Foreword

The rural health research landscape is like one of our iconic rivers, the Macquarie, the Darling or the Lachlan - rivers that are the lifeline for our communities. A healthy river does not happen in isolation, but is part of a larger ecosystem. When there are more sources of water flowing into this ecosystem, the current is stronger, the river is more resilient, the environment is productive and communities flourish. With the right balance of resources, a river can powerfully carve a new direction. Without this balance, the entire ecosystem is at risk.

Like a healthy river, our District can continue to carve a new direction in the health landscape to deliver high quality health care at the right time, closer to home. However, to achieve this, we need a robust research vision combined with the right balance of leadership, collaboration and resources.

This Research Strategy maps our bold vision for embedding a vibrant research culture to ensure healthier rural people - thriving communities.

We see this as an exciting time for Western NSW Local Health District as we look to build research leadership and excellence across the health research continuum - from clinical trials to community-led population health research tackling our biggest health issues. We recognise the barriers to equitable service delivery in the bush, but we believe these challenges also create unique opportunities for research and innovation to foster solutions relevant to our rural context.

Our Research Strategy seeks to strategically position us to be proactive for research opportunities so that by 2021, we are a leader in the delivery of world-class, meaningful rural health research.

On behalf of the District, we invite you to work alongside us so, together, we can make a real difference to the health and wellbeing of people living in Western NSW.

Mr Scott McLachlan
Chief Executive
WNSWLHD

Mr Richard Cheney
Executive Director, Allied Health and Innovation
WNSWLHD
The Western New South Wales Local Health District acknowledges the traditional custodians of the lands across our region. We acknowledge that we live and work on Aboriginal lands. We pay our respects to Elders past and present and to all Aboriginal people.

For too long, our rural population has either missed out on clinical trials or travelled very long distances to participate. We have now proven without doubt that regional NSW has a great trials team and very eager patients. More trials need to be offered so we can continue to improve the care provided in our region.

Dr Rob Zielinski, Director of the Clinical Trials Unit, Orange Health Service, WNSWLHD
Our Local Health District

Western NSW Local Health District (WNSWLHD) aims to provide the best possible care as close as possible to home for people living in the central-west of NSW. Our Local Health District includes facilities in more than 40 locations and operates 38 hospitals, 50 primary and community health services and 23 community mental health facilities. We have over 7,000 staff offering an extensive range of services, including medical, mental health, dental, allied health, surgical, acute services and primary health services.

We are the second most sparsely populated Local Health District in NSW, providing health services to an estimated population of 279,673\(^1\). It includes 22 local government areas, eight of which are classified as remote. The population of WNSWLHD is projected to increase by 2.4% by 2021 and 7.3% by 2036\(^2\). With approximately 3,700 babies born each year, our LHD has the highest total fertility rate compared to other LHD’s.\(^3\) Life expectancy, at birth, for men living in Western NSW is 78.7 years and 83.5 years for women, both lower than the state average.\(^4\)

We are proud of our nine Aboriginal\(^5\) Nations and the many language groups that exist within our region’s boundaries. Compared with other LHDs, WNSWLHD has the highest proportion of Aboriginal people in NSW, with a total of 32,312 or 11.5%, of the total population.\(^6\) This is significantly higher than the total NSW Aboriginal population of 3%. WNSWLHD has a strong commitment to improving the health and wellbeing of Aboriginal people as demonstrated by our District’s Improving Aboriginal Health Strategy 2018-2023 and Reconciliation Action Plan 2017-2019. These strategies will contribute to the Closing the Aboriginal Health Gap by embedding meaningful gains in Aboriginal health across all strategic focus areas.

We continue to make significant investments in improving the health and wellbeing of Aboriginal people in our region, however our District still has much more to achieve, given that Aboriginal life expectancy rates in NSW are lower than regional and state averages, with 70.5 years for Aboriginal men and 74.6 years for Aboriginal women.\(^7\)
Our District has been committed to Improving Aboriginal Health for some time now and despite significant investment and effort, we are still seeing our Aboriginal population show disadvantage across all health areas.

