

Schizophrenia is a uniquely human disease, and it can only be researched with the help of people with schizophrenia. The Schizophrenia Research Institute invites people with schizophrenia or schizoaffective disorder to participate in the Australian Schizophrenia Research Bank. The Bank is the largest collection of schizophrenia research data in Australia, and is also Australia's largest brain research project.

The aim of the Bank is to initially recruit 2,000 people with schizophrenia and 2,000 healthy controls, and to obtain brain scans, blood samples and clinical information, which will be compiled and cross-referenced into a unique national database of enormous value to Australian and international researchers. We hope that this in-depth data will allow for important insights into schizophrenia.

Of course, this goal is only achievable with the generous contributions made by our research volunteers. So to all our Australian Schizophrenia Research Bank volunteers, thank you for your invaluable contribution to our research.

Your participation will contribute to research aiming to develop better diagnosis, treatments and preventative strategies for people with schizophrenia. The knowledge gained from this research may benefit people with mental illness in the future.

Every person who participates not only helps people who are suffering from schizophrenia, but also benefits the community. The information and help provided by those involved may lead to the development of new treatments or even to a way of preventing schizophrenia happening.

Sooner or later, a research team is going to make a major breakthrough, and you could be a part of it - so, please consider joining the Australian Schizophrenia Research Bank. You can help us try to stop schizophrenia by taking four easy steps:

1. Attend an interview with a Clinical Assessment Officer at St Vincent's Hospital.
2. Have a 40ml blood sample taken for genetic analysis.
3. Have a 30 minute structural MRI at Prince of Wales Hospital.
4. Participants will be invited to consider the option of being contacted to participate in future schizophrenia research. This is not a mandatory requirement of joining the Australian Schizophrenia Research Bank.

For more information or to volunteer to participate in the Bank, please call us toll-free on: 1800 639 295, or get in touch via email on asrb@schizophreniaresearch.org.au.