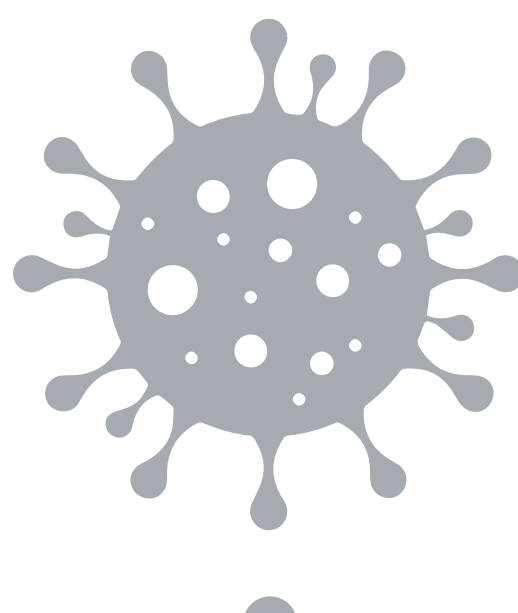


# Impact Statement:

## Evidence in action

March 2020 – October 2022



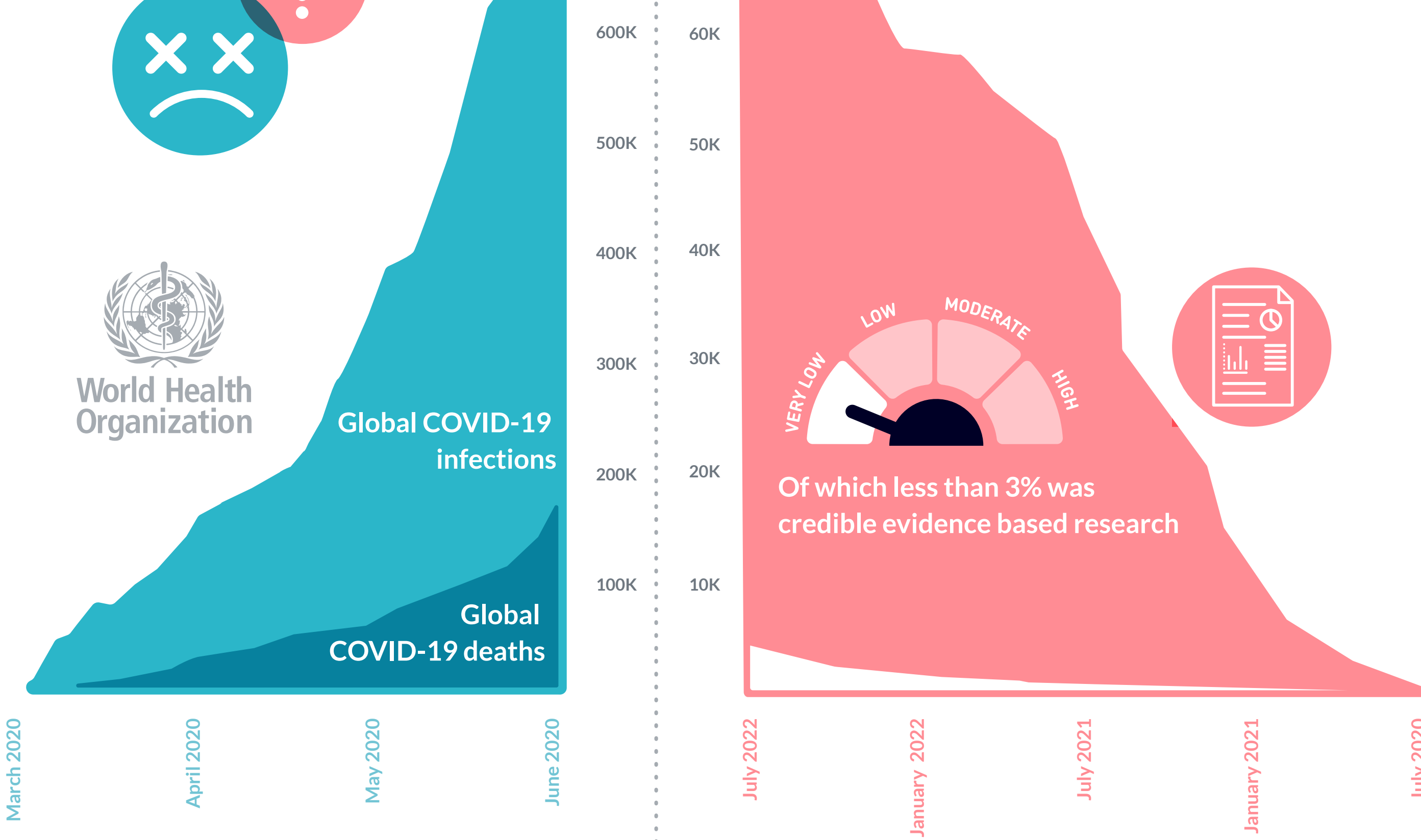
Across the world case numbers were rising, and there was widespread fear.

In March 2020, WHO declared COVID-19 a global pandemic.

**Rapid case number rise**

**Mountains of Information**

meanwhile an overwhelming volume of information was emerging every day, and there was great uncertainty and concern.



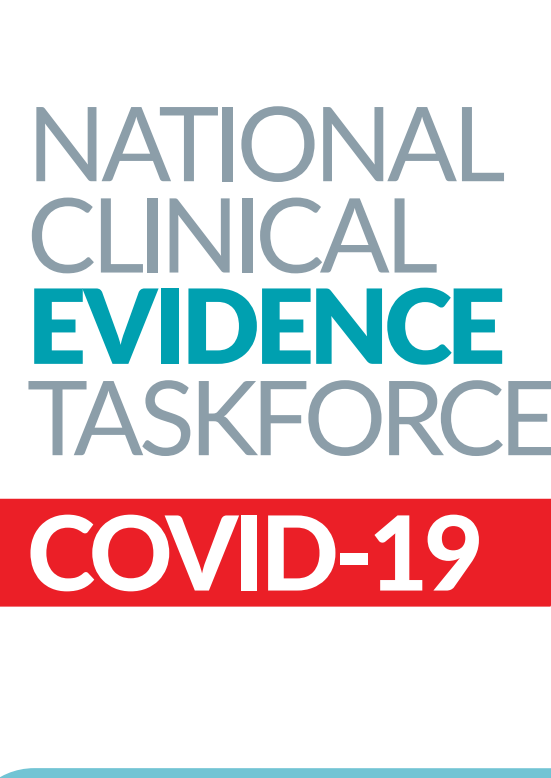
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Treatment was largely based on previous responses to similar viral infections with very limited effect.

As a new disease, Australian clinicians did not know how to care for patients with COVID-19...

In the same month, the **National COVID-19 Clinical Evidence Taskforce** was formed.

The Taskforce brings together the 35 peak health professional bodies across Australia whose members are providing clinical care to people with COVID-19.



The work of the Taskforce has been made possible by the unpaid contributions of 200+ clinicians, often at weekly panel meetings. We estimate that we've benefited from more than 27 000 hours of their time, on top of their clinical and academic workloads during a time of great need. Producing the guidelines simply would not have been possible without their immense depth and breadth of real-world clinical expertise and extraordinary generosity.

