

# Projects granted a waiver of consent

In certain circumstances, it is justifiable to grant a waiver of consent, as opposed to obtaining informed consent from research participants. Conditions are outlined in Section 2.3.10 of the National Statement on Ethical Conduct in Human Research (2023).

Under section 2.3.12 “it is the responsibility of each institution to make publicly accessible summary descriptions of all research projects for which consent has been waived”. The waiver of consent may cover the collection/use of part or all of the data/information required for the project.

**The Department for Health and Wellbeing Human Research Ethics Committee has granted a waiver of consent for the following projects since 2023:**

Project	Status	Date
<p><b>Long term effectiveness of meningococcal B vaccine (4CMenB) against gonococcal infections</b></p> <p><b>CPI:</b> Prof Helen Marshall <b>Institution:</b> The University of Adelaide</p> <p><b>Summary</b> Emerging evidence suggests that the licensed meningococcal B (MenB) vaccine, 4CMenB is effective against gonococcal infections due to cross reacting antibodies and 95% genetic homology between the two bacteria, Neisseria meningitidis and Neisseria gonorrhoeae, that cause the diseases. This project aims to undertake epidemiological and genomic surveillance to evaluate the long-term protection of 4CMenB vaccine against gonococcal infections in the Northern Territory (NT) and South Australia (SA), and to determine whether booster vaccine doses are required to provide longer term protection against gonococcal infections.</p>	Approved	March 2023
<p><b>Personalising colorectal cancer prevention strategies with a risk stratification tool</b></p> <p><b>CPI:</b> Dr Molla Wassie <b>Institution:</b> Flinders University</p> <p><b>Summary</b> Colorectal cancer is the second leading cause of cancer death in Australia. People who are at increased risk for this cancer are recommended to have regular colonoscopies, with minimal personalisation to the individual’s risk factors (such as age, diet and lifestyle). This study will develop a computerised risk factor tool to personalise cancer prevention strategies for this high-risk subgroup of the population thereby utilising colonoscopy resources more efficiently.</p>	Approved	March 2023
<p><b>Association of COVID-19 attack rate and outbreak duration with adverse health outcomes in residents living in South Australian Residential Aged Care Facilities: a retrospective observational study</b></p> <p><b>CPI:</b> Dr Mitchell Acland <b>Institution:</b> Communicable Disease Control Branch, SA Health</p>	Approved	March 2023

<p><b>Summary</b> With the aim of improving public health response to COVID-19 outbreaks in residential aged care facilities (RACFs), our study investigated the association of COVID-19 attack rate and outbreak duration with adverse health outcomes for residents with COVID-19 infection. This study used retrospective observational data from 128 South Australian RACFs which experienced COVID-19 outbreaks over a 6-week period in 2023. This revealed a significant association between increased COVID-19 attack rates and severe health outcomes, a result which emphasises the importance of preventing initial and ongoing transmission of COVID-19 in RACFs to protect the health of vulnerable residents.</p>		
<p><b>Optimising medication use and improving health outcomes in hospitalised middle-aged and older adults with multimorbidity</b></p> <p><b>CPI:</b> Prof Sepehr Shakib <b>Institution:</b> The University of Adelaide</p> <p><b>Summary</b> The research aims to identify individuals at higher risk of medication-related problems to improve medication use in adults with multiple chronic medical conditions. It will assess the risk of adverse drug reactions, hospital readmissions and death associated with the use of guideline-directed medicines.</p>	Approved	March 2023
<p><b>The Walking Communications Campaign Project</b></p> <p><b>CPI:</b> Dr Natasha Schranz <b>Institution:</b> Preventive Health SA</p> <p><b>Summary</b> This project evaluates two waves of a South Australian (SA) walking mass media campaign, linked to the overall SA Walking Strategy and the goal to change the 'community culture towards recognising walking' as convenient, affordable and health-promoting. Evaluation was formative (pre campaign), process (campaign implementation and delivery) and impact. The process evaluation was dominated by social media marketing in Wave 1, with substantially more paid TV media and radio in Wave 2. The impact evaluation comprised two surveys of adult South Australians (n=800 each) following each wave of the campaign. This detailed and structured evaluation of a comprehensive mass media campaign showed good reach, and population changes in perceptions and walking behaviour amongst South Australians.</p>	Approved	April 2023
<p><b>Uptake and efficacy of prophylactic and therapeutic COVID-19 medications on morbidity and mortality outcomes in South Australia</b></p> <p><b>CPI:</b> Dr Emmanuel Gnanamanickam <b>Institution:</b> Central Adelaide Local Health Network</p> <p><b>Summary</b> This study aims to assess the usage and outcomes of pre-exposure prophylaxis (before infection treatment for high risk groups) and early antiviral treatment of COVID-19 in South Australia. Specifically, it aims to answer the following questions i) what is the usage of antiviral medications amongst eligible patients? ii) what are the outcomes (morbidity and mortality) of South Australian patients at different stages of medication access while Omicron was the dominant variant? iii) what is the efficacy and outcomes of pre-exposure prophylaxis (with tixagevimab and cilgavimab) in high risk patient groups? iv) what is the effect of covid-19 vaccinations on the relationship between covid-19 treatments and outcomes?</p>	Approved	May 2023

