

2022-23 Network Research Strategy Annual Report Template

As outlined in Part C of the Service Agreement, the LHN is required to demonstrate support for health and medical research through the development of a Network Research Strategy (the Strategy) which fully integrates research into teaching and clinical practice and supports opportunities for translational research.

It is a requirement that the Strategy is reported against annually. Please use the template below to complete the annual report and submit to health.performance@sa.gov.au by 31 August 2023.

Date of Report:	30/8/2023	LHN:	Southern Adelaide
Submitted by:	Karen Saxty	Title:	Research Governance Officer

1. Summary of the LHN Network Research Strategy

The Research Direction 2021-24 is part of a broader strategic framework for SALHN. The vision for SALHN's strategic plan 2023-2027 is to strive for exceptional care by working together to improve health and wellbeing for the communities we serve through excellence in healthcare and research. The purpose of our Research Direction is to:

- strengthen research culture and enquiry
- improve capability both within SALHN and through partnerships

Reinforcing a culture of enquiry across our whole organisation is pivotal to the continued improvement and delivery of high-quality care. A key piece of our Research Strategy is the Four Fields of Enquiry (Discovery Science, Continuous Improvement/implementation Science, Clinical Trials, Health Services Research) which encapsulates both our research and improvement culture while capturing opportunities for further development.



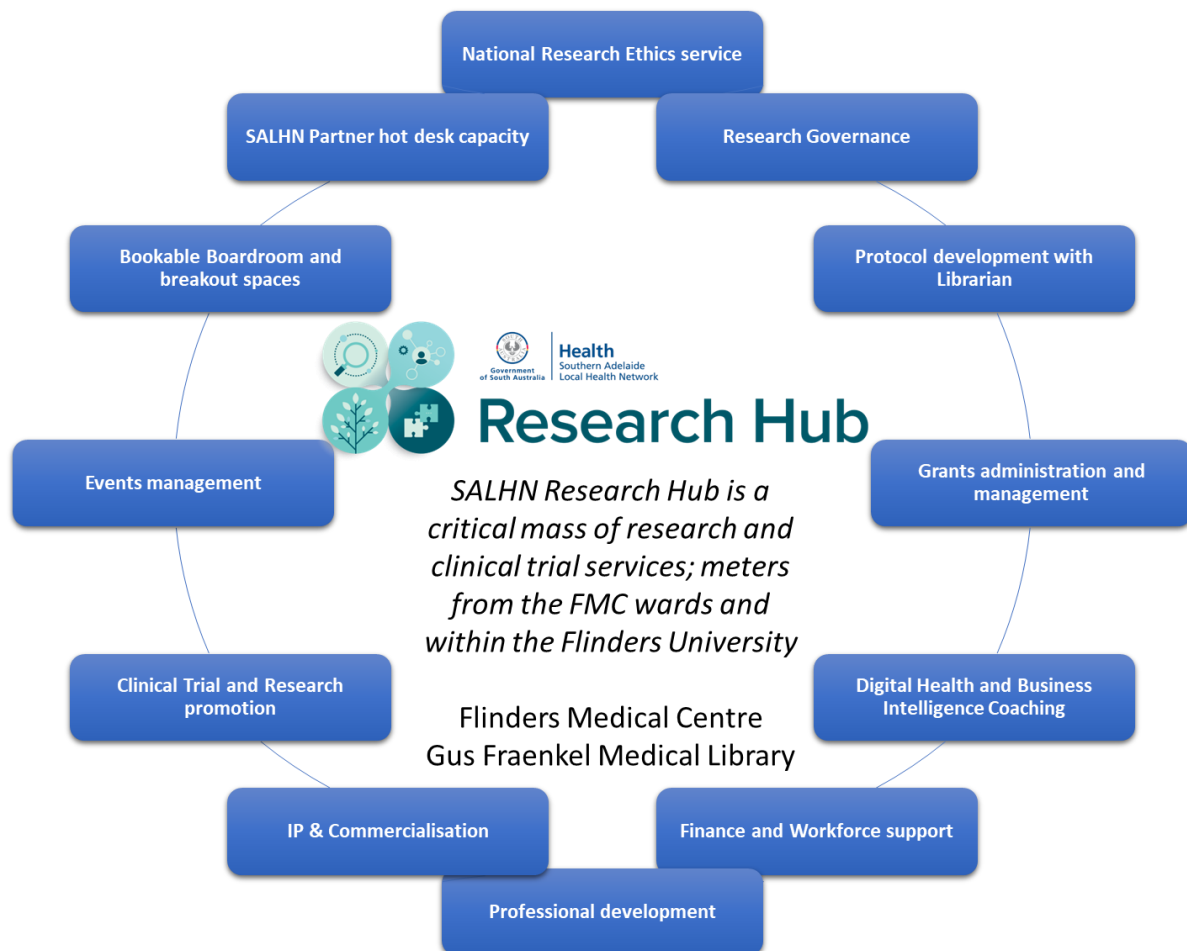
This has been assisted through:

