

Funding patterns of intellectual disability health research in Australia

Easy Read report

About this information



This is a **report** by the National Centre of Excellence in Intellectual Disability Health.

We call it the **Centre** for short.

The report is set out like this:

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Acknowledgement of Country



The Centre recognises and respects the Traditional Custodians of Country across Australia. We acknowledge their deep and ongoing connection to land, waters and community and pay our respects to Elders past and present.

About this project



This work was done by:

Andrea, Lucy and Bec

We wanted to find out:



- How much money was spent on intellectual disability health research?
- What health problems were researched?
- How people with intellectual disability are involved in the **research process?**

The **research process** means the steps researchers take to do a study, like:



- Asking questions
- Collecting information
- Looking at results

How we did this work

Abstracts are short summaries of research projects.



Dimensions is a big online list of research projects. We used Dimensions and Google to find projects about health and intellectual disability.



We kept abstracts that we agreed were about health AND people with intellectual disability

We read all the abstracts and grouped them by:



- Health problem (e.g. mental health)
- Research type (e.g. making new treatments and medicines)



We then checked each group to see:

- How much money they got
- How many projects there were

Who funds health research?

The Australian Government has two big funders of health research:



- The National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC)
- The Medical Research Future Fund (MRFF)

Some non-government groups also give research money, but in smaller amounts.

What we found out about research funding



- 33 research projects were about intellectual disability health
- \$20 million was given out to research about intellectual disability health
- Half of the money was given to research about general health
- Very little money was given to research about mental health
- Most money was given to research about how health services work



This means there is not enough money for intellectual disability health research in Australia.

What we found out about co-design in research



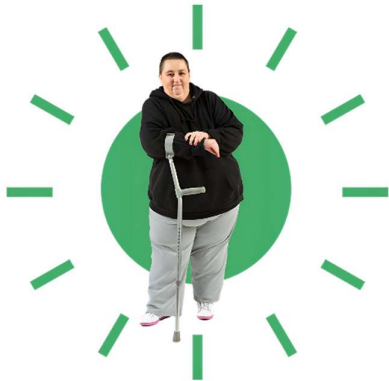
Co-design means people with and without lived experience working together.

Funding instructions are rules set by funders that tell researchers how to apply for money for their project.



We checked funding instructions for:

- Information about including people with lived experience in research projects



We found:

- Most instructions said projects should include people with lived experience
- Some said projects would be judged on including people with lived experience, and people with lived experience could help decide which projects get money
- A few instructions gave clear details about paying people with lived experience

This means the information about people with lived experience in the instructions was sometimes unclear.



We think this information should be made clear because it's important to have people with lived experience involved in research.

What we are doing next



We will share this information with lots of people. We will share it by:

- Putting it on the Centre's website
- Meeting with people to talk about what we found
- Writing reports



The Centre is also doing a project that will tell us what research is important to people with intellectual disability.

This work is important because everything is **co designed**.



For more information about this project, go to www.nceidh.org.au