While we are implementing health service practices that are proven to be effective, we need to make a greater investment in research to help us to develop programs and services that are innovative, sustainable, transferable and have a positive impact on the lives of the many Aboriginal people across our District - now and into the future.

Brendon Cutmore, Executive Director, Aboriginal Health and Wellbeing, WNSWLHD
Value of Building Capacity for Rural Health Research

The NSW Rural Health Plan Towards 2021 aims to strengthen the capacity of rural health services to deliver the ‘right care, in the right place, at the right time’\(^8\). Rural and remote health services, by their very nature, are resourceful, dynamic and innovative in order to continually adapt and tailor services to meet the changing and very real needs of our rural communities. Although there are barriers to equitable service delivery, these issues also create opportunities for research and innovation that have potential to develop, implement and evaluate models for care better suited to rural contexts.

The National Health and Medical Research Council National Statement of Ethical Conduct in Human Research 2007\(^9\) describes human research as “research conducted with or about people, or their data or tissue” and can involve observations, surveys, focus groups interviews, accessing personal information or the collection of body organs, tissue or fluids.

The continuum of research activities extend from quality improvement projects, such as those led by the WNSWLHD Clinical Leadership Program, to building research capacity, such as the HETI Rural Research Capacity Building Program, to focused research, such as clinical trials, or via competitive grants including the NSW Health Translational Research Grants Scheme.

Robust and vibrant national health research systems in all countries are critical for accelerating the achievement of national and global health goals, namely better health, improved health equity, and fairer, safer and more efficient health systems. - WHO, 2012\(^9\)
There are many opportunities for locally-driven research in health care across this continuum, but to proactively foster innovation, we must embed a thriving research culture that turns genuine intentions into increased research output, knowledge translation, and meaningful health outcomes for people living in our region. This is reinforced by the NSW Population Health Research Strategy 2018-2022, which emphasises the need to create environments that actively promote the use of research in policy and practice\(^{10,11}\).

This Research Strategy outlines WNSWLHDs vision “to be an organisation that drives innovation and excellence in health care through a vibrant and proactive health research culture.” We know this will ensure better health care to people in our region because:

- It can save lives and improve patient safety, with evidence suggesting a direct association between higher levels of health organisation research activity and lower rates of patient mortality\(^{12}\).
- It has the potential to attract and retain high quality medical, allied health, nursing and academic staff in rural and remote regions\(^{13,14}\).
- Novel health research opportunities, such as clinical trials, can strengthen community advocacy, participation and ownership\(^{15}\).
- A research-active organisation can reduce costs to the health system\(^{16}\).
- It creates a culture of inquiry which has greater potential to be ‘scaled up’ to improve clinical practice across the whole organisation or system\(^{17,18}\).

*Embedding research leadership and capacity will harness bright ideas to close the divide in health outcomes within our District and in comparison to our city counterparts*

*Sharon McKay, General Manager - Southern Sector, WNSWLHD*
Our Research Strategy at a Glance

OUR PURPOSE: 
Healthier rural people

OUR VISION: 
To be an organisation that drives innovation and excellence

RESEARCH LEADERSHIP
- Developing a research leadership structure within WNSWLHD
- Building a critical mass by developing research capacity in the workforce
- Strengthening research translation via a research communication plan

RESEARCH COLLABORATION
- Supporting new and existing research collaborations
- Fostering collaboration with the peak body for health research in Western NSW
- Engaging the community in research, with a focus on priority populations

By 2021, WNSWLHD will have achieved:

Stronger research leadership
A positive, research-active culture that values and promotes research delivered and translated as core business across the District

Greater engagement in research
More WNSWLHD staff, academics and community members engaged in research with a measurable increase in quality and productivity

