

MSD's investment in clinical trials

For more than a century, MSD has been inventing medicines and vaccines for many of the world's most challenging diseases. Today, MSD continues to be at the forefront of research to deliver innovative health solutions and advance the prevention and treatment of diseases that threaten people and animals around the world. Clinical trials are an essential part of this process.

What is a clinical trial?

A **clinical trial** is a **research study** involving patient and non-patient human volunteers, that tests new ways to prevent, detect, diagnose or treat diseases. Clinical trials are an integral part of the **research and development of new medicines**, or new uses for existing medicines, as they help determine the **effectiveness and safety** of these treatments.¹

Why are clinical trials important?



For patients

Clinical trials allow patients to **access new medicines** that may not be otherwise available **at no cost** during the trial.¹



For the economy

Clinical trials contribute to the Australian economy by **creating jobs, driving investment and improving health outcomes**.¹

Clinical trials are estimated to be worth approximately

\$1 billion

to the Australian economy each year.²

It was estimated in 2021 that clinical trials in Australia supported

at least 8,000

highly skilled jobs across commercial and clinical entities.⁴

MSD's clinical trials footprint in Australia



In August 2021, MSD had

144

active clinical trials in Australia.³



MSD currently employs

136 staff

for clinical trials across Australia and New Zealand as of August 2021.³



MSD conducts clinical trials in multiple therapeutic areas including **oncology, infectious diseases, vaccines, COVID-19 and cardio-metabolic disorders**.⁵



In August 2021, the contract value of MSD's active clinical trials in Australia was valued at approximately

\$838 million³



MSD's global investment in R&D for 2020 was

\$13.6 billion USD³

How can we continue to attract investment in Australian Clinical Trials?

Australia has world class researchers and hospitals which makes Australia an attractive destination for investment in clinical trials. However, more can be done to increase investment in clinical trials and remain competitive within the global environment.

A national approach to clinical trials

MSD Australia welcomes the clinical trial 'one-stop-shop' consultation, announced in July 2021 by the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care.⁶

Clinical trials in Australia are a significant enabler for faster access for patients and make an important contribution to the economy. However, Australia needs a consistent, national approach to remain competitive. This 'one-stop-shop' consultation provides an opportunity to achieve a national, interconnected, rapid and streamlined pathway for attracting clinical trials to Australia.

Australia has been an attractive environment for clinical trials and research and development, but inconsistent processes in this area between our states and territories mean that companies often face hurdles to set up clinical trials across these different locations, which ultimately delays the establishment of clinical trials for patients who may need access as quickly as possible.

Clinical trials remain a crucial path to bring innovative drugs, vaccines and therapies to patients in Australia in a safe and regulated manner. They are also important for our economy and increase our R&D capabilities. A clinical trial 'one-stop-shop' could make Australia a more attractive option for international investment.



1. MTP Connect. Clinical Trials in Australia: The economic profile and competitive advantage of the sector. Available from: <https://www.mtpconnect.org.au/images/MTPConnect%202017%20Clinical%20Trials%20in%20Australia%20Report.pdf>. Accessed on: 26 September 2019. 2. Australian Government. The Department of Health. Clinical Trials. Available from: <https://www1.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/Clinical-Trials>. Accessed on: 13 August 2021. 3. MSD data on file. 4. MTP Connect. Australia's Clinical Trials Sector. Available from: [https://www.mtpconnect.org.au/images/V7_MTPCTI_Clinical%20Trials%20report%20\(web%20version\).pdf](https://www.mtpconnect.org.au/images/V7_MTPCTI_Clinical%20Trials%20report%20(web%20version).pdf). Accessed on: 13 August 2021. 5. MSD. Accessed on: <https://www.msd.com/research/>. Accessed on: 13 August 2021. 6. Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care. Available from: <https://www.safetyandquality.gov.au/our-work/national-platform-health-and-medical-research>. Accessed on: 31.08.21.

