

Menzies Centre for Health Policy

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University of Sydney

Strategic Plan 2011 – 2013

The University of Sydney Menzies Centre for Health Policy (the Menzies Centre) Strategic Plan guides the strategic, business and operational plans of the Menzies Centre for the 2011 – 2013 triennium. It serves as a tool to convey what we stand for, our priorities and future direction.

The current environment

The Menzies Centre has an important role as an independent voice on health policy in Australia. It has become increasingly obvious that to fully respond to the emerging opportunities within the University and the wider government health reform agenda the Menzies Centre needs to strengthen and expand its role.

A number of opportunities have been identified that support the University's Strategic Plan and are within the scope and capability of the Menzies Centre. They also respond to some of the major challenges facing policy makers to ensure the maintenance of the community's good health.

The Menzies Centre is leading a major new initiative in the establishment of a formalised Sydney Health Policy Network. The Network will be modelled on current successful models within the University and will also respond to the University's Strategic Plan by creating a cross disciplinary, horizontally integrated policy network with the express purpose of supporting the planning for the Centre for Obesity, Diabetes and Cardiovascular Disease.

In addition, the Menzies Centre Health and Sustainability Unit leads the University of Sydney Institute for Sustainable Solutions Health Theme. Sustainability is a major emerging issue which is growing in size and intensity and is a highly competitive area among academic institutions. Sustainability has a broad reach gathering environmental, political and economic factors that have a bearing on the health and wellbeing of communities and individuals. It will become a major stream of public health in the foreseeable future and, so, will be of central importance to the University.

The national health reform agenda is the most significant external opportunity for the Menzies Centre. These reforms are far reaching and cover all aspects of the funding, governance and structure of health and aged care services. The policy underpinnings of the government's reforms are neither precise nor explicit. The need for independent debate, analysis and commentary has never been greater. This is a role the Menzies Centre has been investing in and building for some time.

Vision **Australians and people elsewhere are protected by health policies and systems that are consistent with their values and priorities and able to deliver safe, high quality health care that is sustainable in the long term.**

Mission **The Menzies Centre for Health Policy will be the University of Sydney’s leading centre for research, analysis, advice and education that influences health policy and practice in Australia and elsewhere.**

Ambitions ***Futures* – policies for a sustainable and efficient health system and workforce.**

***Equity* – policies for equal access to equal care for equal need.**

***Serious and continuing illness* – policies that meet the challenges of prevention and minimise the burden of chronic illness.**

***Governance* – policies for systems that achieve quality, efficiency and accountability.**

Strategies	Conduct high quality research and analyses that influence policy and practice.	Provide a forum for knowledge transfer and communication of policy options.	Deliver excellent health policy education and training.
Actions	Provide independent health policy analyses that take account of the research and scholarship available in the scientific literature and the Menzies Centre’s research of policy options and the policy environment.	Establish the Sydney Health Policy Network to facilitate effective knowledge transfer, linkage and exchange between University of Sydney researchers, educators and advocates.	Contribute to the delivery and promotion of the Master of Health Policy.
	Deliver high quality research and consultancy projects on time and within budget.	Establish effective linkages to federal, state and territory governments, Non-Government Organisations, health care providers and other stakeholders to influence policy and practice.	Identify and meet the need for short courses in health policy.
	Develop and communicate strategies for the application of Menzies Centre research and analyses in health policy and practice.	Deliver outstanding seminars and workshops that address the Menzies Centre vision, mission and ambitions and strategic areas of interest to	Attract, supervise and mentor postgraduate research students.

Sydney Health Policy Network members.

Develop a role for the Menzies Centre to 'add academic value' to projects being delivered by other organisations.

Develop mechanisms for communicating the activities of the Menzies Centre and Sydney Health Policy Network within the University and externally.

Host visiting scholars and postgraduate students pursuing projects that align with the research strengths and interests of Menzies Centre staff.

Respond to calls for grant and tender applications that address the vision, mission and ambitions of the Menzies Centre.

Raise public awareness of health policy issues and their implications by providing media commentary.

Publish papers and reports from projects and deliver papers at seminars/conferences.

Seek sponsorship and/or corporate membership fees from government and non-government sources to fund the activities of the Menzies Centre and Sydney Health Policy Network.

Respond to invitations to make submissions to government consultations by providing a critical and independent appraisal of the policy proposals.

Provide an environment that supports staff, students and associates to achieve personal goals and the Menzies Centre mission and ambitions.