

Menzies Centre for Health Policy

Strategic Plan 2011 – 2013

The 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 conveys 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. The Menzies Centre operates from nodes at The Australian National University and University of Sydney.

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 crystal clear 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.

The Menzies Centre at the Australian National University focuses on health policy as it relates to primary care. It advances knowledge through excellence in research, education and community engagement, and in particular by: adding to the world's stock of knowledge through original inquiry and intellectual discourse; enhancing understanding of Australia – its economy, society, culture and environment – and its position in the region and the world; exploring the important problems and issues that confront the nation, the region and the world, and working to provide solutions; and informing the public through leading open discussion of those issues.

The Menzies Centre at the University of Sydney focuses on multiple aspects of the management of patients with chronic health problems. It also leads 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 University of Sydney Centre for Obesity, Diabetes and Cardiovascular Disease.

Supplementary Strategic Plans developed for each node respond to opportunities identified in the respective host institution's Strategic Plan. They also respond to the major challenges as the Menzies Centre perceives them to be that are facing policy makers to ensure the maintenance of the community's good health.

Vision	Australians and people elsewhere will be protected by health policies and systems that are consistent with their values and priorities and able to preserve health and deliver safe, high quality health care that is sustainable in the long term.		
Mission	The Menzies Centre for Health Policy will be a leading centre for research, analysis, advice and education that influences health policy and practice in Australia and elsewhere.		
Ambitions	<p><i>Futures</i> – policies for prevention, a sustainable and efficient health system and workforce.</p> <p><i>Equity</i> – policies for equal access to equal care for equal need.</p> <p><i>Serious and continuing illness</i> – policies that meet the challenges of prevention and minimise the burden of chronic illness.</p> <p><i>Governance</i> – policies for systems that achieve equity, quality, efficiency and accountability.</p>		
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 to develop a more intelligent appreciation of policy options and the policy environment.	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.
	Deliver high quality research and consultancy projects on time and within budget.	Deliver outstanding seminars and workshops that address the Menzies Centre vision, mission and ambitions.	Attract, supervise and mentor postgraduate research students.
	Develop and communicate strategies for the application of Menzies Centre research and analyses in health policy and practice.	Develop mechanisms for widely communicating the activities of the Menzies Centre.	Host visiting scholars and postgraduate students pursuing projects that align with the research strengths and interests of Menzies Centre staff.

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

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

Provide national leadership in developing postgraduate coursework programs in health policy at masters level.

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

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

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.