- embedded research leads within each division
- plans to unite key elements including digital information, improvement expertise and governance, breaking barriers, and facilitating creative ideas and action
- a well-attended SALHN Research Week
- an annual SALHN Enquiry Grant Round.

2. Report on the Strategy progress and achievement in 2022/23

In the last financial we have built on the following strategies:

- National Clinical Trial Governance Framework – Jan 2023
 - SALHN’s National Clinical Trial Framework developed
 - SALHN Clinical Trials Feasibility Study
 - SALHN intranet revamped to align with the NSQIS
 - Establishment of a Clinical Trial Safety and Quality Nurse
 - Accreditation in June 2023 – SALHN was the first Network to undergo assessment against the National Clinical Trials Governance Framework in Australia
- SALHN Research Week – September each year (1500 attended in 2022)
- SALHN Inquiry Grant Round – Opened September 2022 – 23 grant winners – Total pool \$1.1 million which was supported by the Hospital Research Foundation and the Flinders Foundation. This ongoing relationship was confirmed for 2023.
- SALHN Research Hub – an initiative developed in collaboration with the Flinders University. The Research hub within the Gus Fraenkel Medical Library was opened on 14 August 2023.



3. How does the Strategy integrate research into teaching and clinical practice?

Priorities	Objectives	Achievements to date
1. Strengthening our research Voice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Identifying research leads and champions across all SALHN divisions and professional groups ➤ Establish SALHN Research Council to drive research operations ➤ Reflect on how health status is influenced by research 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Annual Research Week ➤ Annual SALHN Enquiry grant round ➤ SALHN NCTGF Network Outreach Strategy ➤ Lunch & Learn education sessions ➤ Research Updates ➤ Widening the scope for recruitment 'Find your Clinical Trial' project ➤ Supporting Allied Health and Nursing & Midwifery to increase research output.
2. Continually improving our research capability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Develop clear career pathways for staff who want to be involved in research ➤ Support early to mid-career researchers through strong supervision and mentorship ➤ Establish SALHN grants program ➤ Launch the SALHN Enquiry Seminar Series to showcase work focused on FFOE 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Four fields of enquiry employment register; Call for Expressions of Interest for Researcher roles and backfill ➤ Working with Flinders University & CNMER to develop structure Nursing & Midwifery career pathways ➤ Established Nurse Consultant Safety & Quality role within the research hub, improved governance will enhance accountability and oversight of research ➤ Enquiry Incubator Series
3. Establishing an environment that promotes collaboration in research and improvement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Establishment of a space and facilities to connect research and improvement science with our staff, consumers and partners 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Secure funding for external research and collaboration space ➤ Research Hub developed in the Gus Fraenkel Medical Library ➤ Unpaid Research Affiliate Pathway – in progress – development of a Working Group to establish a clear, secure and safe pathway for onsite activity for our research partners
4. Investing in research data and analytics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Launch a research data, analytics and metrics platform and program that connects key experts within SALHN for innovation ➤ Cultivating partners looking at big data to solving health system challenges 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Develop EMR reporting capability ➤ SUNRISE EMR Clinical Trial Reference Guide ➤ SUNRISE EMR – barcoded participant information sheet and consent form ➤ SALHN reporting framework – in draft ➤ SALHN Data Sharing Framework – in draft
