



# Using telehealth to provide better access to services

Imagine a world where healthcare was affordable, accessible, and equitable. The Centre for Online Health is a world leading research centre based in Queensland, responsible for promoting the use of telehealth – and helping to improve access to much needed health services.

## Overview

The delivery of care by telehealth usually involves support by telephone, videoconference or by remote patient monitoring. It was once thought that telehealth was designed only for people living in very remote areas, but in fact telehealth can help everybody. During the pandemic, telehealth became a household name as general practitioners moved many of their services to include virtual care. Led by Professor Anthony Smith, the Centre for Online Health (COH) is best known for its practical research and service programs which involve:

1. Engagement with community, patients, and service providers;
2. Identification of health priorities and preferences; and
3. Creation of innovative ways to make services more easily accessible and sustainable.

Our work to date has demonstrated some remarkable benefits including earlier detection of chronic disease, more convenient access to healthcare, new models of care which are more tailored to patient needs, and direct savings to families due to reduced travel away from home.

COH website: [coh.centre.uq.edu.au](http://coh.centre.uq.edu.au)

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## The Need

The COH urgently needs funding to support specific projects which prioritise population groups who experience challenges accessing healthcare and who might have greater healthcare needs. Examples include:

- Supporting First Nations children and families who are experiencing health inequity (**First Nations Health**);
- Supporting people living with mental health conditions (**Mental Health**);
- Supporting older adults especially in residential aged care and home settings (**Healthy Ageing**); and
- Supporting our health workers living in regional and remote areas (**Health Workforce**).

## Your Impact

The COH has an important and influential role in designing the healthcare system of the future. Telehealth is one of the key drivers for change, which is going to make healthcare more affordable, more accessible and more patient focused. We welcome the opportunity to work with a donor who shares the same passion and wants to make a world of difference in the way healthcare is provided in Australia.

## Thank you

Philanthropic supporters have the potential to make a significant difference in furthering our research. We hope this opportunity is of interest and look forward to discussing potential next steps.



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