

Personal & Societal Health Research Strategy



Our strategic alignment

The Adelaide University Strategic Ambition and Direction 2024–2034 informs the Adelaide University Research Strategy, which connects the five Signature Research Themes (SRTs) strategies individually and collectively.

Adelaide University Research Strategy

The Adelaide University Research Strategy is guided by the Adelaide University vision, ambitions, strategic drivers, and operating model. Our vision for research is to be Australia’s premier for-purpose research university, delivering outstanding locally-embedded, globally relevant research that has impact.

Creative & Cultural

Food, Agriculture & Wine

Defence & National Security

Sustainable Green Transition

♡ Personal & Societal Health

Our research ambitions



Be recognised among the world’s top 100 universities on an ongoing basis.



Be globally recognised as Australia’s leading for-purpose research university.



Rank first in Australia for industry income in research.



Be the destination of choice for the best global researchers, innovators, thinkers, and entrepreneurs in our priority areas.



Be Australia’s most connected university, partnering with the communities we serve, and an engine for innovation, productivity and growth.





Personal & Societal Health Research Strategy

The Personal & Societal Health SRT will drive research of the highest global standard, anchored in excellence and focused on real-world applications. By concentrating investment, multidisciplinary talent and strategic alliances on key research pillars and priority sectors, the SRT will position Adelaide University for global recognition, catalyse leadership, define South Australia as an innovation hub, and deliver significant, meaningful outcomes for society.

This approach is complemented by a genuine partnership with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples and knowledge systems, that is supported by a dedicated research strategy and embedded throughout the SRT strategy.

Our vision, purpose and goals

The Personal & Societal Health SRT has a vision, a purpose and goals to generate research outcomes and drive impact.

Vision

Improved health, equity, education and wellbeing for all.

Purpose

Through research excellence and partnerships, we discover, innovate and implement advances that promote equitable opportunities in human health, education and the creation of thriving societies.



Goals

- 1 Create a healthier society**
Respond proactively to the future challenges to personal and societal health including disruptive technology and emerging climatic and environmental threats, and conduct prevention-focused research to promote healthy lifestyles and reduce the burden of disease.
- 2 Build trust and capability**
Shape public policy that promotes equity and inclusion and improves connectedness and wellbeing.
- 3 Support a future biomedical and health economy**
Connect forefront discovery research excellence and an entrepreneurial culture to design, develop and deliver innovation in new health technologies, creating a thriving enterprise sector anchored in academic-led health innovation precincts.
- 4 Provide equitable access to world-leading academic-led health research**
Ensure everyone can engage with high-quality health research irrespective of socio-economic status, race, ethnicity, or regional/remote location.
- 5 Improve health outcomes, experience and quality-of-life of consumers**
Deliver research and consumer-informed systematic changes in models of care and increase access to a greater number of innovative clinical trials in hospitals, community clinics, aged care and primary care facilities across the state.
- 6 Deliver a skilled and innovative future workforce**
Our graduates, instructed by a research-informed curriculum and embedded research experience, will be the next-generation of enterprising clinicians, health practitioners, policy makers, social scientists, entrepreneurs and scientists, skilled in the use of communication, data, technology, and research methodology that underpins a healthy society.

Our strengths and differentiators

The value proposition for the Personal & Societal Health SRT is built on the existing unique strengths of Adelaide University.





Strategic campus footprint

Strategic footprint and integration within the health precinct, key health and wellbeing partners (SA Health, South Australian Sports Institute (SASI) and Northern Adelaide Local Health Network (NALHN), and powerhouse research institutes and centres to drive integrated health research.

Our prime footprint enables us to drive integrated research translation, knowledge exchange and collaboration with key partners and deliver equitable health impacts.



Extensive sector connections

Strong inter-professional connections linking our researchers with consumers and clinicians across key health and human services (e.g. social work) fostering integrated learning, research and practice alignment.

Our inter-professional stakeholder collaboration address community needs through holistic research, strong alliances and integrated care models.



Outstanding trans-disciplinary research

National leadership in trans-disciplinary health research, integrating public health, clinical science, social sciences, policy, and community engagement to address complex personal and societal health challenges holistically.

Our truly trans-disciplinary teams enable us to tackle health challenges systemically, develop uniquely effective interventions and achieve greater translational impact.



Integrated data and community insights

Proven integration of quantitative analysis (e.g. AI, biostats, epidemiology, econometrics) with community-based and social research expertise creates an active nexus where 'big data' insights are routinely enriched and validated by 'lived experience'

Our co-design of health and policy solutions builds trust, and actively addresses clinical and social problems with effective health, social and policy interventions.



Systems and policy influence

Strong national capability in research, addressing health and social problems at population and system levels, combined with significant strength in translating research into health, social and aged care policy.

