

Media Release



Health
Sydney
Local Health District



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South Eastern Sydney
Local Health District

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Funding to boost recruitment to clinical trials Australia-wide

The announcement today of \$700,000 in funding for the ClinTrial Refer Australia app project will boost the number of patients who can access clinical trials Australia-wide.

*MTP Connect – the Medical Technologies and Pharmaceuticals Industry Growth Centre – has announced \$350,000 funding for the project over two years, with matched provisional funding of \$350,000 coming from the clinical trial sector.

Led by South Eastern Sydney Local Health District and Sydney Local Health District, the ClinTrial Refer apps have been developed since 2013 allowing doctors to instantly connect patients with trials currently recruiting. Funding will support recruitment across all trials nationally.

Roslyn Ristuccia, Manager, Clinical Research Unit, St George Hospital, said clinical trials are research studies that aim to find new ways to prevent, screen for, diagnose and treat a disease.

“ClinTrial Refer is a mobile smartphone app and web-based platform connecting doctors and patients to recruiting clinical trials across research networks,” Ms Ristuccia said.

“With the development of the first ClinTrial Refer app there was a nine-fold increase in cross-referrals between hospitals to haematology clinical trials across NSW and the ACT, and a 60 per cent increase in patient enrolments to these trials.

“Funding will allow ClinTrial Refer Australia to develop a new IT platform to integrate derivative apps; create one combined database; enable electronic referrals; link to Australian New Zealand Clinical Trials Registry (ANZCTR); and build a national solution to clinical trials recruitment.”

Associate Professor Judith Trotman, Director, Haematology Clinical Research Unit, Concord Hospital, said it was exciting news to receive funding that will help patients to access new breakthrough therapies.

“Clinical trials are vitally important to patient care. Researchers are constantly striving to find answers to improve the survival and quality of life of our patients. ClinTrial Refer means better and faster access to their work,” Associate Professor Trotman said.

“This mobile app has been a major breakthrough, increasing patient access to clinical trials across numerous trial networks. With instant knowledge of all trials on the doctor’s smart phone, ClinTrial Refer Australia will deliver this benefit on a national scale.”

The project includes members from the University of Sydney, Linear Clinical Research, the pharmaceutical industry, government and leading clinical research bodies as supporters.

*MTP Connect was formed as an industry-led independent not-for-profit organisation in November 2015 as part of the Federal Government’s Industry Growth Centre Initiative.

South Eastern Sydney Local Health District, media contact: Maxine Brennan 0413 028 776
Sydney Local Health District, media contact: Kate Benson 0427 029 291

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