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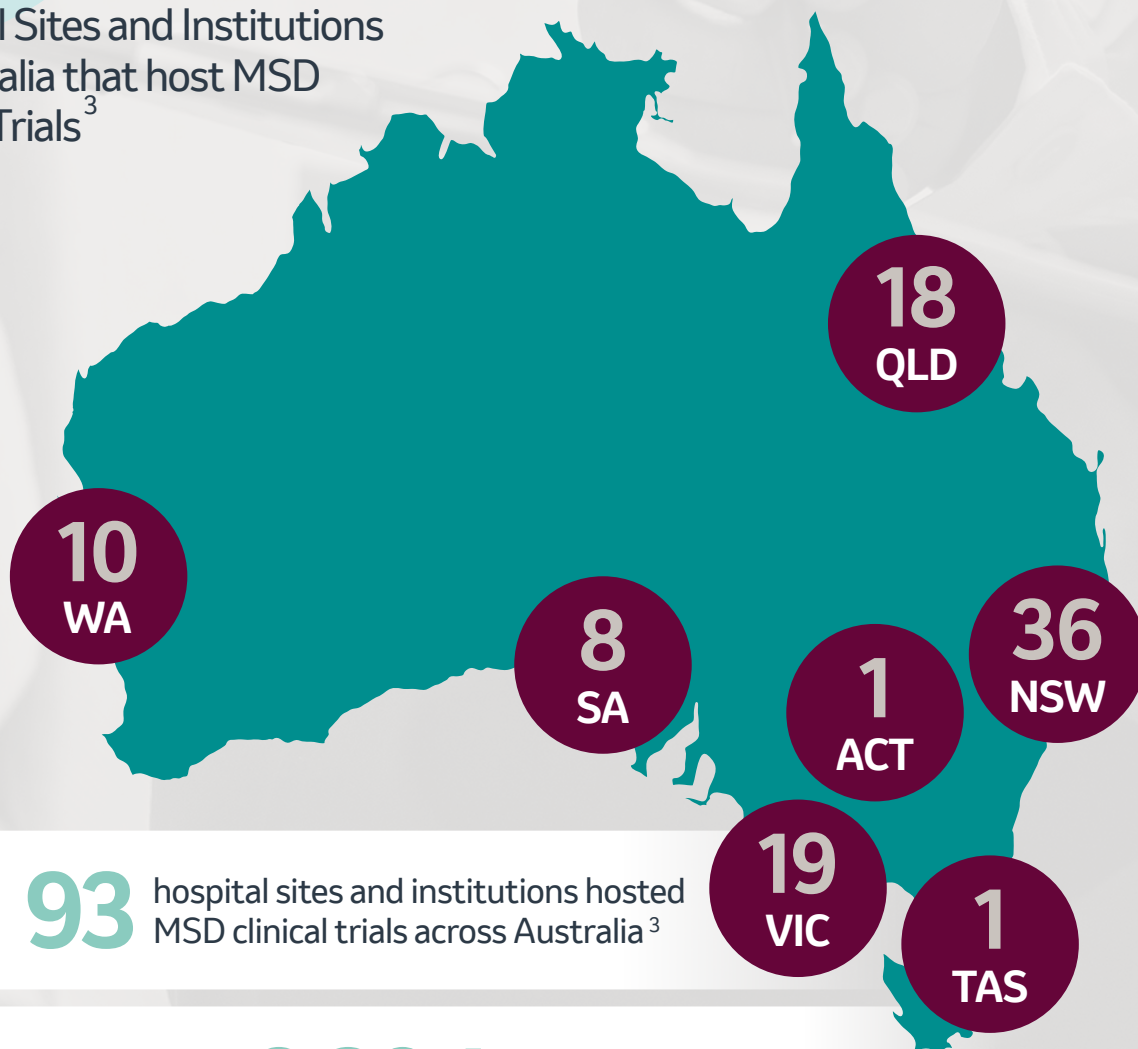
A flexible and supportive clinical trials environment will ensure Australian patients are best placed to get early access to these therapies. The Australian clinical trials system needs to evolve to drive harmonisation of ethics, governance and regulatory processes so that eligible Australian patients can access innovative treatment options.”

Zoe Armstrong

Clinical Research Director, ANZ Global Clinical Trial Operations, MSD

MSD’s investment in clinical trials

Hospital Sites and Institutions in Australia that host MSD Clinical Trials³



93 hospital sites and institutions hosted MSD clinical trials across Australia³



There were approximately **2,604** patients enrolled in MSD clinical trials in August 2021³