OBJECTIVES:
- Supporting new and existing research collaborations
- Fostering collaboration with the peak body for health research in Western NSW
- Engaging the community in research, with a focus on priority populations

OUTCOMES:
- Supporting new and existing research collaborations
- Fostering collaboration with the peak body for health research in Western NSW
- Engaging the community in research, with a focus on priority populations

PRINCIPLES:
- Co-production of rigorous research
- Collaboration & partnerships
- Capacity building

OUR PURPOSE:
Healthier rural people

OUR VISION:
To be an organisation that drives innovation and excellence

RESEARCH STRATEGY 2018-2021
Our Research Strategy is guided by four objectives and 12 priority areas. Over time, we expect that additional research priorities will emerge, especially given the changing landscape of the health research environment both nationally and within NSW.

- thriving communities

in health care through a vibrant and proactive health research culture

**RESEARCH INFRASTRUCTURE**

- Increasing dedicated research resources, with a focus on scaling up clinical trials
- Developing a one-stop information shop for health research in WNSWLHD
- Harnessing the potential for research by better utilising existing data sources

**RESEARCH ETHICS & GOVERNANCE**

- Having a high performing human research ethics committee
- Having a high performing research governance office
- Ensuring a smooth transition to Research Ethics and Governance Information System (REGIS)

**Communication about research & innovation**

**Community involvement**

**Commitment to a high ethical standard**

**An increase in research infrastructure**

Sustainable funding and other resources for research projects and innovation

**A high performing research governance office and Human Research Ethics Committee (HREC)**

The District is governed by a high performing Research Office that is complimented by a robust HREC
How we will achieve our vision

**OUR VISION**

To be an organisation that drives innovation and excellence in health care through a vibrant and proactive health research culture

**OUR FRAMEWORKS**

- Western NSW Health Research Network
- NSW Rural Health Research Alliance
- NSW Health & OHMR
- AHMRC
- NHMRC
- Advanced Health Research & Translation Centres
- NSW Health Pillars

**OUR PARTNERS**

- NSW Rural Health Plan: Toward 2021
- NSW Population Health Research Strategy
- NSW Health State Plan: Toward 2021
- eHealth Strategy for NSW Health
- GWHREC

**INTERNAL**

- Our staff
- Health Unit
- Organisational Development Unit
- Library Network
- Technology Enablement Strategy
- Workforce Strategy
- Living Quality & Safety Strategy
- WNSWLHD Strategic Plan
- NSW Health Plan
- NSW Aboriginal Health Plan

**EXTERNAL**

- Living Well Together
- Improving Aboriginal Health Strategy
- Health Promotion Strategy
- Clinical Service Plans
- Internal

- NSW Population Health Research Strategy
- NSW Health State Plan: Toward 2021
- NSW Rural Health Plan: Toward 2021
- NHMRC
- AHMRC
- WNSWLHD Strategic Plan
- Our staff
- Health Unit
- Organisational Development Unit
- Library Network
PHNs & ACCHOs

Opportunities for other partnerships

EXTERNAL

Health Professionals Workforce Plan

Parkes Hospital
LeHigh Health Services
Our Strategy

RESEARCH LEADERSHIP

Strengthen research leadership to support high quality research that aligns with WNSWLHDs strategic priorities

Developing a research leadership structure within WNSWLHD

- Develop a governance structure (the ‘WNSWLHD Research Office’) to support and embed research leadership across WNSWLHD
- Appoint the WNSWLHD Research Capacity Building Manager
- Establish a Research Steering Committee to oversee the implementation of the Research Strategy
- Develop research benchmarks and key accountabilities to measure and evaluate progress annually
- Identify key research priorities for WNSWLHD by consulting with clinical streams and key stakeholders, including a strong focus on priority areas such as Aboriginal health and chronic disease