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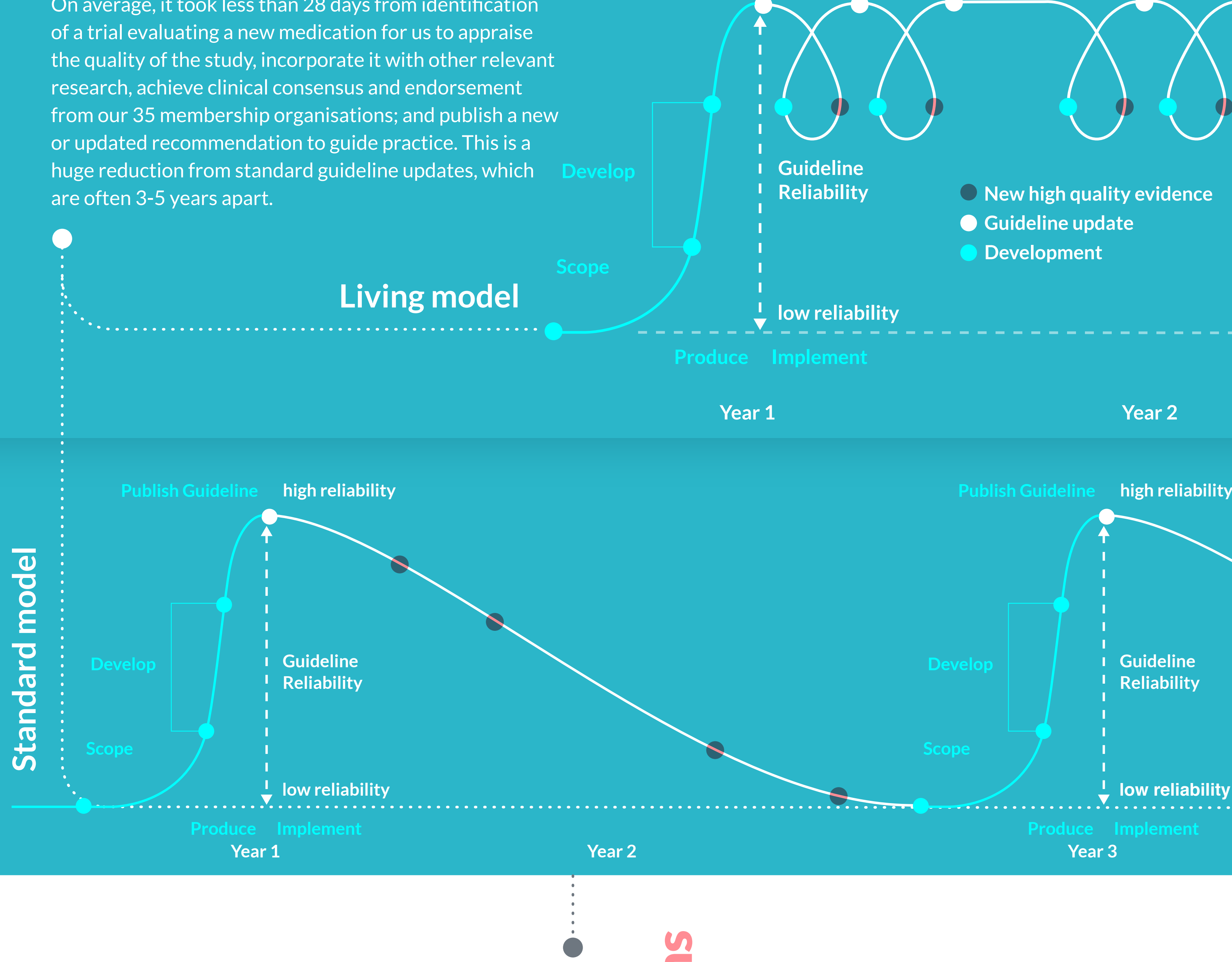
### Key things to understand

Sifting through this mountain of information we produce 'living' guidelines, continually updated with new research to give reliable, up-to-date advice to clinicians providing frontline care in this unprecedented global health crisis.

[Click here to view our Taskforce organisational flow and consensus process](#)

### What is living evidence?

On average, it took less than 28 days from identification of a trial evaluating a new medication for us to appraise the quality of the study, incorporate it with other relevant research, achieve clinical consensus and endorsement from our 35 membership organisations; and publish a new or updated recommendation to guide practice. This is a huge reduction from standard guideline updates, which are often 3-5 years apart.



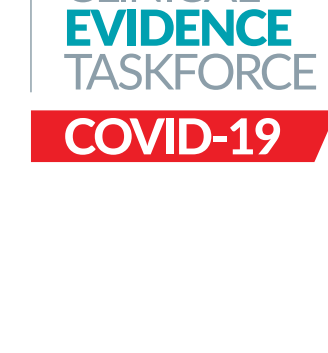
### Actions

- We undertake continuous evidence surveillance to identify and rapidly synthesise emerging research to provide national, evidence-based guidelines for the clinical care of people with COVID-19.
- The guidelines cover mild, moderate, severe and critical illness, as well as long COVID. They provide guidance for care of children, adolescents, adults, pregnant and breastfeeding women, and older people.
- The first version of the guidelines was published on April 4 2020, and they have subsequently been updated more than 100 times.

**200+** Recommendations

**125+** Updates

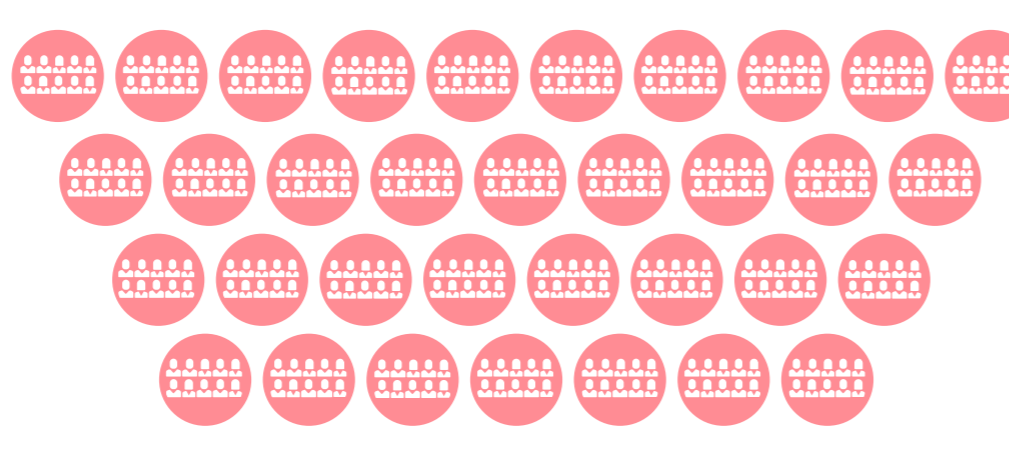
The guidelines now include more than 200 recommendations covering the full spectrum of disease and care for people with COVID-19.



### Impact

While it's very difficult to determine exactly how many lives have been saved, hospitalisations avoided, and health outcomes improved by the work of the Taskforce; there is no question that the Taskforce guidance has contributed to Australia having one of the very lowest case-fatality rates anywhere in the world.





The Taskforce coordinated the voice of all peak health professional bodies across Australia whose members are providing clinical care to people with COVID-19, through a 100% consensus model.



This meant all clinicians were getting the same information from their professional bodies, and that the guidelines were truly multidisciplinary.



Nationally consistent, evidence-based, continually up-to-date advice for clinicians in all settings is truly unprecedented.

