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STRATEGIC PLAN

2021-2030



PHRN Population
Health
Research
Network

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NCRIS
National Research
Infrastructure for Australia
An Australian Government Initiative



Our Challenge

In providing health and human services Australian governments, private organisations and not-for-profit agencies collect vast amounts of sensitive data about Australians. This data is a valuable national resource which can be used to improve our understanding of disease, develop treatments and improve services.

Australia now has the capability to link information both within and between Australian jurisdictions in a way that protects privacy and enables access to the data by researchers with the necessary high level analytical skills.

Our challenge is to further develop Australia's data linkage infrastructure to make it more efficient, linked data more accessible and to meet the emerging needs of the research community, governments and industry both in Australia and internationally. This will require the collaboration and cooperation of a large group of stakeholders including Australian governments, service providers, data linkage units, researchers, human research ethics committees, funding providers, consumers and community members.

Our Network

The Population Health Research Network (PHRN) is a national collaboration that enables existing data from around Australia to be brought together and made available for important research.

The PHRN supports state/territory data linkage units, national data linkage units and a secure data laboratory. The PHRN also provides a number of national eResearch tools and services to assist researchers to access linked data efficiently and securely. The PHRN was conceived and implemented through the National Collaborative Research Infrastructure Strategy framework, an initiative of the

Australian Government. State and territory governments and academic institutions have made significant cash and in-kind contributions to PHRN activities.

Australia now has the facilities and capabilities to link and provide access to linked health and health related data (life data) in all jurisdictions. It also has the facilities and capability to link data from different jurisdictions and to provide remote access to linked datasets in a secure environment. Few other countries have this capability.

Our Roles

1. We are a respected, independent and trusted broker, valued for bringing governments, organisations, individuals and data together securely.
2. We collaborate to enhance and maintain significant, innovative research infrastructure to improve the nation's data linkage capability.
3. We facilitate and grow the use of linked data in the areas of health and human services.
4. We advocate for an improved authorising environment for better access, use and sharing of data.
5. We support the whole of government focus on accessing, sharing and using data for the national good.

Our Vision

Linking life data to improve the wellbeing of all Australians

Our Mission

To lead and enable the linking of data for world class, action-oriented research

Our Values

Collaboration

Working together collaboratively is the key to enabling innovative data linkage infrastructure and using it to support world class, action-oriented research.

Innovation

Innovation is essential to building high quality linked data and using it to support world class, action-oriented research.

Ethical Conduct

Ethical conduct is fundamental to maintaining trust in the data linkage infrastructure and the people who operate it.

Community Involvement

The Australian community should reap the benefits of the use of their data for research, and should be involved in decisions about research priorities, policies and practices.

Trustworthiness

Honesty, reliability and a commitment to following the rules and regulations, particularly in regard to privacy, are essential qualities for maintaining the trust of our stakeholders.

Our Goals

1. Innovative infrastructure

Lead and invest in national collaborative, innovative data linkage infrastructure.

2. World class research and analysis

Facilitate and grow the use of linked data for world class, action-oriented research.

3. Advocacy and communication

Advocate for better access to and use of linked data, and communicate research findings.

4. Successful collaborations

Foster collaborations between researchers, governments and industry partners.

Our Strategic Priorities

Goal 1: Innovative infrastructure

Lead and invest in national collaborative, innovative data linkage infrastructure.

Success Measure

An efficient, safe, secure and national data linkage infrastructure which provides timely access to linked data, including for cross-jurisdictional and cross-sectoral projects.

Objective	Description	Activities
1.1	Continue to enhance, maintain and develop data linkage infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continued operation of national and regional data linkage infrastructure. Secure data, access and storage. Linkage of new data collections to national/regional Master Linkage Files.
1.2	Pursue innovative solutions to improve the efficiency of the application, data linkage, extraction and access processes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Metadata development. Enduring linkage of Commonwealth to state/territory data. Linkage quality monitoring. Near real-time linkage. Improve efficiency of data extraction. Improve efficiency of data access.
1.3	Work with other health-related NCRIS capabilities to facilitate access to complementary infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development of and support for cross-capability collaboration mechanisms.

Goal 2: World class research

Facilitate and grow the use of linked data for world class, action-oriented research.

Success measure

World class research that informs evidence-based policy and practice.

Objective	Description	Activities
2.1	Build and support the development of capacity to analyse and interpret linked population data	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote the PHRN to the research community to increase the number of researchers using the infrastructure. Fund training and education activities in the analysis and interpretation of linked data.
2.2	Work with researchers and others to identify national priorities for research using linked data	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support and facilitate research in areas of high national priority.

Our Strategic Priorities cont.

Goal 3: Advocacy and communication

Advocate for better access to and use of linked data, and communicate research findings.

Success measure

Australians, governments and private organisations are aware of how their data can be used to improve health and well-being.

Objective	Description	Activities
3.1	Advocate for better access to and use of linked data	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advocate for change to overcome the barriers to access linked data.
3.2	Expand community and consumer engagement in the network	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with key national, state and territory consumer organisations to develop a program of consumer and community involvement activities.
3.3	Build a marketing/communication profile around the value of and need for linked data	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Marketing campaign about value and need for linked data. Promote the research conducted with linked data through webinars, stories and social media.

Goal 4: Successful collaborations

Foster collaborations between researchers, governments and industry partners.

Success measure

New collaborations exist between researchers, governments and industry partners.

Objective	Description	Activities
4.1	Develop new collaborations and partnerships for development and use of linked data	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Progress opportunities for inclusion of new data collections in national and regional linkage systems. Continue existing international collaborations and build new ones to improve and promote data linkage and data linkage infrastructure.
4.2	Develop actions in consultation with relevant agencies to facilitate linkages between Commonwealth and other data	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to work with relevant agencies to progress enduring linkage of Commonwealth and Commonwealth/state/territory data.
4.3	Develop actions to establish collaborations with private sector partners and create strategic alliances	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expand existing industry collaborations and seek new alliances related to the contribution and use of data, and the development of products and services

Enabling Activities

The PHRN will undertake a range of activities to ensure that the Network is governed, structured and resourced in a way that enables it to achieve its goals.

Success measure

The PHRN continues to achieve strategic goals and objectives.

	Enabler	Activities
1	Governance	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Set and oversee the achievement of strategic objectives.• Monitor compliance with contractual and other regulatory requirements.• Ensure PHRN performance continues to improve.
2	Resourcing	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Develop and implement funding and resourcing plans and strategies for PHRN.
3	Relationships	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Foster strong and effective relationships between PHRN Project Participants.



**Population Health Research
Network, M320**

The University of Western Australia
35 Stirling Highway, Crawley WA 6009

P (08) 6488 8600

E phrn@uwa.edu.au

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phrn.org.au