



# Torres and Cape Hospital and Health Service Research Strategy 2017–2020

This research strategy aims to strengthen and enhance current and future research efforts. The Torres and Cape Hospital and Health Service (TCHHS) is striving to ensure a strong, vibrant and well-governed research and health care environment, with an organisational culture that is supportive and proud of its research. The integration of high quality health delivery, education and research is an aim for all healthcare provided in the TCHHS, with improved health outcomes in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and non-Indigenous populations.

It is the TCHHS Board's intention to support and encourage research in a strategic and coherent way, with research that is well-profiled, is pivotal to healthcare provision, provides translational benefits to our communities and is positioned to take advantage of local, state, national and international opportunities. This, as the first TCHHS research strategy, aligns with the TCHHS Operational Plan and the strategic intent of the TCHHS Safety and Quality Framework. It addresses research priorities, collaboration activity, research capacity building, governance arrangements and the corporate support for research which will be undertaken in the Hospital and Health Service.

**Priority 1. To achieve excellence, innovation and translation of research benefits in identified health and medical research priorities**

Action	How will we achieve this outcome
Foster links to support research with the best researchers in research priority areas of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chronic disease</li> <li>Diabetes</li> <li>Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health</li> <li>Workforce design/Information sharing technologies</li> <li>Oral health</li> <li>Child and maternal health</li> <li>Rural and remote health</li> </ul>	Measure the number of targeted research projects which align with these TCHHS priorities
Foster research in health service contexts to embed evidence-based diagnosis, treatment and preventative health approaches to improve clinical health services, health outcomes and to reduce the burden of chronic disease in communities and patients	Support externally initiated research which focuses on TCHHS identified workforce issues and diseases
Build on existing unique capabilities in the TCHHS to develop innovation in tropical diseases research	Continue to partner in the Tropical Australian Academic Health Centre and with other academic institutions. Support and collaborate in research focussing on local infectious diseases eg. Tuberculosis, Dengue Fever, Zika virus

**Priority 2. To shape an environment that builds research capacity and fosters collaboration between HHS employees, partners and stakeholders**

Action	How will we achieve this outcome
Develop strong research leadership within the TCHHS work profile which bridges academic and clinical contexts	Identify and nominate TCHHS Key Opinion Leaders for development of a TCHHS Research Community of Practice
Develop arrangements that assist academic researchers and clinicians to work together	Manage relationships with researchers by professional stream. Promote targets for research by work stream facilitating time to allow collaboration
Support training and other strategies to build capacity for research	Develop, deliver, and promote research ethics and training courses (also available as online modules)  Include research activities as topic for discussion in Performance Appraisal and Development reviews
Build regional and rural networks for practice-based research across work streams	Provide career pathways and development opportunities for staff intending to undertake research



**Priority 3. To enhance resourcing of research to build a sustainable research future**

Action	How will we achieve this outcome
Develop the business capacity and financial sustainability of research activity in the TCHHS	Identify financial management of research as part of finance support role. Assist researchers to develop research budgets
Develop business support functions to ensure research is cost neutral or provides additional revenue	Identify or lobby for teaching, education and research funds in budgets to support capacity building activities. Identify teaching and education resourcing opportunities from Queensland Health
Aim for operational excellence and innovation in services and facilities for research purposes	Review new job descriptions to ensure research activity included with scope for research within clinical operations
Align TCHHS research priorities with the plans and strategies of our key stakeholders and partners, actively seeking engagement with them in research conducted in the HHS.	Initiate cross sector research meetings with key partners in service provision – to develop shared research projects
Establish opportunities for supporters to donate to TCHHS research activities through developing and implementing a research awareness strategy within the TCHHS Community Engagement strategy	Identify funding opportunities for donations to research, establishment of research grants program
Promote current research and researchers in the region and highlight the benefits of research in the TCHHS to researchers	Dissemination within the TCHHS newsletter – engagement with staff, stakeholders and communities around translation of the research benefits  Use of social media and local research champions to promote benefits and opportunities from undertaking research in the TCHHS