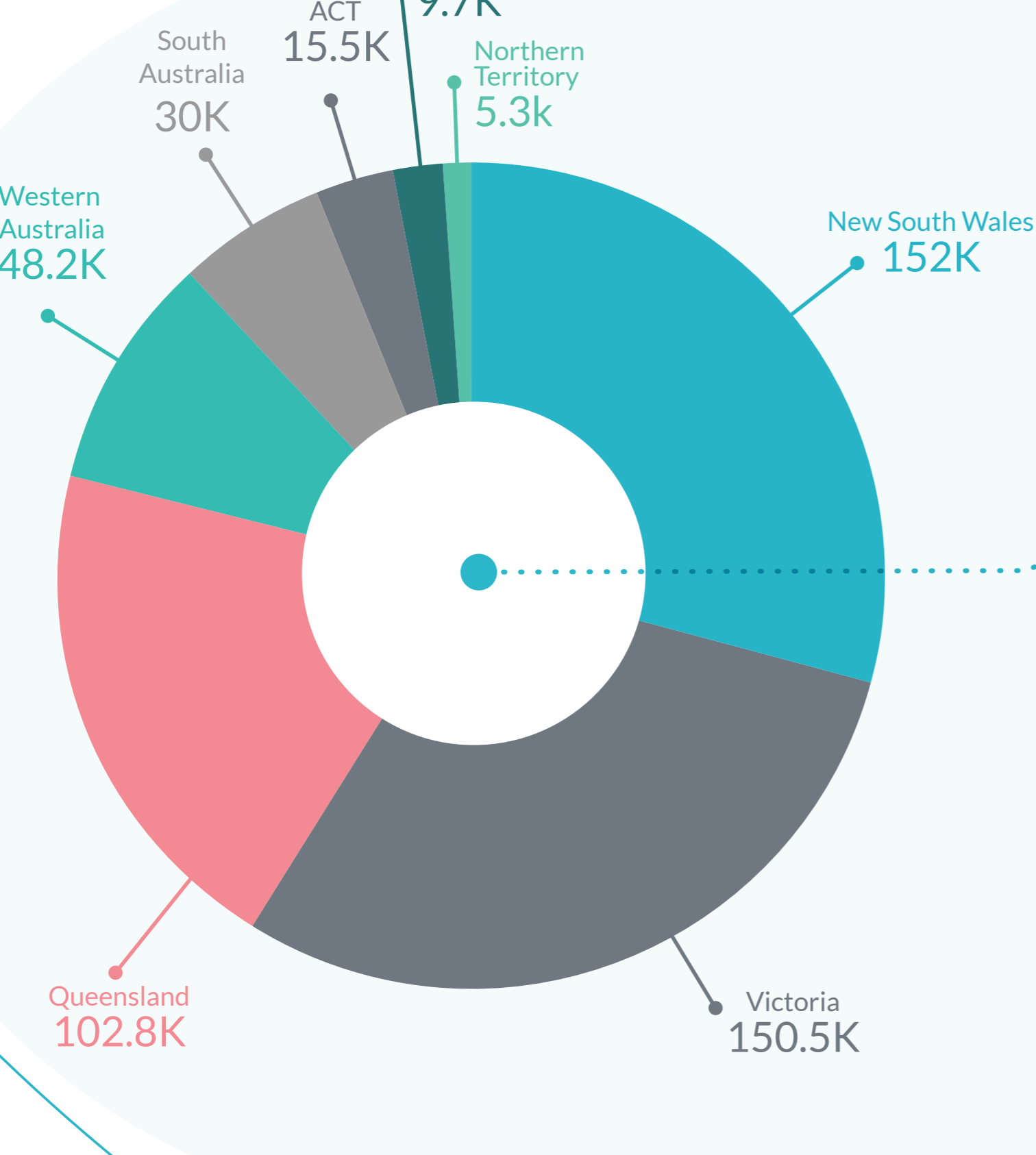
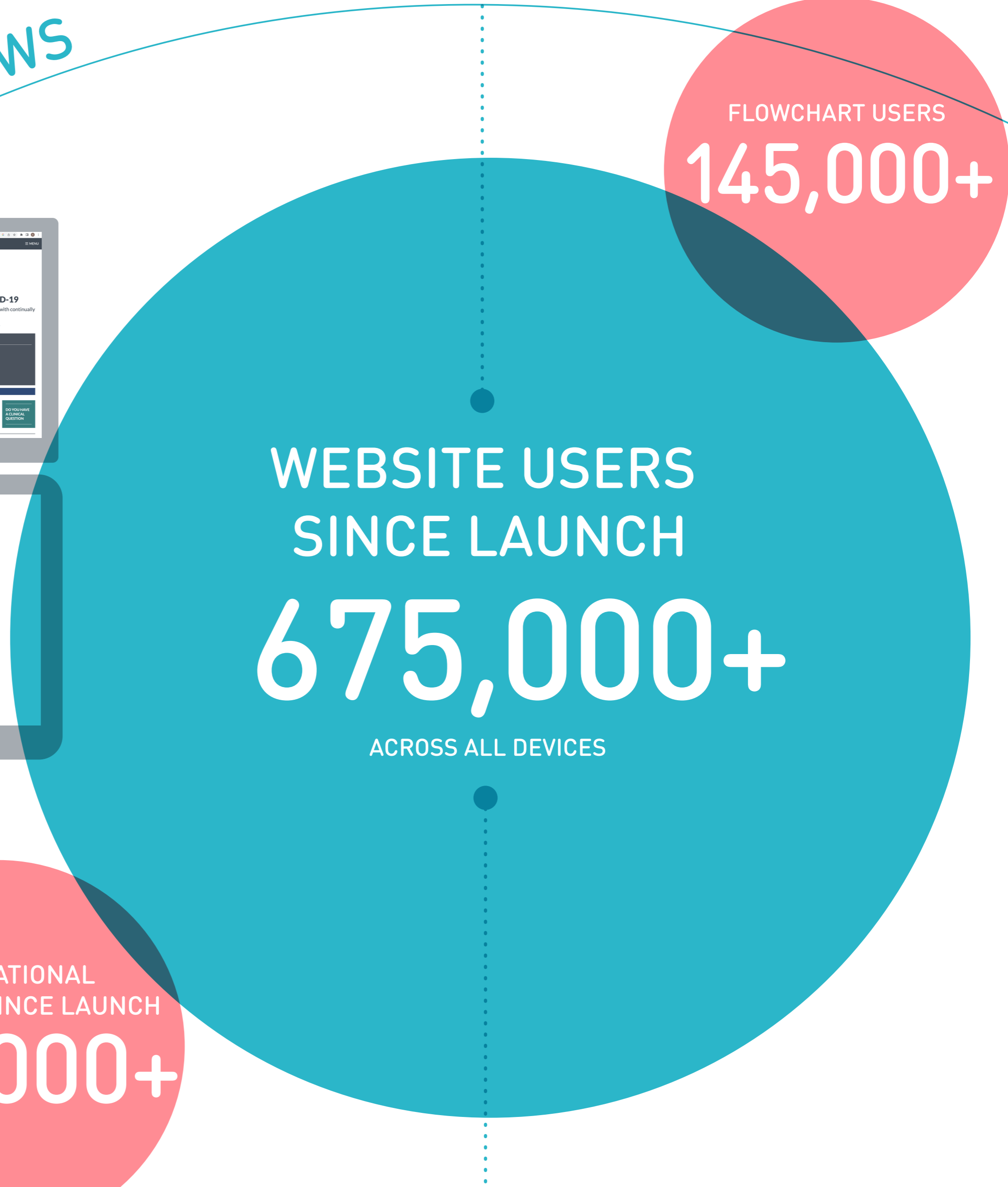
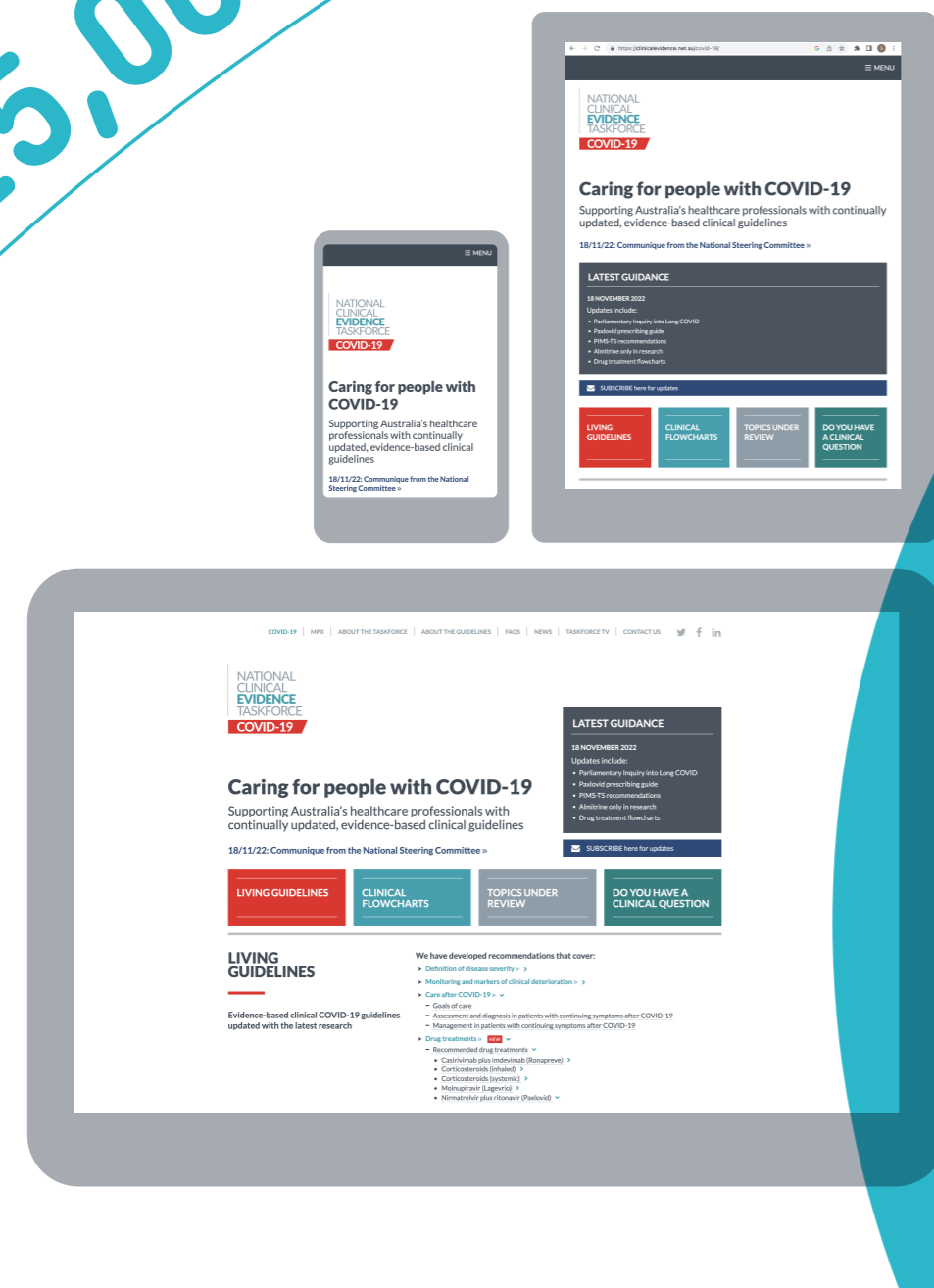