Building a critical mass by developing research capacity in the workforce

- Undertake a WNSWLHD-wide survey of senior staff, managers and academic partners about strengths and barriers for undertaking research in the current environment
- Review key position descriptions and support the addition of research accountabilities and expectations into early-career, senior and manager roles
- Identify rural research champions and the next generation of health researchers by consulting with key stakeholders e.g. FHLAG, CLP, HETI Rural Research Capacity Building alumni
- Consult with Aboriginal staff about how to develop research-related skills and capacity

Strengthening research translation via a research communication plan

- Develop a research communication sub-strategy to proactively communicate and celebrate positive WNSWLHD research news through multiple channels and to a broad range of WNSWLHD staff and stakeholders
- Develop processes for monitoring, reporting and profiling research output
- Refresh the WNSWLHD internet and intranet sites with content relating to the ‘WNSWLHD Research Office’ (e.g. research stories, training opportunities, library updates, GWHREC)
- Plan and host district-wide research days, forums and other engaging events (e.g. Research Month) in collaboration with partners, such as WHRN and HETI

SHORT-TERM FOCUS (2018-19)

- Undertake a WNSWLHD-wide survey of senior staff, managers and academic partners about strengths and barriers for undertaking research in the current environment
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MEDIUM-TERM FOCUS (2020-21)

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- Develop research benchmarks and key accountabilities to measure and evaluate progress annually
- Identify key research priorities for WNSWLHD by consulting with clinical streams and key stakeholders, including a strong focus on priority areas such as Aboriginal health and chronic disease

- Publish results from survey and communicate findings and recommendations across the District
- Growth in the number of clinical Aboriginal health workforce and academic partners that enhance research excellence in the region, e.g. the recruitment of conjoint academic appointments or conjoint PhD candidates
- Implement and evaluate a mentoring program for rural research champions with the next generation of health researchers
- Identify and implement initiatives that invest in our staff to increase the clinical workforce with research qualifications and experience, including research secondments or exchanges

- Implement and evaluate the research communication sub-strategy with assistance from the WNSWLHD Communications and Engagement Directorate
- Implement processes for monitoring, reporting and profiling research output (such as a WNSWLHD research repository) and communicate outcomes via the annual WNSWLHD research report
- Ensure WNSWLHD maintains the relevance and currency of Research across the intranet and WNSWLHD websites
- Develop and implement a schedule of research forums and training events each year, including education seminars, annual research month, networking opportunities, ‘pitch your research idea’ seed funding summits, and conferences

Our Strategy
**RESEARCH COLLABORATION**
Foster key partnerships to build research capacity

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Supporting new and existing research collaborations</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Map current research alliances e.g. with universities, HETI, HIU, NSW Rural Health Research Alliance, OHMR, ACI</td>
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<tr>
<td>Support the initiatives and advocacy of the NSW Rural Health Research Alliance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Undertake a systematic review on building health research capacity in a rural health organisation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Focus on growing WNSWLHD-led research priority areas to leverage external partnerships that support the needs of the WNSWLHD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Facilitate regular exchange of shared ideas and purpose via research forums, online database, monthly research appreciation groups, and engaging with established programs such as CLP</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fostering collaboration with the peak body for health research in Western NSW</th>
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<tr>
<td>Develop and finalise a three-year agreement between WNSWLHD and WHRN</td>
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<td>Support a range of WHRN initiatives, including monthly research appreciation groups and the annual WHRN conference</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Collaborate on the communication of research-related news and educational opportunities via a shared communication strategy, including newsletters, social media and website</td>
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<tr>
<td>Develop a competitive seed funding process for locally-led research ideas</td>
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<tr>
<th>Engaging the community in research, with a focus on priority populations</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Undertake initial consultations with internal and external stakeholders, such as the Health Councils, to identify approaches to increase community participation and advocacy in research-related activities across Western NSW</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Identify strategies to target research engagement with priority populations in a culturally safe and respectful way, including Aboriginal people, people with disabilities, and people with mental illness</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Identify initiatives to increase community awareness about the availability of clinical trials across the District</td>
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**SHORT-TERM FOCUS (2018-19)**

