

Introduction

Since its establishment in 1990, the scope of the research program of the National Centre in Social Research has significantly broadened, and will no doubt continue to evolve in the years to come. To better reflect past achievements and future aspirations, as of this Strategic Plan the Centre will operate under a new name: *Centre for Social Research in Health*.

As before, the research undertaken by the Centre for Social Research in Health responds to the Australian national strategies for HIV, viral hepatitis and sexually transmissible infections, including for Aboriginal people. The Centre also remains committed to the Australian partnership response, collaborating closely with affected communities, and conducting outstanding multidisciplinary scholarly research that informs policy and practice. Benefiting from its location in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, the Centre will extend its program

of teaching, training and capacity building with sector partners.

In coming years, we will further strengthen our profile and leadership in behavioural and social research that timely and critically informs the rapidly changing landscape of prevention and treatment of HIV as well as viral hepatitis C and STIs. We also seek to extend the geographical coverage of our research in HIV, viral hepatitis and STIs, nationally as well internationally.

Building on recent work, we will further develop our expertise in related areas of health and wellbeing that are of particular relevance to the communities our research benefits. This includes research into stigma and discrimination and the mental health and wellbeing of our communities; research regarding drug use, sex, sexuality, sexual health and sex education, in particular with young people; and research contributing to improving the health of Aboriginal people.



CSRH Strategic Plan 2013–2015

Never Stand Still

Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences

Centre for Social Research in Health

Mission

To undertake and promote exemplary social and behavioural science research in health that informs and strengthens knowledge, policy and practice

Vision

We aim to influence and respond to national and international health strategies and priorities, particularly those related to HIV, viral hepatitis, sexually transmissible infections and the health of indigenous peoples, in order to improve the health and well-being of affected individuals and communities.

Values

Our work is guided by our commitment to:

- integrity and excellence in academic research
- a multidisciplinary approach to research and education
- actively ensure our unique and critical perspectives are heard
- collaborate and engage with affected communities
- value diversity and promote equity.

Research

Consolidate and expand existing areas of research in HIV, viral hepatitis and STIs

Maintain and strengthen our research programs in the existing six program areas

Expand our geographical reach, nationally and internationally

Broaden our existing expertise into new research areas

Work on a wider range of health and wellbeing issues

Work with additional population groups

Increase the impact of our research on policy and practice

Develop ways of measuring and improving research impact

Communicate our research findings to decision-makers in government and community-based organisations

Education

Continue to develop a strong and sustainable learning and teaching program

Attract the best postgraduate students

Explore opportunities for new teaching programs

Expand our involvement in research capacity building

Strengthen research capacity-building to research consumers, support educators in health promotion and improving research literacy internationally and domestically

Community engagement

Maintain and strengthen engagement with affected communities and other stakeholders to ensure our research continues to address evolving needs and priorities

Articulate and communicate our commitment to and achievements in community engagement to those communities with which we work

Diversify the communities and stakeholders with which we work in line with evolving priorities and wider geographical contexts

Develop the CSRH Scientific Advisory Committee meetings to provide a two-way forum for building a shared understanding of research priorities

Maintain and further develop a strong profile to support future activities

Establish a marketing communications plan to consolidate our identity and to promote our research and capacity building achievements

Strategic representation on decision-making and advisory bodies with government, affected communities and scholarly groups

Capabilities and resources

Maintain a sustainable and dynamic funding environment

Diversify research funding by engaging with other issues, communities and stakeholders

Build strengths in learning, teaching and capacity building as an additional source of income

Develop a risk management plan with emphasis on funding

Ensure sufficient funding for high quality academic, professional and technical support

Maintain cost effective and efficient governance, administrative and financial systems

Continuously improve governance, administrative and financial processes

Maintain a supportive, safe, equitable and culturally appropriate workplace, and an inspired and diverse workforce

Support career development for all staff

Establish shared understandings of expectations and responsibilities

Ensure health and safety by minimising potential hazards

Contribute to and promote UNSW equity and diversity policies and procedures

Expand our commitment to supporting our understanding of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures and the health and wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people

Contribute to environmental sustainability

Maintain processes of environmental sustainability