“ We collaborated with the Australian National COVID-19 Clinical Evidence Taskforce during development of the guideline, and acknowledge their contribution to identifying and reviewing the evidence for therapeutics. ”

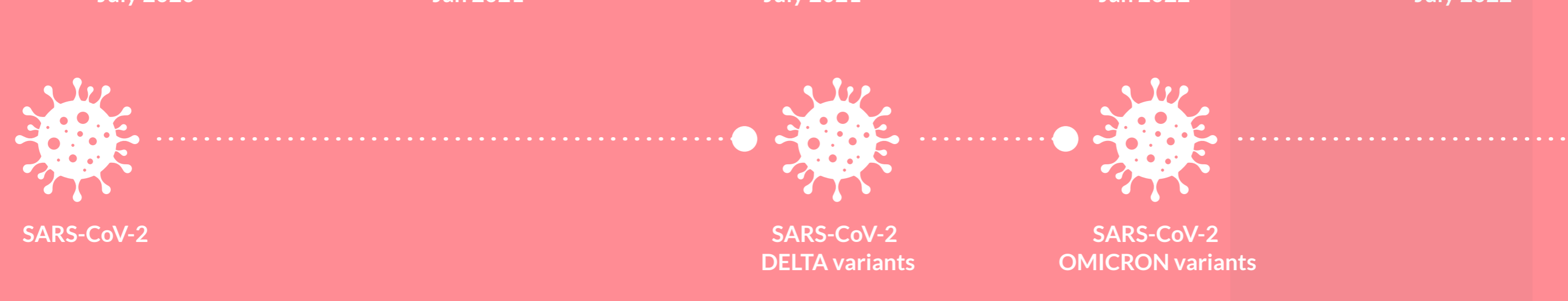
## Three Key Actions

- Through varied evaluations by the Taskforce, including interviews and surveys of hundreds of participants we've established that the guidelines were very or extremely relevant, easy to use, trustworthy and valuable.
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- A central source of guidance for states, territories and health services to adapt and develop local level guidance which was endorsed by all, removing duplication and confusion, and ensuring consistency in decision-making.

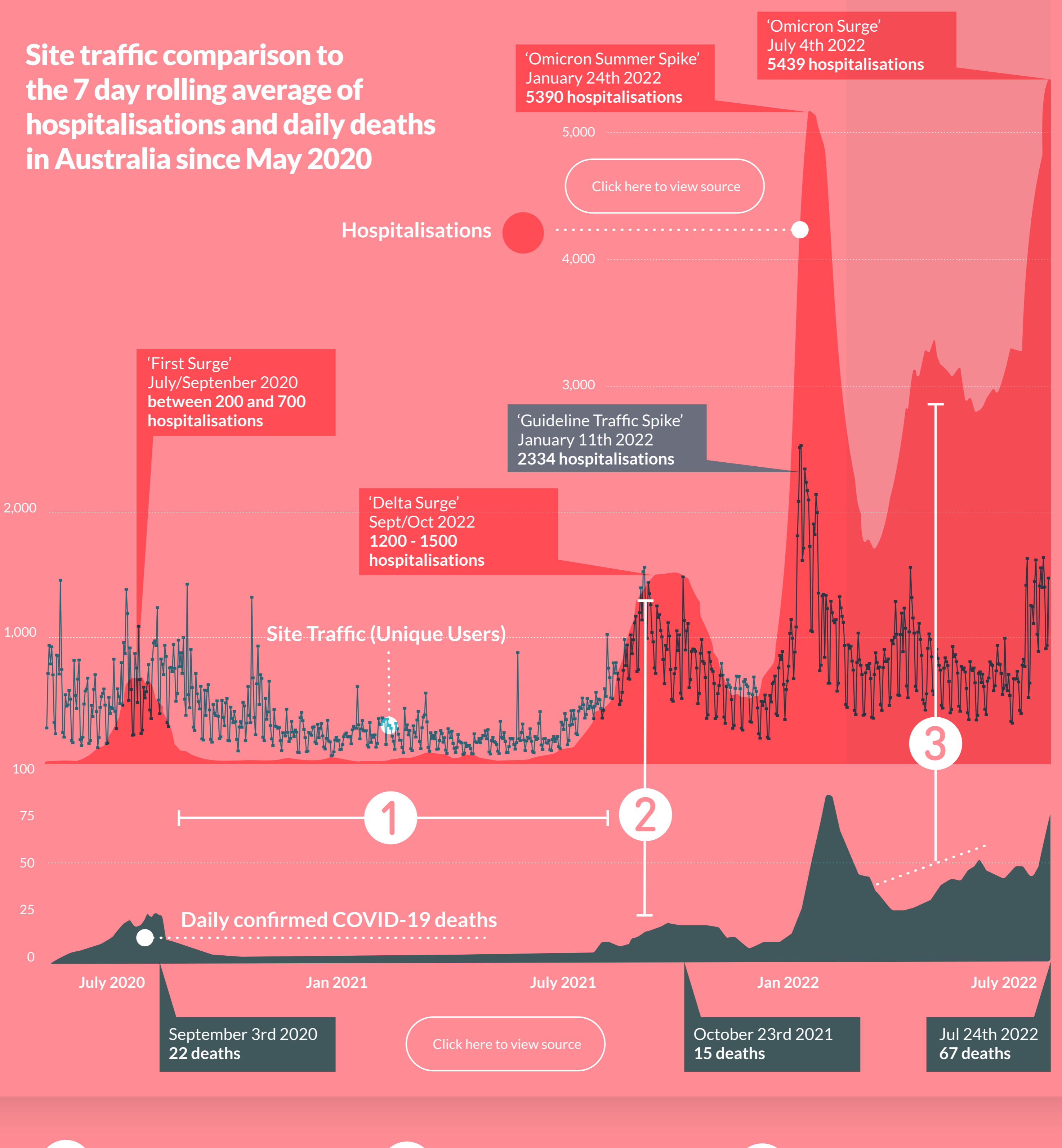
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514k unique users across Guideline and Taskforce resources  
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During a period of great uncertainty the Taskforce provided clear and united guidance for clinicians and policy makers preparing to face COVID, especially in Victoria.  
The scientific rigour of the living evidence model together with the multidisciplinary approval of the 34 member organisations provided much comfort to clinicians caring for people with COVID-19.
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In 2021 as COVID case numbers surged in NSW and then again in Victoria, website usage began to demonstrate a national reliance on the Taskforce guidance.  
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With the advent of the Omicron and the subsequent January and July case spikes, the Taskforce once again demonstrated its usefulness with clinicians turning to the website and Taskforce resources for treatment guidance.  
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NATIONAL CLINICAL EVIDENCE TASKFORCE