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- Support a range of WHRN initiatives, including monthly research appreciation groups and the annual WHRN conference
- Collaborate on the communication of research-related news and educational opportunities via a shared communication strategy, including newsletters, social media and website
- Develop a competitive seed funding process for locally-led research ideas

**MEDIUM-TERM FOCUS (2020-21)**

- Increase in research output in WNSWLHDs key research priorities, MOUs, and other key outcomes in partnership with WNSWLHD collaborators
- Publish and translate findings of the systematic review
- Report on partnerships in annual WNSWLHD research report
- Proactively engage with AHRTC and other partners and track outcomes
- Continue to implement regular exchange of ideas to foster collaboration between clinicians and academic partners

- Evaluate the impacts of the partnership between WNSWLHD and WHRN
- Embed, increase and strengthen current and future WHRN initiatives
- Maintain a strong collaborative communication process for all research-related news, resources and opportunities
- Implement a competitive, locally-led seed funding process that aims to ‘scale-up’ quality improvement or research projects
- Increase the financial stability of WHRN
- Undertake scoping for the development of an incorporated Western NSW Health Research Institute

- Work in partnership with a range of internal and external stakeholders to implement approaches to increase community participation and advocacy in research across Western NSW
- Implement strategies to target research engagement with priority populations in a culturally safe and respectful way, including Aboriginal people, people with disabilities, and people with mental illness
- Implement and evaluate initiatives that increase community awareness and engagement of clinical trials

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“This is such an exciting time for the Western NSW Health Research Network. We have always worked closely with the Local Health District, but this partnership will formalise the sharing of research expertise, the support of local researchers as well as the strengthening of WHRN as a peak body for health research in Western NSW.

A/Prof Catherine Hawke, Founding WHRN Chair and Deputy Head of University of Sydney School of Rural Health
# RESEARCH INFRASTRUCTURE

Ensure sustainable funding and resources are available and easily accessible to all WNSWLHD staff

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Increasing dedicated research resources, with a focus on scaling up clinical trials</th>
<th>Developing a ‘one-stop shop’ for health research in WNSWLHD</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>SHORT-TERM FOCUS (2018-19)</strong></td>
<td><strong>MEDIUM-TERM FOCUS (2020-21)</strong></td>
<td><strong>As an Emergency Physician, I am excited at the possibilities research brings to my patients and our team. Just imagine the potential impacts we can have if innovation and clinically meaningful research is embedded in our work.</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Develop a research resources sub-strategy for financial support from external stakeholders such as government, private sector and philanthropy that is complementary to WNSWLHDs research priorities.</td>
<td>Develop a ‘WNSWLHD Research Office’ to increase overall accessibility of research support services for clinicians, academics, managers, community members and other key stakeholders.</td>
<td>Work in collaboration with the HIU and other key partners to support processes to ensure existing data is better utilised for research, clinical and organisational decision-making.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Build on previous success with state and national research grants by increasing collaboration with academic partners.</td>
<td>Create a centralised research information ‘one-stop shop’ within WNSWLHDs intranet and internet websites in partnership with key stakeholders as per the research communication sub-strategy.</td>
<td>Investigate IT and clinical information strategies to support real-time use of data in day to day practice.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Develop a WNSWLHD Clinical Trials Think Tank to oversee the development of the WNSWLHD Clinical Trials Strategy.</td>
<td>Ensure information is up-to-date, engaging and accessible to clinicians, managers, academics and community members with a broad range of research understanding and experience.</td>
<td>Develop training to support exchange with external agencies to improve data analytics capability across the Western NSW region.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>MONITOR AND REPORT ON KEY OUTCOMES</strong></td>
<td>Coordinate the sharing of research information via various engaging mediums, including WHRN newsletters and social media.</td>
<td>Increased capacity for real-time data analytics and linkage capability for clinical staff, managers and other key stakeholders.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Track outcomes of research resources sub-strategy via annual research report.</td>
<td>Maintain a current list of research activity and share via a range of mediums.</td>
<td>Increased uptake of internal and external clinical data requests to ‘WNSWLHD Research Office’, HIU and academic partners.</td>
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<td>Increase in sustainable research funding, with greater emphasis on private sector and philanthropy.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Enhanced engagement with NHMRC-funded AHRTCs.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Increase in successful outcomes for competitive research grants with scope for the employment of a grant writer to strengthen applications.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Recruit a WNSWLHD Clinical Trials Manager and associated positions and commence implementing the WNSWLHD Clinical Trials Strategy to ensure sustainable long-term leadership for clinical trials across Western NSW.</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>DEVELOP A ‘WNSWLHD RESEARCH OFFICE’</strong></td>
<td>Monitor and report on key outcomes of the ‘WNSWLHD Research Office’ via annual research reports.</td>
<td>As an Emergency Physician, I am excited at the possibilities research brings to my patients and our team. Just imagine the potential impacts we can have if innovation and clinically meaningful research is embedded in our work.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ensure sustainable funding and resources are available and easily accessible to all WNSWLHD staff.</td>
<td>Strengthen and maintain the ‘one-stop-shop’ for research support and ensure currency of information, such as grants information, GWHREC and a searchable list of research mentors.</td>
<td>Dr Melanie Berry, Emergency Physician, Orange Health Service, WNSWLHD</td>
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**RESEARCH ETHICS & GOVERNANCE**

