



MedTeCCH

WHY IS MTP A
FOCUS FOR THE
CENTRAL COAST
HUNTER

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MTP INDUSTRY BASE

From Gosford in the south to Taree north and Murrurundi in the west there is a concentration of over 50 companies operating in the MTP sector (Figure 1). The density of these firms creates a defined precinct on Australia's east coast, north of Greater Sydney that has access to world class research facilities, two Local Health Districts and the benefits of simple logistics and supply chains.

These companies work to improve human and animal health, are highly collaborative – 88% collaborate with universities, and have established local, national and global markets. They directly support 8,187 jobs (headcount not FTE) while many more thousands of people are employed in the public and private health services, the [University of Newcastle](#) and medical research institutes.

431 active clinical trials are currently underway in the Central Coast Hunter (Source: ClinicalTrials.gov). 80% are industry-sponsored, including by large multinationals like Johnson & Johnson, GSK and Novartis. There is a 10% paediatrics 90% adult split with a diverse therapeutic-area research focus. To address the recent growth in clinical trials, private providers have been created and join hospital-based trials units to ensure compliance and to drive growth and access to the latest clinical trials for people in regional and rural locations. [See page 26](#)

ADVANCED MANUFACTURING AND MTP CAPABILITY

The Hunter has a strong and prolific history as a manufacturing hub. Shipbuilding was a mainstay of the region's thriving manufacturing base until 1987; steelmaking underpinned its economic strength until 1999 and

now, in 2021, its billion-dollar mining and defence sectors continue to call on the region's high-performing SME base (e.g., [Newcastle Machine Shop](#), [Ampcontrol](#)) to produce vital equipment and technology.

The region's history in traditional industries and regulated fields means it has an increased concentration of people with engineering skills at both technical and trade levels. These skills, coupled with a track record of adaptability due to economic shocks like we saw when BHP's steelmaking ceased in 1999 and the steady transition to Industry 4.0 processes, has increased the ease with which CCH industry is able to pivot and apply transferrable skills and knowledge into new, high-tech industry sectors like medical technology. The region's engineering pedigree delivers an experienced approach that results in smart, technically sophisticated solutions.

The regulatory/governance/quality management systems skills essential in the CCH's traditional industries is another set of transferrable skills and a key asset.

HEALTH

Central Coast Hunter is represented by two health districts, Hunter New England Health and Central Coast Health.

[Hunter New England Health](#) (HNELHD) provides services to:

- 920,370* people, including 52,990* Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people across 25 local government areas
Source: [Click here to view](#) →
- 169,846 residents who were born overseas
- Employs 16,033 staff + 1,600 volunteers

It incorporates the John Hunter Health complex which comprises John Hunter (JHH) Teaching Hospital - the busiest trauma centre in NSW and the second busiest nationally, John Hunter Children's Hospital (JHCH), Newcastle Private Hospital, the Hunter Area Pathology Service which provides tertiary level pathology testing, The Royal Newcastle Centre, Rankin Park Hospital (Rehab), and the Hunter Medical Research Institute (HMRI).

The John Hunter Health Innovation Precinct project is currently being developed on the site. It will support the expansion of clinical and non-clinical services and will increase the capacity at the John Hunter and John Hunter Children's Hospitals. It will also facilitate collaborative innovation between health, education and research partners.

[Central Coast Health](#) (CCHLD) comprises two acute hospitals – Gosford and Wyong. Gosford Hospital is the principal referral hospital and regional trauma centre for the Central Coast, Wyong Hospital is a major metropolitan hospital while Woy Woy Hospital and Long Jetty Healthcare Centre provide sub-acute care. Additionally, there are eight community health centres and other community-based services.

The Ideas Hub is a research and development facility situated within Gosford Hospital. It brings together Health, education, research and industry to collaborate on solutions for Health's needs.

JOHN HUNTER HEALTH INNOVATION PRECINCT



The NSW Government's \$780 million John Hunter Health and Innovation Precinct project will transform healthcare services for Newcastle, the greater Hunter region and northern NSW communities. Infrastructure will be delivered to support the expansion of clinical and non-clinical services and will increase the capacity at the John Hunter and John Hunter Children's Hospitals.

The John Hunter Health and Innovation Precinct project will deliver an innovative and integrated precinct with industry-leading facilities. The project will work in collaboration with health, education and research partners to meet the current and future needs of the Greater Newcastle, Hunter New England and Northern NSW regions.

CENTRAL COAST CLINICAL SCHOOL AND RESEARCH INSTITUTE (CCCSRI)



The \$72.5 million Central Coast Clinical School and Research Institute (CCCSRI) is a partnership between CCLHD and the University of Newcastle. Currently under construction, the state-of-the-art Medical School and Research Institute within a new Health & Wellbeing Precinct at Gosford Hospital aims to establish Central Coast Local Health District as a global leader in integrated medical research. CCLHD is building its research leadership and expanding its research capacity to see research become core business in all aspects of healthcare.

