

The NSW Regional Health Partners is a new centre for research translation in health. Health services and academic institutions enhanced an existing collaboration to become accredited as a NHMRC Centre for Innovation in Rural Health. The partners are: Hunter New England Local Health District (HNELHD), Central Coast Local Health District (CCLHD), Mid North Coast Local Health District (MNCLHD), Hunter New England and Central Coast Primary Health Network, Calvary Mater, Hunter Medical Research Institute (HMRI), University of Newcastle (UON) and University of New England (UNE).

The Centre supports new ways of working by researchers, clinicians and managers within its eight partner organisations. By bringing the partners together to share information, reduce duplication and share resources, the Centre leverages existing activities to accelerate change within each organisation. It is also resourced by the Medical Research Future Fund to fund new initiatives to translate evidence into practice. The partners are committed to sustainable improvements to ways of working within their organisations in order to deliver better care.

Our Objective is to

Make appreciable improvements in patient outcomes and experience by translating evidence into practice.

We will do this by:

1. Funding research into evidence translation
2. Building consumer and community capacity to contribute to, and benefit from, research
3. Educating clinicians and researchers in evaluation and implementation science.
4. Building collaborations between clinicians, consumers, managers, researchers and community.
5. Advancing funders and policy makers' understanding of evidence translation.



Our purpose is to accelerate the transition of evidence into practice to improve the health and well-being of regional, rural and remote communities

1. Funding research into evidence translation

- 1.1 Fund research with the potential to significantly improve clinical practice or public health. This may include studies of replicability, adaptability, scalability, sustainability and effectiveness or studies using systems science methodologies.
- 1.2 Promote best practice in translational research, including:
 - Creation of evidence syntheses
 - Use of co-design
 - Detailed study of context
 - Use of patient reported measures
 - Evaluation of outcomes that includes clinical, social and economic measures.
- 1.3 Ensure maximum local impact by focusing on rural and regional health priorities, service gaps, and equity issues including Aboriginal health.
- 1.4 Ensure maximum local impact by investing in a limited number of programs. Proposed major investments 2019-2020:
 - Obesity and overweight
 - End of life care – including focus on care integration and evaluation of models of care
 - Economic evaluation – including rapid evaluation of low value care and disinvestment strategies.
- 1.5 Ensure maximum national impact by partnering with other health translation centres on research and improvement programs and grant applications.
- 1.6 Ensure maximum impact by investing in knowledge mobilisation to move available knowledge (created by us and others) into active use so work is scaled and sustained. Promote evidence to clinicians, the community, educators, decision-makers and funders.
- 1.7 Facilitate access to clinical trial research by:
 - Reducing barriers and encouraging inclusion of elements to support future decision making and implementation
 - Supporting Department of Health, Council of Australian Governments (COAG) initiatives, NSW Ministry of Health and our partners to address improved research governance and access to clinical trials.

2. Building consumer and community capacity to contribute to, and benefit from, research

- 2.1 Provide opportunities in priority-setting, co-creation and training.
- 2.2 Build consumer awareness of the evidence-practice gap and consumer demand for best evidence practice.
- 2.3 Encourage participation in research and raise awareness of medical research.

3. Educate clinicians and researchers in evaluation and implementation science

- 3.1 Train researchers in:
 - Consumer and community involvement
 - The value of economic and social evaluation
 - The skills of knowledge mobilisation
 - Effective messaging to ensure uptake of evidence in clinical care and by the community
- 3.2 Train clinicians and decision makers in:
 - The value of economic and social evaluation
 - Decision making tools based on evidence
 - Effective change management strategies
 - The need for post- implementation monitoring.
- 3.3 Integrate translational research design principles and research involvement opportunities into student health professional courses.

4. Build collaborations between clinicians, consumers, managers, researchers and community

- 4.1 Draw on the strengths of our health service and education partners by requiring funded projects be undertaken by multiple partners.
- 4.2 Leverage investments others are making in research, and especially in health service improvement.
- 4.3 Provide continuous attention to the needs and interests of the Centre's founding partners.
- 4.4 Commission and support translational research activities requested by health service chief executives
- 4.5 Develop new models for collaboration among researchers, clinicians, educators and improvement experts.

5. Advance funders and policy makers' understanding of evidence translation

- 5.1 Make NSW Regional Health Partners sustainable by:
 - Achieving reaccreditation
 - Obtaining increased and diversified funding
- 5.2 Participate in the broader translational agenda at national and State level, including:
 - Contribute actively to the Australian Health Research Alliance
 - Collaborating with the NSW Rural Health Research Alliance, NSW translational centres and NSW Ministry of Health.
- 5.3 Prepare policy briefs and submissions to government, meet with local politicians and senior bureaucrats.