac, vascular), GPs, nurses, pharmacists, exercise physiologists, epidemiologists, consumers

Governance



1. 30 nominees representing, New Zealand, 6 Australian states and >10 disciplines
2. 6 people (includes Executive Officer) representing New Zealand and 4 Australian states
3. 30 nominees representing, New Zealand, 6 Australian states and >10 disciplines

Other outcomes

- NHMRC CRE has funded 0.5FTE EO position for 3 years
- Website and branding live in June 2018
- Business case for sustainability drafted
- Narrative of ANZACT Network under review with HLC

First Scientific Meeting – Nov 2018



- Research question priority setting
- Registry expansion opportunities
- Facilitated trial discussions
- International collaborative opportunities

Major short-term priorities

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- Build member-base and involvement
- Maximise funding and sustainability
- **Demonstrate value**
 - **Narrow vs. broad focus?**
 - **Broad convening vs. new initiatives?**
 - **Endorsement**