5. Engaging our partners across health, academia and industry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Launch partnerships approach, ensuring alignment with SALHN's Community and Clinician Engagement Strategies ➤ Collaborate with partners through the Four Fields of Enquiry and Research Week ➤ Develop a precinct model for research within Southern Adelaide 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Research embedded into SALHN's Strategic Plan 2023-27 ➤ Working with the university to strengthen the precinct through a formal partnership ➤ Establishing a SALHN presence in the new Health and Medical Research Building
6. Engaging our consumers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Develop Consumer Engagement in Research Framework in alignment with SALHN's Consumer Engagement Framework ➤ Collaborate with our consumers to Listen, Act, Make Better together through research 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Consumer involvement in Research Week ➤ Consumer involvement in reviewing grant applications ➤ Consumer voice embedded into NCTGF steering committee ➤ Development of the Clinical Trials consumer information pack
7. Mobilising our research alumni	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Bring our research Alumni together to champion our successes and support our SALHN research community ➤ Recognize past, present and emerging research excellence at SALHN 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Grants program with the enabling capacity for our clinicians ➤ PhD Scholarships ➤ Support for industry PhD scholarships
8. Optimising our research operations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Continuously review research ethics and governance processes to provide a world class service to our SALHN research community ➤ Implement and support digital technology to enhance the management of research at SALHN 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Integrated Management System/daily huddles ➤ Reports on turnaround times ➤ Development of a Feasibility Assessment Procedure ➤ Safety and Quality Nursing position

4. How does the Strategy support opportunities for translational research?

- Enquiry grant round with a focus on translation and impact
- SALHN Research Week
- PhD scholarships – two externally funded in 2022
- Research training at induction and via intranet
- Engagement with industry and organisations such as MTP Connect – Adelaide Intermediary Program, Health Translation SA in the Research Hub

5. How will the Strategy develop next year?

The network will review the governance structure for research strategy and what role we play in the Flinders Health and Medical Precinct. A key deliverable will be to establish data driven priority setting, focus on partnerships within the precinct and beyond, and engagement to encourage clinician researchers and consumers. The plan is to restructure the Office for Research to become the Research Hub and we will prepare for a new strategy in 2024.

6. Research Deliverables

6.1 Research Summary									
Item	Number	Comments							
Number of health and medical projects undertaken by the LHN by specialty/discipline	Active: 736 Completed:110	Health Services: 240 Clinical Trials:373 Laboratory:46 Data linkage/registry: 77 COVID-19:9							
High impact publications derived from research undertaken by LHN (optional)	698	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>2020-21</td> <td>525</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2021-22</td> <td>390</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2022-23</td> <td>698</td> </tr> </table>	2020-21	525	2021-22	390	2022-23	698	
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Research funding won by LHN researchers and distribution of funding	\$5,077,000	Figure does not include all NHMRC and MRFF administered via Flinders Uni, UniSA, Uni of Adel or other collaborators.							
Clinical trial activity across LHN, including numbers of new clinical trials commenced	75 new 373 active								
a) <i>Commercially sponsored</i>	32								
b) <i>Investigator-initiated</i>	26								
c) <i>Cooperative Research group</i>	11								
d) <i>Other</i>	6								
Clinical trial participation rates across LHN	71% of recruitment met	Recruitment data collected during 2023 for the National Clinical Trials Governance Framework							
Significant outcomes of research, including successful translation of research into illness prevention, health promotion, clinical service delivery, health policy and health systems management as well as commercialisation of intellectual property by LHN researchers.									