<p><b>Prevalence of polypharmacy or multimorbidity and frailty in hospitalised middle-aged and older adults</b></p> <p><b>CPI:</b> Prof Sepehr Shakib <b>Institution:</b> The University of Adelaide</p> <p><b>Summary</b> The research aims to determine the prevalence of polypharmacy (patients taking 5 or more medicines), multimorbidity (patients with two or more chronic medical conditions) and frailty in middle-aged and older adults admitted to hospital. It will also assess the uptake of medications for common cardiovascular conditions.</p>	Approved	May 2023
<p><b>Risk of adverse birth outcomes associated with maternal exposure during extreme ambient temperature</b></p> <p><b>CPI:</b> Dr Adriana Milazzo <b>Institution:</b> The University of Adelaide</p> <p><b>Summary</b> This project will examine the effects of extreme ambient temperature on preterm birth, stillbirth and low birth weight risk, and identify critical exposure windows during pregnancy, by assessing the number of excess adverse birth outcomes attributable to heatwaves. Findings will provide evidence and recommendations for locally-appropriate interventions, best-practice antenatal protocol and opportunities for prevention in the context of climate change.</p>	Approved	May 2023
<p><b>Using deep learning to predict COPD patient outcomes obtained from administrative data linkage.</b></p> <p><b>CPI:</b> A/Prof Sutapa Mukherjee <b>Institution:</b> Flinders University</p> <p><b>Summary</b> The investigators will use all the clinical data available on individuals with COPD to determine which parameters are most useful to predict long term outcome and prognosis from COPD. This deep learning project is likely to provide new variables as a focus for further research.</p>	Approved	June 2023
<p><b>Health, development, and social welfare in South Australia: The Better Evidence Better Outcomes Linked Data (BEBOLD) e-Cohorts</b></p> <p><b>CPI:</b> Prof John Lynch <b>Institution:</b> The University of Adelaide</p> <p><b>Summary</b> BEBOLD is an updatable linked data platform including all SA birth cohorts from 1991. It contains de-identified information from health, education, social welfare, housing and child protection sources. Research using BEBOLD spans several themes concerning improving life outcomes for children, young people and families experiencing health, social or socioeconomic disadvantage. Our research program holds Indigenous Data Sovereignty as a core principle, and we support several projects led by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander researchers.</p>	Approved	July 2023
<p><b>Surveillance of COVID-19 in South Australia, Annual Report 2021</b></p> <p><b>CPI:</b> Dr Emily Fearnley <b>Institution:</b> SA Health, Communicable Disease Control Branch</p>	Abandon	July 2023

<p><b>Examination of the relationship between rainfall, mosquito abundance, and human case incidence of Ross River Virus (RRV) and Barmah Forest virus (BFv) in South Australia from 2017-2023.</b></p> <p><b>CPI:</b> Dr Adriana Milazzo <b>Institution:</b> The University of Adelaide</p> <p><b>Summary</b> This study aims to investigate the relationship between rainfall, mosquito abundance, and disease incidence of Ross River Virus (RRV) and Barmah Forest virus (BFv) in South Australia from 2017 to 2023. By examining these key environmental factors, the study seeks to enhance our understanding of the epidemiology and ecological dynamics of these mosquito-borne diseases.</p>	Completed	September 2023
<p><b>The Patient Journey for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples with a Road Traffic Injury</b></p> <p><b>CPI:</b> A/Prof Courtney Ryder <b>Institution:</b> Flinders University</p> <p><b>Summary</b> Transport injuries disproportionately impact individuals in remote areas, those in lower socioeconomic situations, and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander populations. There is a lack of insight into transport injuries in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities. This project is addressing characterising the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander patient journey after a serious road traffic injury, along with barriers to access for road traffic compensation.</p> <p>Protocol URL: <a href="https://injuryprevention.bmj.com/content/30/1/75">https://injuryprevention.bmj.com/content/30/1/75</a></p>	Approved	November 2023
<p><b>Clustering of health behaviours among young adults in South Australia and its effect on health and wellbeing</b></p> <p><b>CPI:</b> Dr Kamallesh Venugopal <b>Institution:</b> Preventive Health SA</p> <p><b>Summary</b> This study aimed to identify clusters of health behaviours among South Australian young adults and examine their association with health and wellbeing outcomes. The study used data from South Australian Population Health Surveys (SAPHS) collected between 2018 up to 2023. Behavioural clusters were determined based on ten health related behaviours (six diet related behaviours, smoking, sleeping, alcohol consumption and physical activity). Latent class analysis was used to identify behavioural clusters. Selection of covariates were made a priori using directed acyclic graph. This study highlights that health behaviours among South Australian young adults are clustered and a considerable proportion of the respondents exhibited risky lifestyle.</p>	Approved	April 2024
<p><b>Early childhood cancer and development: a national linked data study</b></p> <p><b>CPI:</b> Dr Jennifer Baldock <b>Institution:</b> Cancer Council SA</p>	Abandon	April 2024
<p><b>Oral health, general health and aging</b></p> <p><b>CPI:</b> Dr Gloria Mejia <b>Institution:</b> The University of Adelaide</p>	Approved	May 2024