COVID-19



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Taskforce Impact Evaluation Survey - February 2022

“ [The guidelines] had a stabilizing influence because whenever we've had people worried about –“is this right thing to do,” you can always point them to the guidelines and say, well this is evidence-based, wide consensus in the industry based on the best science and the best health advice we've got. So you can trust that this is the best we've got.. ”

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Taskforce Impact Evaluation Survey - February 2022

## Partners



## Funders



## Supporting Funders

**Walter Cottman  
Endowment Fund**

managed by Equity Trustees

## Founding Funders

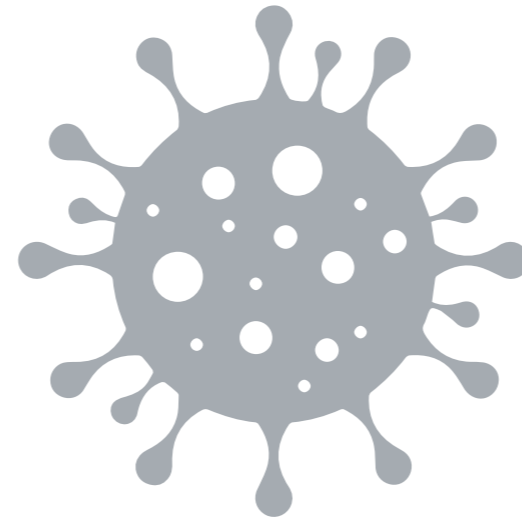


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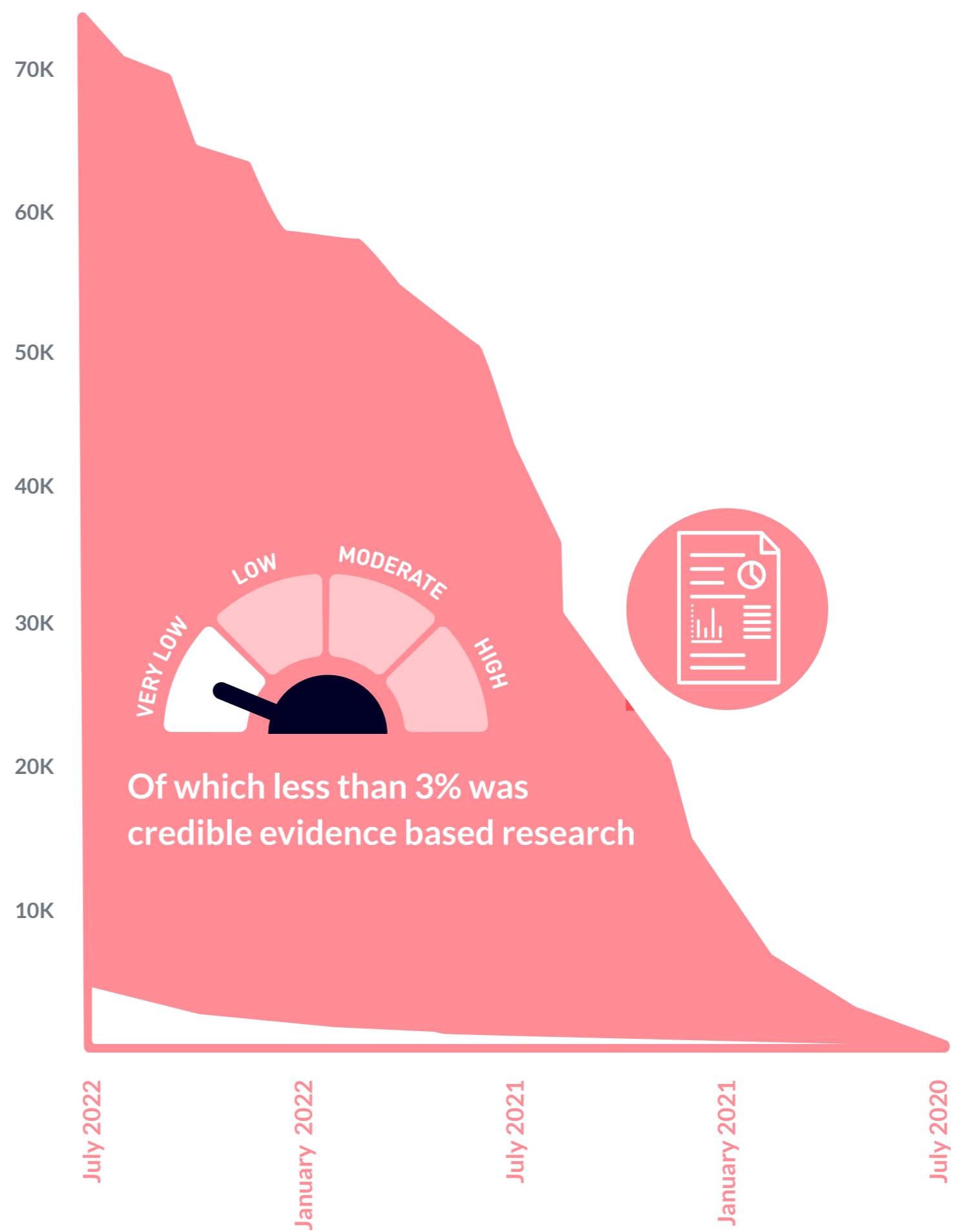
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700K  
600K  
500K  
400K  
300K  
200K  
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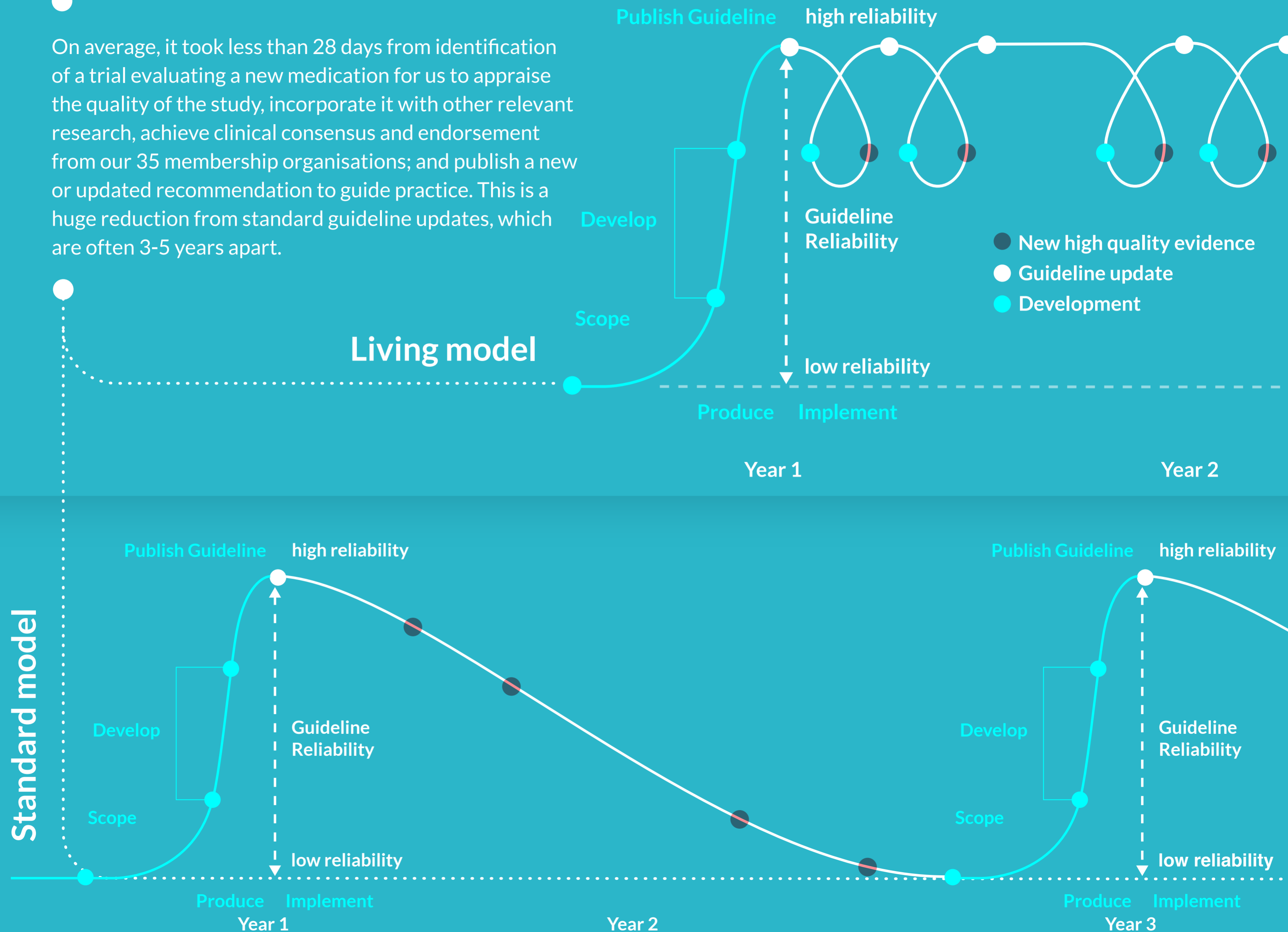
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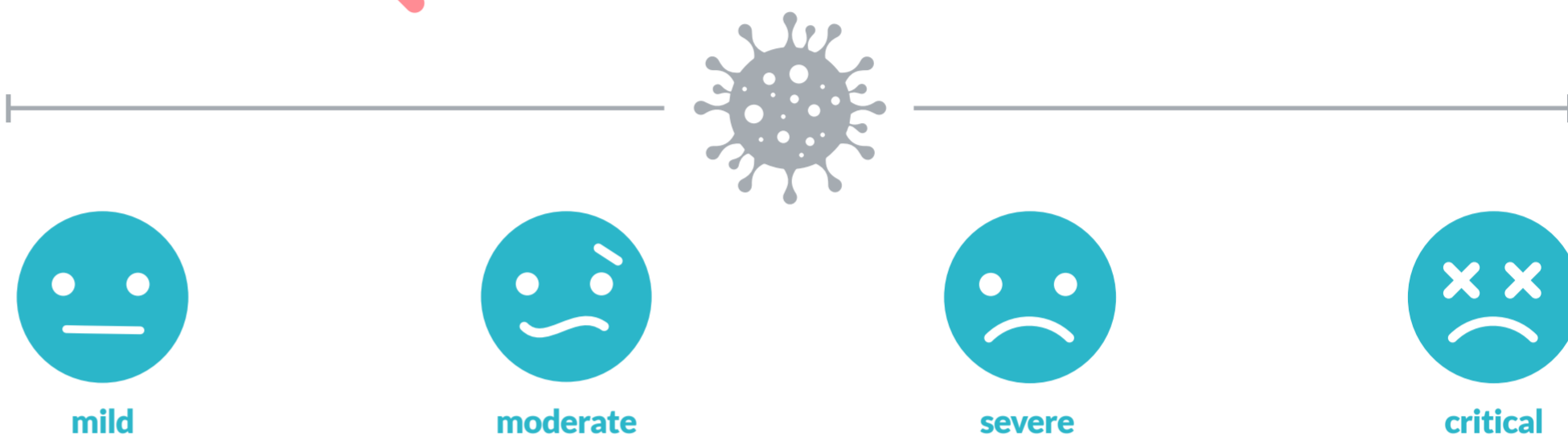
