

9 December 2021

## \$20M DIGITAL HEALTH ACCELERATOR SELECTS FIRST COHORT

**MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA** – Australia's only not-for-profit digital health commercialisation organisation, ANDHealth today announced the five companies selected to take part in its Medical Research Future Fund (MRFF) funded ANDHealth+ program.

Announced at the ANDHealth Summer Summit 2021-22 by Dr Katie Allen, MP, the 2022 ANDHealth+ cohort includes:

- [Cardihab](#) – Digital Cardiac Rehabilitation providing care to patients at a time and place that works for them.
- [Gheorg](#) – The friendly robot helping children with anxiety; an AI enhanced first responder for children with mental health issues and expert guide for parents.
- [Perx Health](#) – A motivation and engagement platform changing the way people and companies create habits for managing medical conditions.
- [Sound Scouts](#) – Free online hearing test app for kids. Fun, clinically proven technology enabling hearing to be checked efficiently and reliably.
- [VaxApp](#) – An immunisation management platform that enables healthcare providers to deliver and monitor vaccination and rapid antigen testing programs.

The inaugural cohort announcement follows ANDHealth+ receiving \$19.75M in funding from the Australian Government's MRFF Early-Stage Translation and Commercialisation Initiative in August. The funding will be used by ANDHealth to run four cohorts of ANDHealth+ over four years.

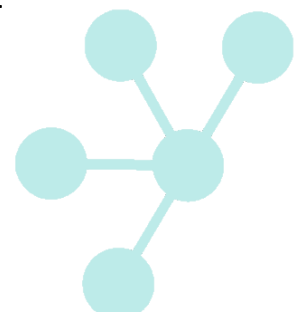
The five companies selected in the first ANDHealth+ cohort will share in a pool of \$3.75M of project funding via the ANDHealth Digital Health Accelerator Fund and over \$500k of pre-screened expert professional services.

Based on the past performance of companies that participated in the smaller ANDHealth+ Pilot Program, ANDHealth+ cohorts in the next four years can expect to create 1000 jobs, impact over 500,000 patients, undertake 175 clinical trials, raise over \$130M in new financing and generate \$80M in new revenues over the next eight years.

ANDHealth CEO, Bronwyn Le Grice, said "ANDHealth+ is the only digital health commercialisation acceleration program in Australia with proven impact and outcomes. These five companies have successfully navigated an exhaustive process designed to identify the teams and technology with the greatest chance of commercial growth and positive impact for patients in Australia and around the world."

"Through ANDHealth+, these companies will have access to both Australian and international digital health experts with the specialised skills and real-world experience necessary to support the commercialisation of digital health interventions that underpin better health outcomes and allow Australia to build a globally competitive digital health industry."

Over 120 companies expressed interest in the program, with 58 completing the comprehensive application process. The five companies selected were assessed



through a rigorous process by a multi-sectoral, multi-disciplinary panel of industry leaders and approved by ANDHealth's recently announced International Investment Advisory Committee.

- ENDS -

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### **Notes to Editors**

#### **About the 2022 ANDHealth+ Cohort**

##### **Cardihab**

Cardihab is a digital health company that helps people recover from cardiac events and manage chronic cardiovascular disease. Cardihab's clinically validated (RCT) solution has demonstrated significant improvements in cardiac rehabilitation participation and outcomes vs traditional models of care, while also demonstrating significant time and cost savings. Learn more: [cardihab.com](http://cardihab.com)

##### *Quote from Helen Souris, CEO, Cardihab:*

"I have been consistently impressed by the expertise and passion of the ANDHealth team, the calibre and insight of speakers and programs they host, and the results of companies that were in past cohorts of the ANDHealth+ Program. They are knowledgeable and enthusiastic about the promise of what the program could deliver. All these elements combined inspire confidence in the program and belief in the ability to succeed."

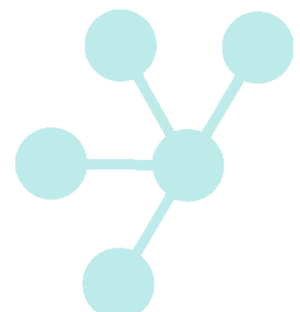
##### **Gheorg**

Gheorg is the little virtual robot helping children aged 7-12 years to manage anxiety and build resilience. Gheorg is an AI enhanced first responder for children with mental health issues and expert guide for parents. Around 1 million children in Australia have diagnosable anxiety. Two-thirds of them will never get the help they need. Gheorg is on a mission to change that. Gheorg is aiming to reduce childhood anxiety, helping parents and children at home. Learn more: [www.gheorg.com](http://www.gheorg.com)

##### *Quote from Louise Metcalf, Founder and CEO, Gheorg:*

"ANDHealth is an incredible ace for us, it gives us a way to fulfil our mission to build the kind of mental health tech that health professionals will feel comfortable referring to, and that will be a world first. The whole process so far has been incredibly beneficial for us. The application alone really helped clarify where we were at and our needs as a science-based organisation."

