

# PHN Research & Development Framework

## INTRODUCTION

The Research and Development Framework is strongly aligned with the Hunter, New England, and Central Coast Primary Health Network's (hereafter the PHN) Strategic Plan, our vision of 'healthy people, healthy communities' and our values of innovation and cooperation. The PHN's 2023-2028 Strategic Plan has a long-term goal of, "access to timely and high-quality face-to-face or virtual primary health care for

every person in the region through needs-based world class commissioning" and our stated purpose is to increase equity of access to primary health care services. This Framework provides a foundation for how the PHN will use and develop research involvement to achieve robust, evidence-based, embedded approaches within commissioning and its other processes, enabling spread and sustainability.

There are two key avenues where the PHN can contribute to health services research including translational research:

1.

Collaborative research with partners leading to publication

2.

Internal research leading to publication.

This framework highlights four key focus areas for the PHN to drive a strategic approach to our supportive and collaborative role in primary health care research and ultimately improve health outcomes in our region. The four key focus areas are split into internal and external approaches and aim to focus on translational research. They are as follows:



### KEY FOCUS AREA 1

#### Internal

Supporting research that underpins the PHN's strategic priorities.



### KEY FOCUS AREA 2

#### Internal

Collaborating with our partners to develop the research capacity of PHN staff to value-add to activity aligned with the PHN's stated remit from the Commonwealth.



### KEY FOCUS AREA 3

#### External

Supporting translational research specific to primary health care throughout the PHN region leveraging our partners.



### KEY FOCUS AREA 4

#### External

Actively participating in networks within the PHN region to ensure primary health care is represented.

## BACKGROUND

Primary Health Networks have three primary roles: To commission health services to meet the needs of people in their regions and address gaps in primary health care; to work closely with general practitioners (GPs) and other health professionals to build the capacity of the health workforce capacity to deliver high-quality care; and to integrate health services at the local level to create a better experience for people, encourage better use of health resources, and eliminate service duplication.

Through the four focus areas outlined in this framework, the PHN works to link the three primary roles stated above to provide underpinning evidence that will then:



**Inform needs**



**Deliver on capacity development**



**Improve health system integration**



**Local Health Districts**



**Universities**



**Research Institutions**



**Other Key Research Bodies**

The PHN partners with local health districts, universities, research institutions and other key bodies in research who prioritise the specific needs of our region (in line with the PHN's needs assessment) and then deliver highly translatable research findings that provide innovative and locally relevant solutions to measurably improve the health outcomes of our communities.

## ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS IN PRIMARY HEALTH CARE RESEARCH

The PHN supports relevant, high quality primary care research projects. In regard to external or partnered research, ethics approval must be completed by the lead researching organisation or individual through relevant Ethics Committees registered with the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC). The PHN requires appropriate ethics approvals to be completed, and is committed to ensuring ethical principles and practices are upheld in collaborative research projects.



For externally led publications where partners have used PHN information or input, the PHN or relevant lead staff member should be listed as a co-author.