These centres of excellence will deliver world-class medical training and research on the Central Coast. They will have the capacity to transform the regional economy and develop new career pathways for health professionals in the region.

[Regional Development Australia \(RDA\) Hunter](#) is part of a national network of Committees made up of local leaders who work with all levels of government, business and community groups to support the economic development of their regions.

RDA Hunter has an active and facilitative role in the Hunter. Its clear focus is on growing a strong and confident regional economy that harnesses its competitive advantages, seizes economic opportunities and attracts investment.

In 2015 RDA Hunter undertook a strategic study to inform its activities to support economic development in the region. Based on an OECD framework and launched by Prime Minister Turnbull in 2016, Smart Specialisation for the Hunter Region identified seven sectors of competitive advantage. Medical Technologies and Pharmaceuticals was included because of the region's strong, health and manufacturing capability and the sector's propensity to deliver innovation-driven jobs growth.

[Australian Industry \(Ai\) Group](#) is a peak national employer organisation and has worked with members for almost 150 years. Our members include some of Australia's largest Medical and Pharmaceutical companies.

The Newcastle office of Ai Group supports many businesses with a history of operating within highly regulated markets and supply chains. The establishment of a cluster will serve these organisations well as they embark on a path of growth and diversification through collaboration with some of Australia's preeminent medical research institutions.

This connection between research and industry will serve the nation through establishment of new capability and increased capacity, contributing to both sovereign security and economic prosperity for the region.

STATE AND FEDERAL GOVERNMENT STRATEGIC FOCUS ON MTP

In 2021, Governments are focused on building the economy and

creating jobs. They are developing policies which play to Australia's strengths, and funding activities to improve collaboration and commercialisation. They are shaping modern, dynamic and highly skilled industry sectors that build the country's sovereignty and self-sufficiency.

Australian and State governments have identified priority sectors which reflect Australia's established competitive advantages and emerging areas of strength. Medical Technologies and Pharmaceuticals is one of the sectors identified and supported by plans like the [NSW Government's Accelerating R&D in NSW](#) and the [Federal Government's Modern Manufacturing Initiative](#).

The [NSW Government's 2018 NSW Medical Technology Industry Development Strategy](#) headlined five key areas of focus:

1. Support industry in commercialising R&D and to bring new products and services to market
2. Grow exports and attract investment into the NSW medical technology sector
3. Support skills development to train and grow a specialised medical technology workforce
4. Improve connectivity and collaboration within the NSW medical technology industry
5. Improve the business environment and create a highly productive commercialisation environment

The Strategy is positive acknowledgement of the value of MTP to the NSW and Australian economies and the important role the sector will play in the State's future. However, the Strategy also clearly highlights a need to increase recognition of the contribution of regions in NSW's economic and industrial success. Central Coast Hunter, through [MedTeCCH](#), is addressing this gap by building mutually beneficial partnerships with the NSW Government and its agencies that aim to raise the public profile of the region and its capability.

TIMELY CO-ORDINATION OF MTP CLUSTER (MedTeCCH)

In 2020 world events like COVID-19, the economic pressures it catalysed and the impacts of a shift to new

renewable energy sources, have led to a more immediate focus on shoring up homegrown, local capability, seizing opportunities to diversify, transferring and applying existing skills in new areas and creating high-value jobs of the future.

[Regional Development Australia \(RDA\) Hunter](#) and the Hunter office of the [Australian Industry \(Ai\) Group](#), given their complementary remit to support regional economic development and industry growth aligned thinking and initiated actions in these areas.

They formed [MedTeCCH](#): a collaboration of Central Coast Hunter-based MedTech and Pharma companies, national industry associations, sector specialists, and education & research organisations, to strengthen the region's diverse MTP cluster and raise the profile of the region and its industrial capabilities.

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An excerpt from the Federal Government's Medical Products Roadmap ...



Quality medical products are at the centre of a healthy society. They can also be the centrepiece of a dynamic economy based on translating smart ideas into globally competitive manufactured products. Medical products make a significant contribution to Australia's economic prosperity. The sector is responsible for some of Australia's most innovative commercial successes.

Australian medical products making a global impact include the cochlear implant, green whistle and cervical cancer vaccine. Medical product manufacturing covers businesses and enterprises that develop regulated human and animal medical products. Medical products also include associated activities with a clear health focus, such as digital health equipment and applications. Manufacturing includes pre-production activities such as R&D, design and logistics, and post-production activities such as distribution, sales and services.

Research and innovation are key drivers of economic growth - an excerpt from the NSW Government's Turning Ideas into Jobs Accelerating Research and Development in NSW ACTION PLAN...



A strong, vibrant and high-quality research and innovation ecosystem is vital for driving future economic and social wellbeing in NSW. Research delivers new ideas, products, services and skills in areas including advanced manufacturing, digital technologies, aerospace and defence, energy transition and decarbonisation, and medical technologies.

The take-up of technological innovations in these and other areas is essential to NSW's future economic and productivity growth, the attraction of international investment and the creation of high-value, sustainable jobs.



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An Australian Government Initiative

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