SALHN Enquiry Grant Round

The proposed research must be of potential benefit to SALHN patients and be aligned to SALHN's Four Fields of Enquiry (Discovery Science, Clinical Trials, Health Services Research Continuous Improvement/Implementation Science). This was achieved with support from the Flinders Foundation and the Hospital (total pool \$1.1million)

The primary aims of the SALHN Research Grants are to:

- Facilitate the conduct of high-quality clinical research that benefits the SALHN community and beyond.
- Make SALHN a destination of choice for high performing clinicians interested in conducting research, improvement, or implementation.
- Provide career pathways for our staff who are or want to be involved in research, improvement, and implementation.
- Support our early to mid-career clinician researchers in kickstarting their research career.
- Establish and grow a SALHN grants program that our patients, staff, and community can be proud of; and
- Foster a culture of enquiry across the entire SALHN organisation.

Completed studies – 1 of 9 approved in 2021 – researchers have 2 years to complete their study – Result highlighted below

Title: Bridging the gap in early ear screening and intervention for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in southern Adelaide

Researcher: Anika Edler
 Contact: Anika.edler@sa.gov.au
 Phone: 82044366

Total grant value: \$69, 908
 Total grant spent: 69, 908
 Start date of research: 01/03/2022 – completed June 2023

Presentation planned – SALHN Research Week 22/9/2023

Results

Results from the parent yarning and health journey mapping sessions, as well as the Aboriginal Family Clinic (AFC) staff yarning sessions identified multiple facilitators and barriers for patient attendance at AFC Noarlunga. All their responses were underpinned by the importance of culture and that it is an inherent part of all their interactions, beliefs and experiences every day documented in table below

AUDIOLOGY AT AFC NOARLUNGA	
FACILITATE (+)	BARRIERS (-)
Things that work	Things that don't work
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communication • AHP • Aboriginal Staff • Community based service location • Transport 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transport • Family Issues • Past experiences • Short term services • Short staffed • Lack of ongoing training • No ongoing funding
SOLUTIONS	
Current	Potential
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SMS the day before appointment • Clinic transport (case by case) • Emergency appointments 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funded transport • Phone call reminders day before appointment • More dedicated staff • Education and training
CULTURAL COMPETENCY & UNDERSTANDING	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flexibility • Family dynamics • Shame, feeling misunderstood, judgement • Trust 	

Recommendations:

The current study identified several key recommendations:

- Ongoing funding for a dedicated program lead, senior Audiologist,
- Funded transport that is available to all patients, not on a case-by-case basis,
- More AHP trained in ear screenings and operation of audiology clinic,
- More support for coordination of ear screening program,
- Combined Audiology and ENT clinics at AFC,
- Phone call reminders vs SMS,
- Parent education on ear health






Impact

Now that the project has reached its completion, a brief to SALHN executive will be made along with a business case proposal to obtain more long-term, sustainable funding. The study identified that there is a need for ongoing, stable funding to allow for staffing stability, staff training and upskilling and adequate resources.