##### **Perx Health**



Perx Health is a chronic condition management program helping people complete daily health tasks across any condition through a single easy-to-use program, regardless of their level of health literacy, socioeconomic status and/or complex co-morbidity. Perx has been proven to improve clinical health outcomes in peer-reviewed research and generate six times the return on investment of healthcare savings for large enterprises. Perx Health will be launching several new virtual care programs across the US and APAC, developing more ground-breaking clinical research and increasing our patient impact. Learn more: [perxhealth.com](https://perxhealth.com)

*Quote from Hugo Rourke, CEO and Co-founder, Perx Health:*

“We’re looking forward to partnering with ANDHealth to deepen our evidence and scale our impact on patient lives. We will benefit from ANDHealth’s blend of hands-on support and implementation with expertise from the ANDHealth team, as well as the broader array of partners.”

### Sound Scouts

The Sound Scouts online hearing screening service is designed to make hearing checks readily available for children and families. The app incorporates the science of a hearing test in a mobile game and works to detect hearing issues that can impact a child’s ability to learn and socialise. The app is supported by an online Platform that allows organisations to manage results while providing clinicians the ability to review the detailed interactions of a test session, enabling a tele-health style hearing assessment tool. Sound Scouts is expanding its offering to include a clinical diagnostic tool for Auditory Processing Disorder. Learn more: [www.soundscouts.com/au](https://www.soundscouts.com/au)

*Quote from Carolyn Mee, Founder and CEO, Sound Scouts:*

“We’re looking forward to accessing the wealth of knowledge and insights that the ANDHealth+ Program offers. Tapping into the brains trust that we know will fast track our international commercialisation ambitions. This really is a unique opportunity. It is the Program that I wanted to be selected for, from the first time I read about it.”

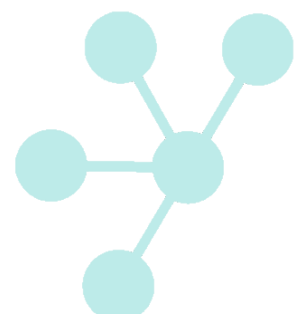
### VaxApp

VaxApp is an Immunisation Management Platform that:

- ensures patients have the right vaccines, at the right time throughout their life
- improves vaccination coverage rates to prevent infectious diseases
- mitigates the risk of health care teams contracting covid-19 from patients
- enables providers to vaccinate more people, in less time, with less cost
- makes it simple for patients to access immunisation services
- educates the patient prior to receiving a vaccination for informed consent
- is developing advanced side effect surveillance utilising machine learning to identify trends and patterns in real time to improve adverse event reporting and instil public confidence in vaccinations for prevention of infectious diseases.

Learn more: [vaxapp.com.au](https://vaxapp.com.au)

*Quote from Luke Renehan, CEO, VaxApp:*



“It is an incredible opportunity for VaxApp to access key partners, networks, advisors, investors and potential clients, both in Australia and internationally. It’s been a great experience so far with the application process, it just shows the reach of ANDHealth and the value the partners put on the program.”

### **About ANDHealth**

ANDHealth was formed to address an identified gap in the Australian Innovation landscape: to provide programs and support to digital health companies that was specific to the challenges of commercialising in this new and emerging sector. By forming a multi-sectoral, multidisciplinary membership and working collaboratively across Australia, we bring proven expertise to our innovators and investors.

ANDHealth is Australia’s only organisation specialised in the acceleration of commercialisation in digital health technologies and has a proven track record of accelerating the global scale-up of high growth potential companies creating jobs, advanced manufacturing, clinical trials, and patient impact. Our unique, non-profit, industry-led model helps Australian digital health companies to navigate the pathway to institutional investment and international market entry.

ANDHealth is the first organisation led by a female CEO to be the recipient of funding under the MRFF Medical Research Commercialisation Initiative.

### **About ANDHealth+**

ANDHealth is funded by the MRFF Early Stage Translation and Commercialisation Initiative to expand the delivery of Australia’s most successful digital health commercialisation program, ANDHealth+, with ~90% of MRFF funding directly invested into up to 25 selected SMEs via project funding and highly specialised support. SMEs will be further supported by industry development, leading resource and content creation and an annual event series, to ensure that the industry beyond selected SMEs continues to grow and that Australia’s capacity and capability to undertake research in this increasingly important area is enhanced.

For the purposes of the program, digital health technologies are defined as technologies that use computing platforms, connectivity, software and sensors, either alone or in combination with physical products, to treat, diagnose, cure, mitigate and/or prevent disease or other conditions. It does not include digital health records, secure messaging, ePrescribing and other national digital health infrastructure.

### **About The Medical Research Future Fund (MRFF)**

The MRFF is the Australian Government’s \$20 billion long-term investment supporting Australian health and medical research. The MRFF aims to transform health and medical research and innovation to improve lives, build the economy and contribute to health system sustainability.