Ensure a high performing research ethics and governance office to oversee all research activities across Western NSW

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Having a high performing research governance office</th>
<th>Ensuring a smooth transition to REGIS</th>
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<tr>
<td>Strengthen support for GWHREC to undertake timely and appropriate ethical review of research in WNSWLHD and FWLHD and also MLHD and SNSWLHD as per current SLAs</td>
<td>Recruit to the Manager Research Ethics and Governance and Administration positions</td>
<td>Work in partnership with OHMR and the REGIS Implementation Team to ensure a smooth transition to REGIS from June 2018-December 2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recruit new members to GWHREC and review membership on a regular basis</td>
<td>Ensure GWHREC completes a review of ethics applications within 45 days and the Research Office reviews SSAs within 15 days</td>
<td>Monitor monthly performance during the transition period and report back to key stakeholders</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strengthen the awareness about GWHRECs footprint across Western NSW, as per the communication sub-strategy</td>
<td>Design a strategy to engage earlier with researchers to strengthen the quality of research and improve ethics applications</td>
<td>Work individually with researchers and GWHREC to upskill them to learn about and adapt to the REGIS system</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Facilitate an annual face to face GWHREC meeting and continue to provide appropriate training</td>
<td>Review processes for Low and Negligible Risk ethics applications, as per OHMR directives, to improve efficiency and approval timelines</td>
<td>Deliver training about REGIS, as part of the ‘WNSWLHD Research Office’s’ training packages</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investigate options to support a local Clinical Trials HREC to support the growth in clinical trials across Western NSW</td>
<td>Identify and develop training for WNSWLHD staff about research, ethics and governance</td>
<td>Manager Research Ethics and Governance to be an active member of the REGIS User Group</td>
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<td>Identify and develop training for WNSWLHD staff about research, ethics and governance</td>
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<tr>
<td>Undertake an audit of all GWHREC approved research activities from 2016-2018 to understand the scope of health research across Western NSW</td>
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<tr>
<td>Commence consultations about increasing ‘WNSWLHD Research Office’ revenue e.g. via clinical trials and tele trials</td>
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<td>Strengthen awareness about GWHRECs footprint across WNSWLHD, FWLHD, SNSWLHD and MLHDs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ensure GWHREC committee has a strong and active membership</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Report on GWHREC metrics in annual research report and report to OHMR</td>
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<tr>
<td>Become accredited with the NHMRC by 2021</td>
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<td>Facilitate annual face to face GWHREC meetings</td>
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<td>Implement processes to establish a local Clinical Trials HREC</td>
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<tr>
<td>Achieve OHMR benchmarks for review of SSAs and HREC applications</td>
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<tr>
<td>Implement and evaluate strategies to engage earlier with researchers to strengthen the quality of research being conducted and improve ethics applications to streamline the review process</td>
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<tr>
<td>Implement and evaluate suite of training activities for WNSWLHD staff about research, ethics and governance</td>
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<tr>
<td>Undertake scheduled audits of research activities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ensure sustainable revenue and continue to broker future opportunities e.g. clinical trials</td>
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I would be so proud to work in a District where research lies at the heart of what we do – there are so many opportunities to embed research in day to day practice.