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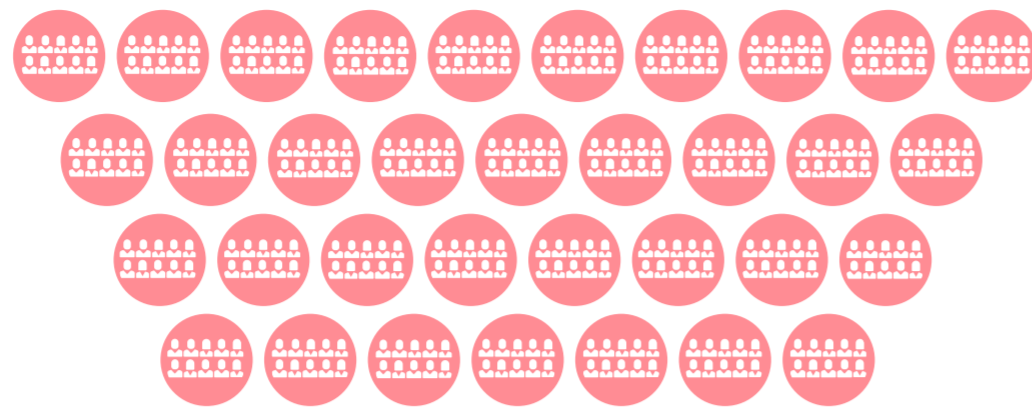
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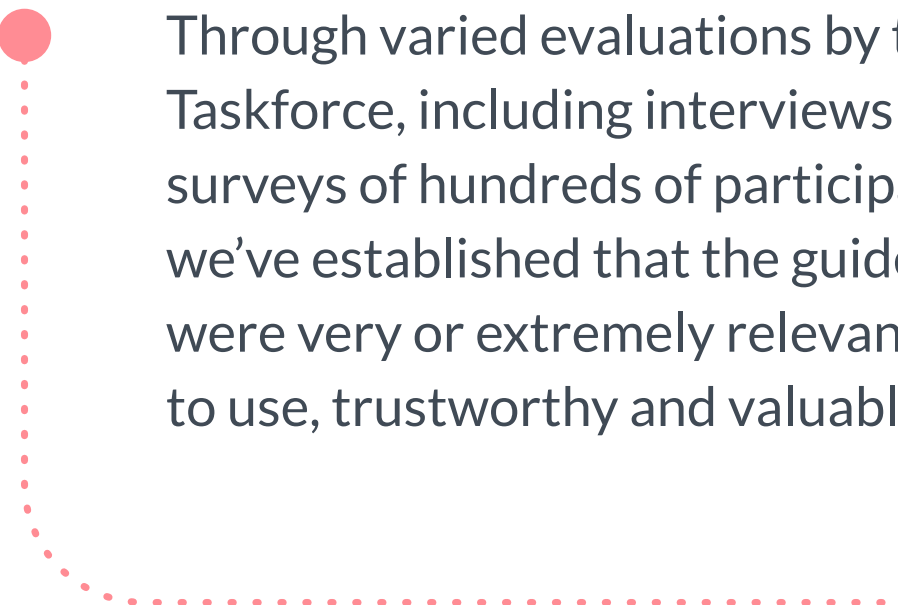
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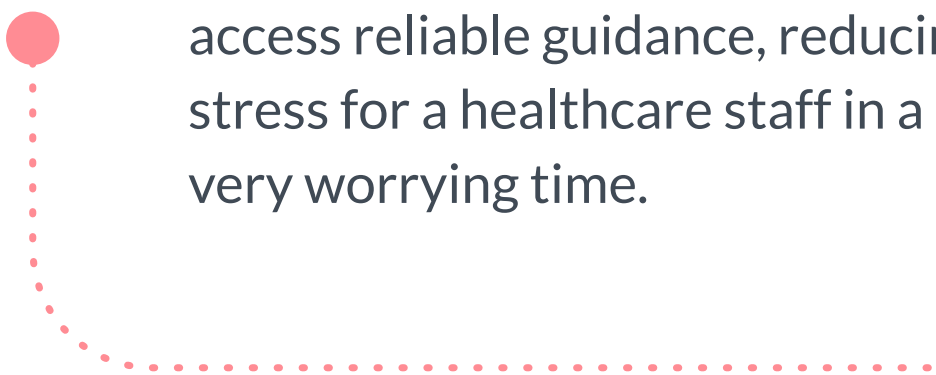
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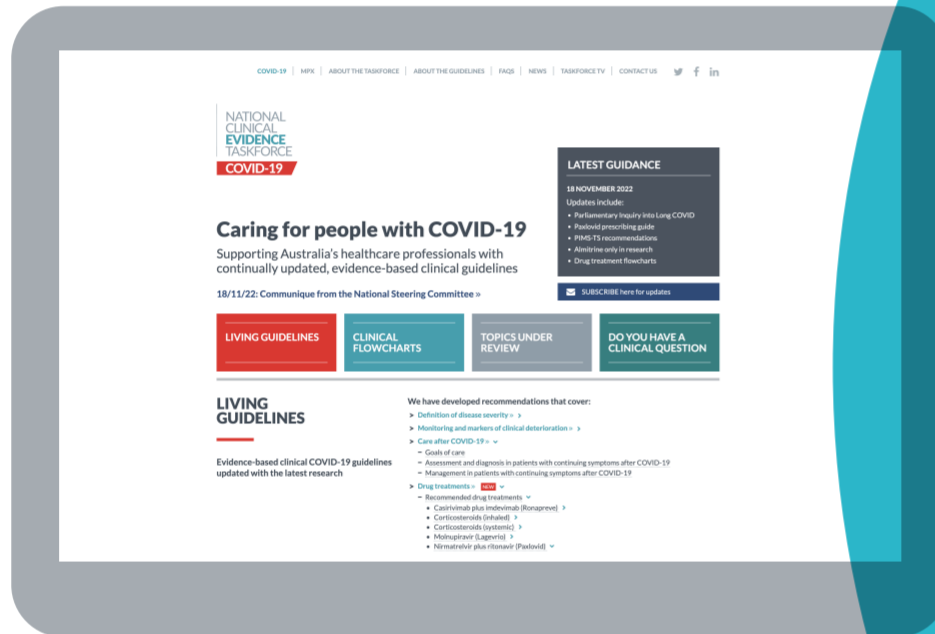
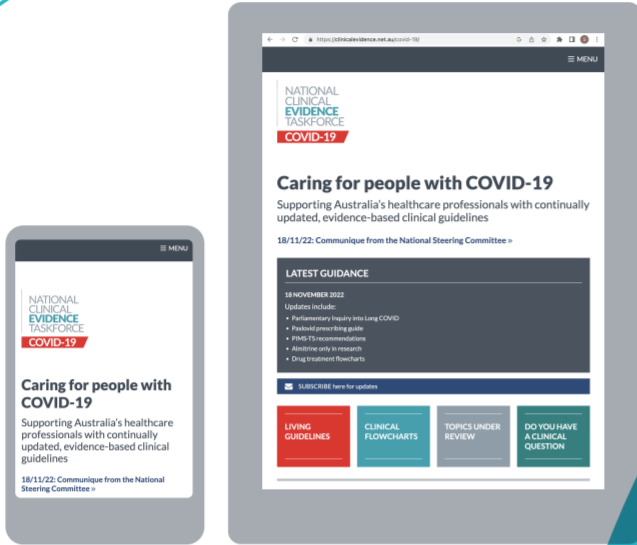
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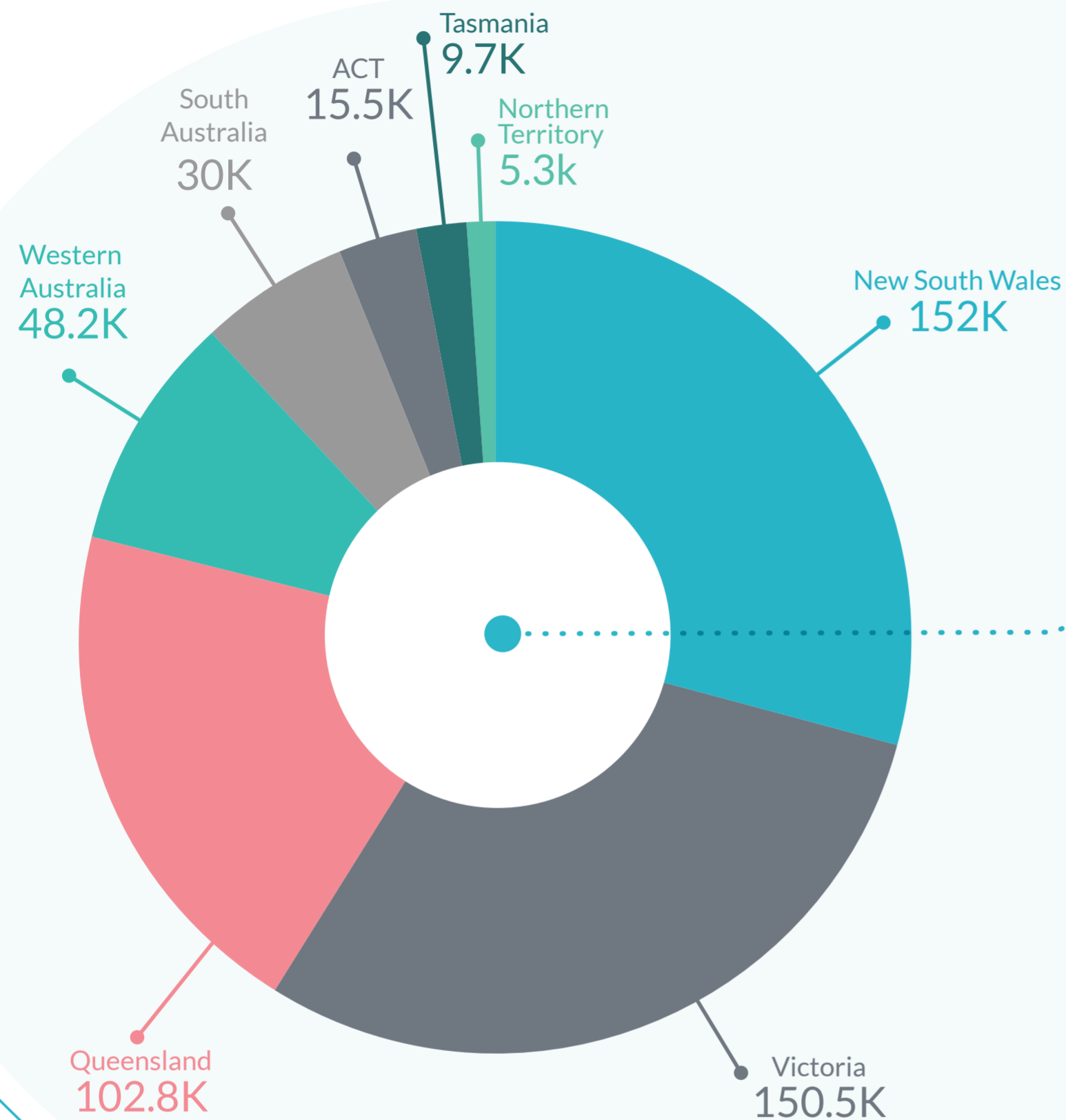
FLOWCHART USERS  
145,000+