Our expertise, scale, and policy leadership position us to shape agendas, secure grants and deliver meaningful solutions via government and health service alliances.

Our pillars of research focus and priorities

Focusing on five research priorities positions the Personal & Societal Health SRT to achieve its strategic goals.

Context

Our research priorities are clear and will be realised through directed investment and resource concentration.

Pillars of research focus

1

Discovery and personalised health

Discovery leading to personalised health care using molecular, genetic, epigenetic, data science and/or other profiling techniques.

2

Lifelong health and wellbeing

Preventing and treating health conditions and enhancing wellbeing across different stages of life.

3

Future health systems

Building the capacity and practice of the healthcare system to optimise efficiency and health outcomes for patients and the community.

Priorities

Establish national leadership in **personalised health**, with a focus on **cancer research integration** (holistic inter-disciplinary approach linked to patient journey) and **cardiovascular** research (precision devices and therapeutics), capitalising on our world-leading research talent and industry alliances.

Strengthen focus on population health, preventative strategies, and health systems – particularly in **reproductive and early life health**, **orthopaedics**, **musculoskeletal** conditions, and **mental health** – leveraging extensive legacy capabilities and alliances for impactful translation into policy and practice.

Lead research that optimises **health system** performance, aligned with state and national priorities, through existing strengths in **AI/ML**, **digital health** and changing **collaborative practice**, underpinned by leading **public health and health services** expertise.



4

Thriving communities

Inform and influence policy and practice for health, wellbeing and equity.

Lead research translation into social policy and practice to support thriving communities, producing impactful evidence to address **health and societal inequities**, reduce **system burdens** and enhance **wellbeing**, by prioritising genuine partnership and listening to define community and partner needs first.

5

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander equity

Culturally-safe and community-driven research to assess and improve outcomes with and for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples.

Champion community-led, culturally-appropriate research to advance the **health and wellbeing of First Nations Peoples**, supported by our national leadership in securing research funding and our dedicated language and cultural centres.

Our initiatives and strategic enablers

Pursuing five initiatives, supported by strategic enablers, generates value for the Personal & Societal Health SRT.

Strategic initiatives

These concepts will help us to deliver on our priorities:

ReAL Innovation

Research-engaged Action Laboratories for Innovation, a new model of engaged impact

ReAL - Healthy Societies

Enables and connects multidisciplinary academic research to industry and community, employing central and local hubs to drive research translation for enhanced quality, policy, efficiency, transformation and impact, to improve health and society. ReAL Healthy Societies comprises a hub providing:

- comprehensive expertise (methodology, biostats, health economics, ethics) to enable translation and application of multi-disciplinary research with our partners to our community, and
- driving health and social innovation by applying advanced digital analytics, AI and ML to linked discovery and health systems data.

ReAL - Whyalla

Centred on our Whyalla campus with a focus on local opportunities – including critical resources, green iron and health – ReAL Whyalla provides connectivity to research capacity across all Adelaide University locations and all ReAL Innovation initiatives, to drive regional socioeconomic progress.

ReAL - Policy & Government

Connects policy-makers, communities and researchers to co-design and evaluate innovative legal, social and economic frameworks, translating research into practice to tackle housing, education, justice, aged care, and climate challenges for a fairer, more resilient society.

Northern Gateway Health Precinct

Establish a place-based hub in the Northern Adelaide region integrating health education, community research and accelerator precincts, with alliances to address health inequities and deliver real outcomes.

First Nations Academy

Dedicated First Nations Academy, serving as the connecting 'structure' across SRTs and the home for relevant talent. It will be resourced to attract, steward and mentor talent, and support the implementation of the Personal & Societal Health strategy.

Strategic enablers

Institutional capabilities support our research efforts:

Lived Experience Partnership Program

Dedicated pathways (e.g. community fellowships and forums) bringing community members and patients with lived experience into the university to co-shape Personal & Societal Health research and build trust.

Research translation and commercialisation

Leverage the Enterprise Hub as a gateway for industry engagement and collaboration, supported by dedicated services for research translation, commercialisation pathways and export control compliance.

Showcasing research excellence

Implement a coordinated, University-wide approach to showcase Adelaide University's research centres, enhancing national and international visibility with unified messaging and targeted engagement strategies.

Reward and recognition systems

Revise academic advancement frameworks to incentivise diverse research impact, translation, and community value, tailored to disciplinary contexts and inclusive of lived experience in research and translation.

Research training and pathways

Increase research exposure and expand entry pathways through early engagement (e.g. high school), project-based scholarships, Work Integrated Learning (WIL), and embedded case studies for undergraduates, and broadened Master of Research pathways for non-traditional fields.



Personal & Societal Health also requires the establishment of a strategic program to deepen alliances with the vital NGO sector, fostering collaboration for impactful research, community engagement, student learning, and enhanced societal contribution.

Further enquiries

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