Dr Alice Munro, Research Capacity Building Manager, WNSWLHD
Contact our Research Office:

We encourage you to contact our Research Office if you are interested in working with us or finding out more. Please email:

WNSWLHD-ResearchOffice@health.nsw.gov.au

For all research ethics and governance inquiries, please email:

WNSWLHD-EthicsCommittee@health.nsw.gov.au

or please visit the WNSWLHD website: wnswhd.health.nsw.gov.au
or intranet website: wnswhd.gwahs.nswhealth.net
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Acronym</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ACI</td>
<td>Agency for Clinical Innovation</td>
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<td>ACCHOs</td>
<td>Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisations</td>
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<tr>
<td>AHMRC</td>
<td>Aboriginal Health and Medical Research Council of NSW</td>
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<td>AHRTC</td>
<td>Advanced Health Research and Translation Centre</td>
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<tr>
<td>CGU</td>
<td>Clinical Governance Unit</td>
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<td>CLP</td>
<td>Clinical Leadership Program</td>
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<tr>
<td>FHLAG</td>
<td>Future Health Leaders Advisory Group</td>
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<td>FWLHD</td>
<td>Far West Local Health District</td>
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<tr>
<td>GWHREC</td>
<td>Greater Western NSW Human Research Ethics Committee</td>
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<tr>
<td>HETI</td>
<td>Health Education &amp; Training Institute</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIU</td>
<td>Health Intelligence Unit</td>
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<tr>
<td>MLHD</td>
<td>Murrumbidgee Local Health District</td>
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<tr>
<td>MRFF</td>
<td>Medical Research Future Fund</td>
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<td>NHMRC</td>
<td>National Health and Medical Research Council</td>
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<td>Office of Health and Medical Research, NSW Health</td>
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<tr>
<td>PHN</td>
<td>Primary Health Network</td>
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<td>REGIS</td>
<td>Research Ethics and Governance Information System</td>
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<tr>
<td>RRCBP</td>
<td>Rural Research Capacity Building Program</td>
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<td>SNSWLHD</td>
<td>Southern NSW Local Health District</td>
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<td>TRGS</td>
<td>NSW Health Translational Research Grant Scheme</td>
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<td>WNSWLHD</td>
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Ensuring research is core business will drive innovation for our District to provide world-class health care right here in Western NSW

Scott McLachlan, Chief Executive, WNSWLHD
References


5  Within NSW Health, the term ‘Aboriginal’ is generally used in preference to ‘Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander’, in recognition that Aboriginal people are the original inhabitants of NSW. Throughout this document, the word ‘Aboriginal’ will be used to represent Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.


We received the first successful Translational Research Grant for our District. This funding was invaluable to help our team implement and evaluate the feasibility of CIRCuiTS, a web-based cognitive rehabilitation program to improve the functioning of people with schizophrenia.

Through offering the program, we now have evidence of participants achieving meaningful goals and making strong gains in their daily functioning. This program is bringing hope and making a difference in the recovery of people with schizophrenia in Western NSW.

Dr Matt Thomas, Senior Clinical Psychologist and TRGS Chief Investigator, WNSWLHD