WEBSITE USERS  
SINCE LAUNCH  
675,000+

ACROSS ALL DEVICES

200+ countries  
and territories

INTERNATIONAL  
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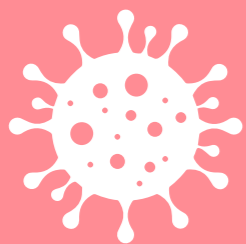


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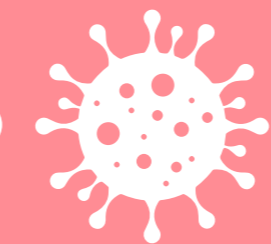


July 2020



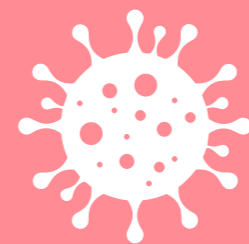
SARS-CoV-2

Jan 2021



SARS-CoV-2  
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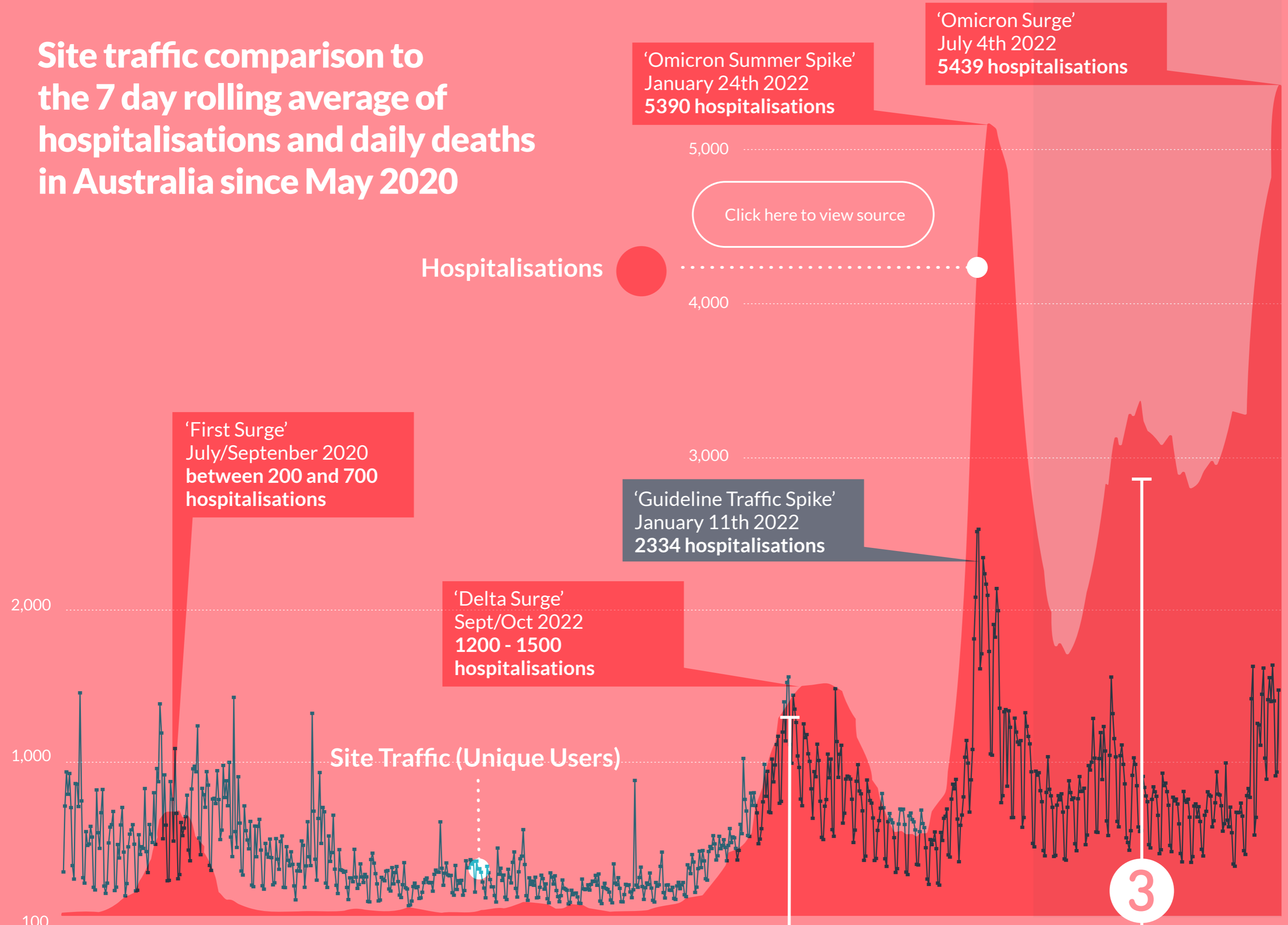
SARS-CoV-2  
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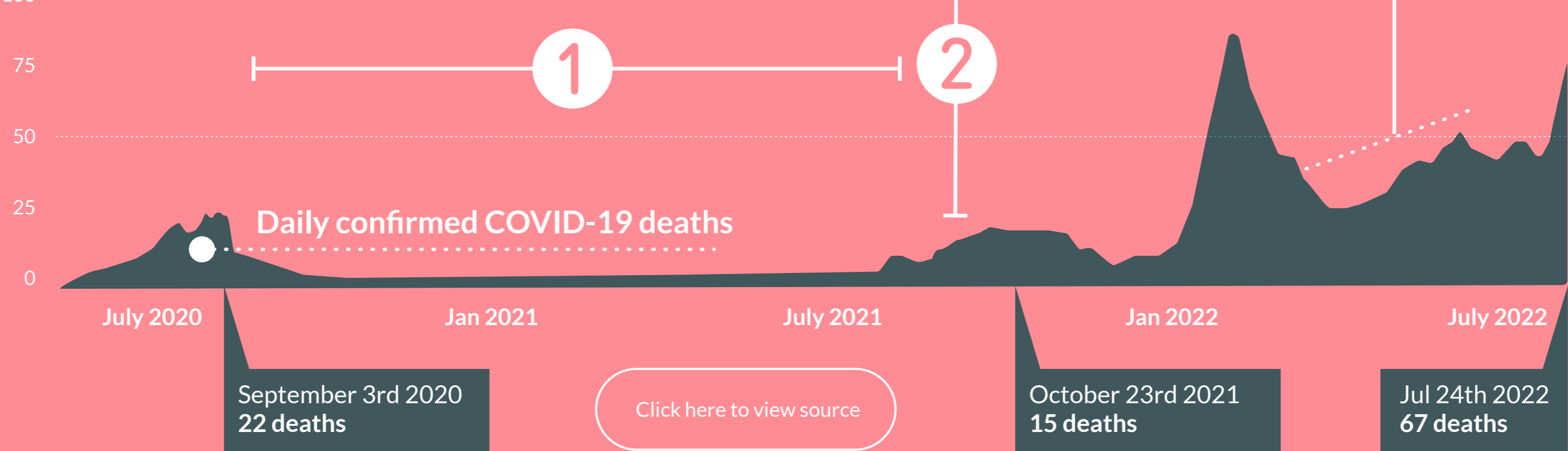
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NATIONAL  
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## Founding Funders

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**Australian Government**  
**Department of Health**



Health  
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