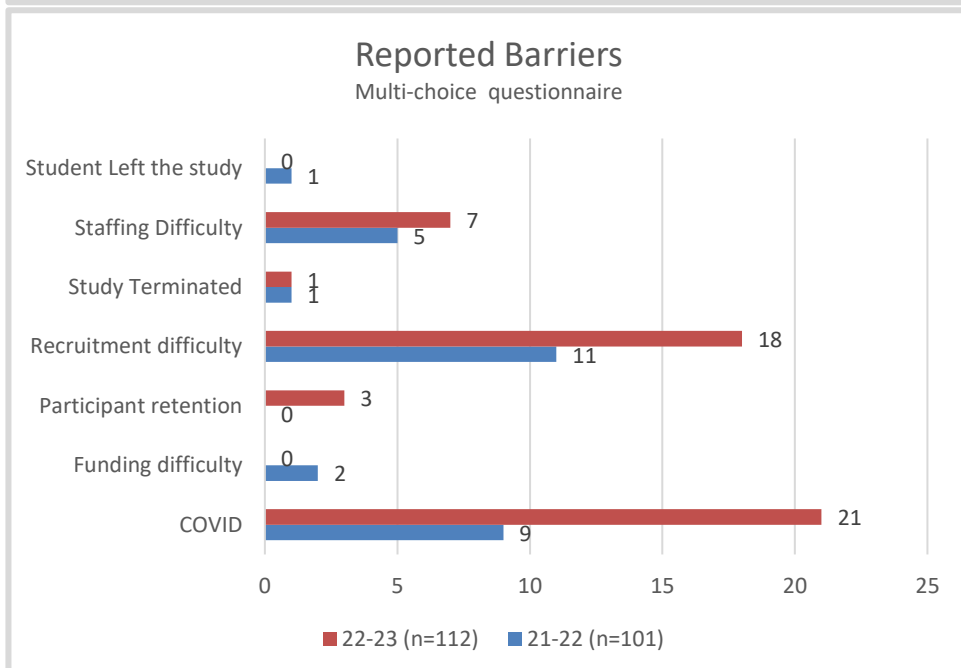
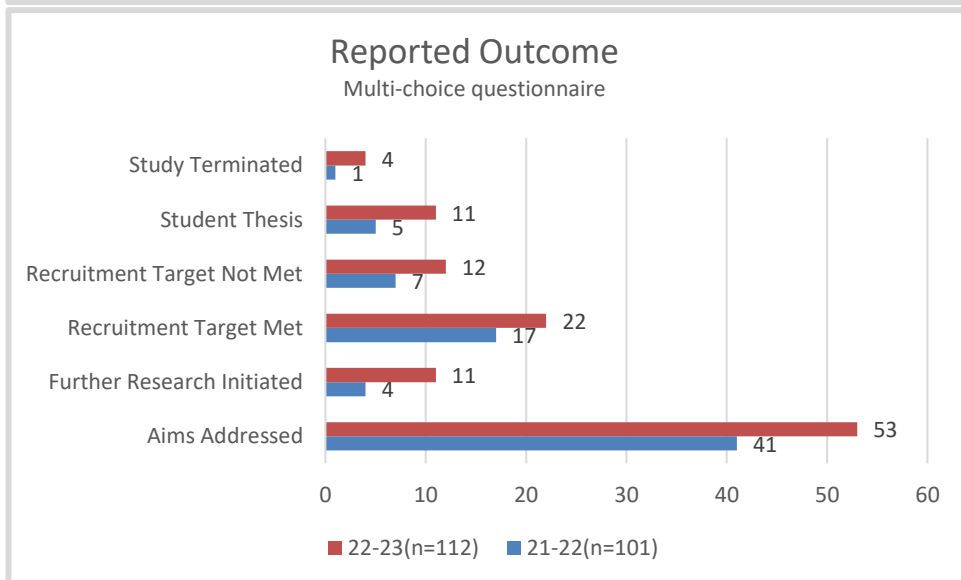
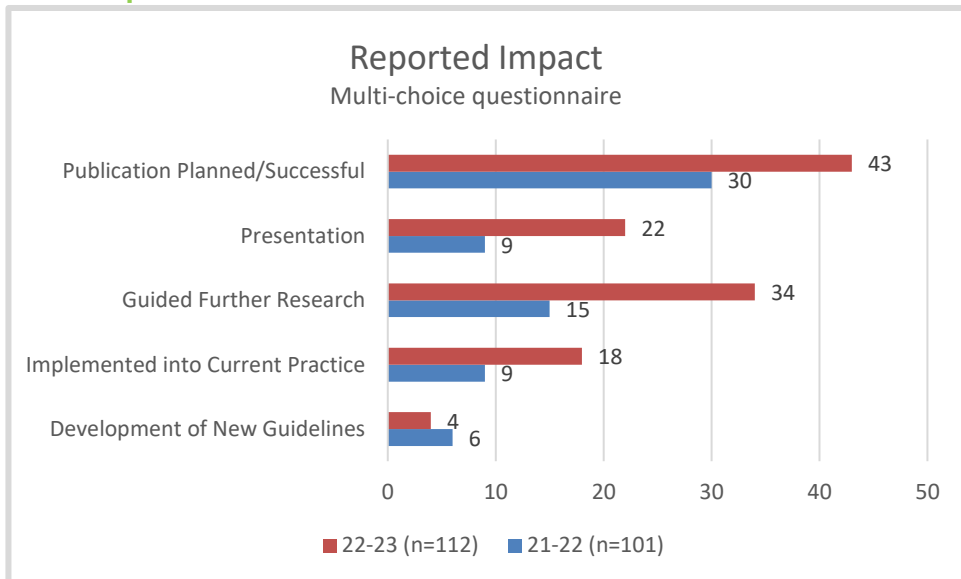
The project identified that community trust in services is tied to the sustainability of a project as well as access to crucial resources such as transport. The business case proposal aims to allow for more funding to be received for FMC Audiology and Aboriginal Family staff to establish a sustainable, long-term hearing and ear health program at the Aboriginal Family

