

POSITION STATEMENT

August 2025

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GLOBAL SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION AND COLLABORATION

This statement affirms the Australian Academy of Health and Medical Sciences' commitment to protecting and advancing the international scientific endeavour through open, collaborative, and independent research.

It aims to:

- Affirm the Academy's commitment to international collaboration, researcher mobility, and academic freedom as essential components of health and medical research and broader scientific progress.
 - Emphasise the Academy's opposition to any actions that politicise, restrict or undermine international research partnerships
 - Reinforce Australia's role as a global leader in science by advocating for open, inclusive and collaborative research systems, and encouraging our Fellows, along with decision-makers and the broader research community, to support and protect these values.
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Affirmation of principle

The Australian Academy of Health and Medical Sciences affirms that science is a global endeavour, grounded in openness, integrity, and the free exchange of knowledge across borders.

These principles are not only the foundation of discovery, but the means by which research delivers real-world impact to improve lives, inform policy, and transform social conditions.

In the health and medical sciences, global collaboration led to breakthroughs such as the bionic ear and the HPV vaccine, and has been crucial in global responses to global health threats, each of which was made possible through unrestricted partnerships involving the world's brightest scientists.

The most ambitious and transformative discoveries of the last century were not made in isolation, but through partnerships that enabled those scientists, regardless of their geography, to contribute their expertise.

The Academy stands firm in its support of international cooperation in research, and reaffirms its commitment to a system where science is free from ideologically motivated constraint and driven by a shared mission to advance health, equity, and human wellbeing.

Position and commitment

The advancement of knowledge depends on the enduring principles of collaboration, openness, and mutual respect; values that must remain central to international research efforts, regardless of shifting political or institutional contexts, geopolitical tensions or shifting policy landscapes.

The Academy maintains that the politicisation of research, restrictions on the global mobility of scientists, or limitations on collaborative inquiry - regardless of origin, pose a threat to scientific progress and its translation into societal benefit. Such conditions undermine the foundations upon which global research partnerships are built, and weaken the collective ability of nations to advance the health, prosperity and resilience of populations worldwide.

To uphold the values of scientific freedom and cooperation, the Academy commits to the following:

- Advocating for research infrastructure and funding, both in Australia and globally, that are open, inclusive, and independent from political interference.
- Supporting Australia's continued leadership in global science through engagement in international partnerships, multilateral research programs, and global scientific institutions.
- Working with government, other national Academies, and stakeholders across the sector to safeguard the mobility of researchers and the free exchange of ideas.

Australia's strength lies in its ability to both contribute to and benefit from the global research endeavour. Australia's world class research base is best served by enabling international cooperation, collaboration and mobility - across national boundaries.

The Academy urges all governments, institutions and researchers to protect and champion these shared values, ensuring that science remains a global force for the public good.

Authorisation

This statement was endorsed by the Council of the Australian Academy of Health and Medical Sciences in August 2025.