



# National Research Infrastructure Advisory Group Meeting 4 - 8 November 2023

## Update from the Chair

The fourth National Research Infrastructure Advisory Group (NRIAG) meeting was held in Melbourne on Wednesday, 8 November 2023.

The agenda items for the meeting covered continuing implementation of the 2021 National Research Infrastructure (NRI) Roadmap, discussion on identified key and emerging issues, and briefing on Government initiatives relevant to NRI.

Discussion on implementing the 2021 NRI Roadmap allowed the NRIAG to provide advice on activities to implement the Step Changes, as well as considering steps towards developing an NRI Workforce Strategy. To support the NRI Workforce Strategy discussion and possible initiatives, the NRIAG had a valuable presentation on the UK Technicians Commitment. The NRIAG noted that NRI workforce issues were also being discussed at the November 2023 National Collaborative Research Infrastructure Strategy (NCRIS) Forum, that a number of NRIAG members were attending.

The NRIAG also received insightful presentations on:

- biological models, covering both short-term supply of certain animal models, and developing an understanding of the longer-term developments relevant to NRI; and
- the potential for research collections and linked data (health, administrative, genetic) to be used in ethically approved projects to support research in the social sciences, as well as health.

These presentations ensured lively discussion and helped generate advice on placing these issues in the NRIAG's forward work plan.

Representatives of the Departments of Education, and of Industry, Science and Resources updated the NRIAG on the current state-of-play with Government initiatives relevant to NRI. These included the Australian Universities Accord and the National Reconstruction Fund. Dr Cathy Foley, Chief Scientist of Australia, described the process of revitalisation of Australia's National Science and Research Priorities. The NRIAG noted the complementary role these initiatives and NRI play in supporting Australia's research and innovation system.

The fifth NRIAG meeting is scheduled for March 2024 in Perth. At this meeting, the NRIAG will consider the final draft of the NDRI Strategy and provide advice on processes to determine investments to implement the NDRI Step Change. The NRIAG will also continue work to develop the NRI Workforce Strategy and discuss strategies and potential investment approaches for the remaining four Step Changes. The NRIAG will also consider early advice on processes and timeframes to develop the next NRI Roadmap, which is expected to be delivered to Government in 2026.

The NRIAG also agreed to an updated forward workplan, a summary view of which can be viewed here: [National Research Infrastructure Advisory Group Forward Workplan](#).