	<p>Clinic in Noarlunga.</p> <p>The aim is to also spread awareness about the importance of providing culturally safe and appropriate services in community settings, by presenting this project's findings to SALHN Allied Health, AFC staff and at the Audiology Australia conference in 2025. Additionally, there is a plan to publish the project's finding in a suitable journal.</p> <p>From a community perspective, the yarning and mapping sessions allowed community members to come together, meet each other and share yarns about their experiences in accessing ear health services and health care in Southern Adelaide.</p> <p>The sessions highlighted how important the ear clinic has been to families, in particular the location of the clinic (community setting) and the importance of connecting with Aboriginal staff.</p> <p>Overall, the project has highlighted the important of having culturally responsive, adaptive and representative health care services in the community. It is through such settings that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander can gain trust in health services and are therefore more likely to access services when they need them.</p>
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Public videos of SALHN grant recipients speaking about the impact of their Research Programs

<p>Rohan Rehabilitation for surgical cancer treatment: What are the beliefs, attitudes, barriers, and enablers to participation? - Rohan Miegel Rehabilitation for surgical cancer treatment - 2022 SALHN Research Grants - YouTube</p>  <p>Sara Discovery of novel inhibitors of dimethylarginine dimethylaminohydrolase 1 (DDAH1) for the treatment of affective disorders - Dr Sara Tommasi Discovery of inhibitors of DDAH1 for the treatment of affective orders - 2022 SALHN Research Grants - YouTube</p>  <p>Darling Dissecting mechanisms of immune checkpoint inhibition for renal cancer - Dr Darling Rojas-Canales https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FsfR6rqeCvs&list=PL4cN2ejifY46IDj-RfkspV4_avSs6lyVR&index=3</p> 	<p>Stephen From drab to FAB! Partnering with consumers, families and staff to revitalise the dining experience for SADU consumers From Drab to Fab – 2022 SALHN research grant recipients - YouTube</p>  <p>Jordan Quality of life of kidney cancer patients with nephrectomy and their next of kin Quality of life of kidney patients and their next of kin - YouTube</p> 
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Evidence of Impact, Outcome and Barriers from Final Reports



7. Key Performance Indicators

KPI Title	KPI Description	End of Year Result	Comments
HREC Applications	Approval within 60 calendar days for more than low risk applications or for low risk applications that are deemed by the HREC Chair to require full HREC review	97%	
SSA Applications	Authorisation within 30 calendar days for more than low risk applications	94%	
Expedited Joint Ethics and SSA Applications	Approval within 20 calendar days for low risk applications	80%	<p>We introduced three corrective and preventive strategies during 22-23:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Recruitment of additional low risk reviewers with the committee ➤ Reviewer asked to complete the review within one week or nominate another review if unable to do so ➤ New review pathway – governance prior to ethics
LHN Executive Endorsement			
Executive Sponsor	Professor Andrew Bersten	Title	Executive Director Research
Signature:		Date:	31/08/2023

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