



PHRN Governance Framework

November 2014

Table of Contents

1. OVERVIEW	1
VISION	1
MISSION	1
2. THE LEAD AGENT	1
3. THE BOARD	1
ROLE	1
ACCOUNTABILITY	2
MEMBERSHIP	2
4. THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE	2
APPOINTMENT	2
ACCOUNTABILITY	2
ROLE	3
PHRN OFFICE	3
5. THE PHRN PARTICIPANT COUNCIL	3
ROLE	3
CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERSHIP	3

1. OVERVIEW

- 1.1 The Population Health Research Network (PHRN) was established in 2009. It has received substantial funding through the Australian Government's national collaborative research infrastructure programs, with co-funding from Australian, state and territory government agencies and academic partners to provide Australian researchers with access to linkable de-identified data from a diverse and rich range of health datasets, across jurisdictions and sectors.

Vision

- 1.2 A valued national resource generated from linkage of population data from a broad range of areas such as health, education and community services and used for research to inform policy, planning and management to improve the health and wellbeing of all Australians.

Mission

- 1.3 To build a national data linkage infrastructure by working collaboratively with key stakeholders including data custodians, researchers and the community. This will support research of national relevance which results in improved policy making and service delivery and demonstrates global best practice in maximising the benefits to the Australian community whilst preserving individual privacy.

2. THE LEAD AGENT

- 2.1 The University of Western Australia is the Lead Agent and has entered into successive Funding Agreements with the Australian Government Department of Education for development and operation of national collaborative research infrastructure. It has overall responsibility for the PHRN in accordance with the reporting and accountability requirements outlined in the Funding Agreements.
- 2.2 The University of Western Australia will act in accordance with the directions of the Board on matters related to the PHRN, except where the direction is contrary to its governing legislation, constitution, adopted policies or contractual obligations in which case The University of Western Australia will advise the Board of the conflict.
- 2.3 The University of Western Australia will not be obliged to do or refrain from doing anything which is contrary to its governing legislation, adopted policies or contractual obligations even if it is directed by the Board to do so.

3. THE BOARD

Role

- 3.1 The PHRN Board (the Board) will provide oversight and strategic direction for the PHRN. The development and implementation of a strategic plan for the PHRN is a priority for the Board. It will also:

- a. Monitor compliance with the requirements of The University of Western Australia's agreements with the Department of Education and The University of Western Australia's agreements with PHRN Project Participants.
- b. Provide oversight of the development of appropriate key performance indicators and monitor performance against these indicators.
- c. Provide oversight of project and risk management strategies to ensure the PHRN is delivering against the investment and strategic plans.
- d. Provide oversight of financial management including annual budgets and business plans, and allocation of funding in line with the strategic direction of the PHRN.
- e. Facilitate and maintain relationships with all stakeholders.

The Board may establish committees, working groups and other mechanisms to support its work.

Accountability

- 3.2 The PHRN Board is accountable to The University of Western Australia. The University of Western Australia will nominate a delegate to be the point of contact.

Membership

- 3.3 The Board will comprise an independent Chairman and up to six members.
- 3.4 The Chairman will be appointed by The University of Western Australia in consultation with the Department of Education.
- 3.5 All Board members will be appointed by The University of Western Australia, in consultation with the Department of Education, for their outstanding abilities to guide the PHRN. They will be eminent people able to take a broad, national, collaborative perspective in overseeing the implementation of the PHRN plans.
- 3.6 The membership will include a nominee of The University of Western Australia, and up to five members who have the specific skills, knowledge, experience and networks necessary to guide the PHRN into the future.

4. THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Appointment

- 4.1 The Chief Executive of the PHRN will be appointed by The University of Western Australia on the recommendation of the Board.

Accountability

- 4.2 The Chief Executive will report to the Board.

Role

- 4.3 The Chief Executive will:
- a. Be in attendance at Board meetings.
 - b. Provide strategic advice to the Board and act in accordance with the Board's directions.
 - c. Develop, propose and oversee activities that implement the objectives of the PHRN.

PHRN Office

- 4.4 The PHRN Office staff will be appointed on the recommendation of the Chief Executive.
- 4.5 The PHRN Office, led by the Chief Executive, will provide effective management and administration of the PHRN under the funding agreements with the Department of Education. They will lead and coordinate the development and implementation of the infrastructure. This will include liaising with the PHRN Project Participants, scientific community and other stakeholders to ensure that the PHRN infrastructure is used as widely as possible.

5. THE PHRN PARTICIPANT COUNCIL

Role

- 5.1 The PHRN Participant Council will provide advice to the Board in accordance with its terms of reference.

Chairman and Membership

- 5.2 The Chairman of the Participant Council will be appointed by the Board.
- 5.3 Membership of the Participant Council will comprise one nominee of each PHRN Project Participant.
- 5.4 The Board may expand membership to include nominees of other organisations that contribute to PHRN.

Date: November 2014