<p><b>Summary</b> This project examines the epidemiology of oral health conditions with regard to general health, multi-morbidity and mortality. The project will use previously collected data from two cohorts of older adults, with added information from linked administrative datasets. The South Australian Dental Longitudinal Study (SADLS-1) was conducted between 1991 and 2002. The Intergenerational Change in Oral Health Study (SALDS-2) was conducted between 2013 and 2016.</p>		
<p><b>Health behaviour patterns and relationships with wellbeing and health care utilisation among cancer survivors: the impact of multimorbidity</b></p> <p><b>CPI:</b> Dr Katia Ferrar <b>Institution:</b> Flinders University</p> <p><b>Summary</b> Using cluster analysis, this study will use data from the South Australian Population Health Survey (2023) to investigate patterns of health behaviours, relationships with health outcomes and healthcare utilisation, and explore the impact of multimorbidity. Cluster analysis has been underutilised with survivors of cancer and presents an opportunity for targeted intervention strategies for South Australians living with and beyond cancer.</p>	Approved	May 2024
<p><b>Economic evaluation of a virtual Emergency Department, the South Australian Virtual Care Service</b></p> <p><b>CPI:</b> Prof Jonathan Karnon <b>Institution:</b> Flinders University</p> <p><b>Summary</b> The South Australian Virtual Care Service (SAVCS) is a virtual emergency department that allows an emergency department doctor to treat patients through video-conferencing with an ambulance officer, residential aged care or disability staff, or remote/regional healthcare staff. The economic impacts on the health system are not well understood and we aim to answer the questions of whether the additional costs of the SAVCS are justified by its impact on the health system and patient outcomes, and whether there is variation in costs and outcomes for different components of the SAVCS. Our modelling approach will use routinely collected health systems data to describe patient pathways for patients who used the SAVCS and to estimate counterfactual pathways predicting patients pathways if they had not used the SAVCS. We will then model the effects of the difference in observed and counterfactual pathways on health system flow and patient outcomes.</p>	Approved	June 2024
<p><b>Assessing Risks, Managing Rights: An Exploration of Information Sharing Provisions in Child Protection.</b></p> <p><b>CPI:</b> Bianca Broadwood <b>Institution:</b> University of South Australia</p> <p><b>Summary</b> This study explores the impacts on health consumers' human rights when information sharing requests are made under Section 152 of the Children and Young People (Safety) Act, 2017. Two methods are used, a focus group with SA Health Social Work Advisory group members and analysis of case reports analysing responses made by SA Health Social Workers to the information requests made by the DCP under the Act. Qualitative thematic analysis will be undertaken. This study will inform the practice of SA Health social workers, improving their patient centred practice and promoting accountability, human rights, and social justice.</p>	Approved	July 2024

**BEBOLD and PLIDA: Better data driving better outcomes for children, young people, families and communities**

**CPI:** Prof John Lynch

**Institution:** The University of Adelaide

**Summary**

BEBOLD-PLIDA brings together the ABS managed, federal data asset, the Person Level Integrated Data Asset (PLIDA) with the SA Better Evidence Better Outcomes Linked Data (BEBOLD) platform. The joint dataset is housed in the high security ABS Datalab. Our research program using BEBOLD-PLIDA focuses understanding lifecourse processes related to health, social, and economic circumstances of populations including their health and human services use, and how these experiences relate to a range of health, development, education, and wellbeing outcomes. Our research program holds Indigenous Data Sovereignty as a core principle, and we support several projects led by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander researchers.

Approved

July 2024