Medical Device Clinical Trials in Australia - Call to Action

Why are efficient Clinical Trials important to Australia?

Provide patients with access to new promising treatments:

- Clinical trials provide Australian patients with early access to innovative Medical Devices, many years before they are commercially available;
- Clinical data obtained in Australia can be used for local and overseas regulatory approvals, thereby placing Australia at the forefront in the global advances of Medical Technology.

Support the Australian Medical Device Industry:

- An active Medical Device Clinical Trial environment in Australia provides local expertise to support Australian start-ups and research groups, accelerating growth and retaining capability and expertise in Australia.

Contribute to the knowledge economy[1]:

- In 2015, clinical trials contributed $1.1 billion to the economy and directly supported over 6,900 tertiary qualified jobs. Continued growth is estimated to grow employment to over to over 12,000 by 2025.

Educate health professionals about the latest and future methods of treatment:

- By participating in Clinical Trials, Australian health professionals increase their awareness of the latest developments, translate new evidence into clinical practice and advance the nations reputation on the world stage.

Provide time-critical response to Healthcare crises:

- As brought to light by the COVID-19 pandemic, efficient start-up and conduct of clinical trials in Australia is critical to ensure a robust and agile healthcare system in Australia and give more Australians earlier access to breakthrough new therapeutic products.

MTAA's vision is to ensure the benefits of modern, innovative and reliable Medical Technology are delivered effectively to provide improved health outcomes to all Australians.
For Australia to continue to attract and grow the level of Clinical Trial activity, it is important that strategies are implemented to enhance the Clinical Trial environment in Australia including:

- Decrease the time to set up clinical studies, through reliable, predictable, unified and rapid Site Research Governance;
- Increase the opportunity for more sites to be included in trials through a single streamlined ethical review for all studies, irrespective of whether they are conducted in a private or public setting and irrespective of the phase of the study;
- Increase consistency for overseas industry partners through a consistent approach by States and Territories to support the efficient and cost-effective conduct of studies;
- Provide a supportive, efficient and stable regulatory pathway to transition to commercialisation and reimbursement

To achieve this strategy, MTAA member companies propose the establishment of a centralised entity (e.g. an Australian Coordinating Body for Clinical Trials) that has the mandate and resources to drive the change needed to improve Australia's global competitiveness in attracting Clinical Trials.

[1] Clinical Trials in Australia: The economic profile and competitive advantage of the sector, MTPConnect and L.E.K., June 2017 https://www.mtpconnect.org.au/images/MTPConnect%202017%20Clinical%20Trials%20in%20Australia%20Report.pdf.pdf