

**The Research College
for Health and Wellbeing**

and

**The Research Institute
of Prevention and Health**



The Deakin Strategy for Research Management and Development

- 'broadening the base' through identification of research concentrations within specific areas which can be formed into Research Colleges that bring together researchers from throughout the University and promote development of strengths and the emergence of new research groups; and
- 'strengthening the strong' through establishment of Research Institutes that combine the work of leading researchers to create new synergies and promote sustained excellence through central support.



The Research College: Four Research 'Pillars'

Conducting research along the continuum from pure research through to application and service delivery.

Translational research by six foundation groups has been within four 'themes'. These four themes become the 'pillars' of the College:

- Preventing chronic diseases;
- Managing complex health conditions;
- Optimising health service delivery; and
- Enhancing community wellbeing.



The Research College: Multiple Disciplines Relevant to Health Issues

The major health and wellbeing challenges that face Australia and the world are complex and multi-faceted.

The research necessary to meet those challenges must come from a range of disciplines across the behavioural, health, technological, social, political and basic sciences as well as management, economics, law, education geography and history.

Because of its discipline composition, the Research College for Health and Wellbeing will be well-suited to conduct such research.

Our plan, which is built on current practice, is for the Research College to bring the disciplines together in the conduct of integrative, multi-disciplinary, translational research that addresses the issues that are of major significance to the Australian and world communities.



The Research College Vision and Objectives

Our vision for the Research College is that, on the basis of a body of innovative, high impact translational research, it becomes an internationally recognised 'centre of excellence' for the study and resolution of major complex health and wellbeing issues.

The main objectives of the Research College include:

- **expansion and extension of our research program so that it more effectively integrates the disciplines in addressing the complex global health issues affecting all communities and produces translational outcomes;**
- **development of an international profile and reputation as a 'centre of excellence';**
- **dissemination of research findings in relation to specific project outcomes and the knitting together of comprehensive resolutions of major complex health issues;**
- **recognition and adoption of our integrative research model;**
- **establishment of significant international collaborations and partnerships that provide a resource base that ensures sustainability of the Research College;**
- **establishment, over time of research institutes that will emerge from the increasing concentration of particular research groups on specific research areas at the interfaces of existing disciplines and areas of enquiry.**



The Research College's Foundation Groups

- **The Centre for Mental Health and Wellbeing Research (MHW).** This group currently has 23 members. Over the period 2004 – 2006, group members were awarded \$4.5 million in competitive grants, produced 172 C1 publications, and had 53 HDR completions. The group currently has 90 HDR candidates and significant partnerships with 9 organisations.
- **The Centre for Physical Activity and Nutrition Research (C-PAN).** This group has 20 members. Over the period 2004 – 2006, members of this group were awarded \$4.9 million in competitive grants, produced 146 C1 publications, and had 2 HDR completions. C-PAN currently has 34 HDR candidates. The group has significant partnerships with 12 organisations.
- **The Molecular Medicine and Nutrition Research Group (MMNR)** has 18 members. Over the period 2004 – 2006, group members were awarded \$9.8 million in competitive grants, produced 136 C1 publications, and had 6 HDR completions. The group currently has 36 HDR candidates and significant partnerships with 35 organisations.
- **The Promoting Equity and Social Justice Group (PESJ).** This group has 34 members. Over the period 2004 – 2006, members of the group were awarded \$2.1 million in competitive grants, produced 104 C1 publications, and had 21 HDR completions. The group currently has 49 HDR candidates and significant partnerships with 27 organisations.
- **The Public Health Research, Evaluation and Policy Group (PHREP).** This group has 16 members. Over the period 2004 – 2006, group members were awarded \$14.1 million in competitive grants, produced 153 C1 publications, and had 10 HDR completions. The group currently has 22 HDR candidates and significant partnerships with 27 organisations.
- **The Quality and Risk Management in Clinical and Aged Care Research Group (QRM).** This group has 16 members. Over the period 2004 – 2006, members were awarded \$4.3 million in competitive grants, produced 96 C1 publications, and had 4 HDR completions. The group currently has 21 HDR candidates as well as significant partnerships with 21 organisations.



The Research College's Partnerships and Collaborations

The foundation research groups that will comprise the Research College have been among the University's most substantial contributors in the area of partnerships.

Those partnerships involve collaborative activities with government departments at all levels, industry peak bodies, public and private health care organisations, hospitals and other universities.

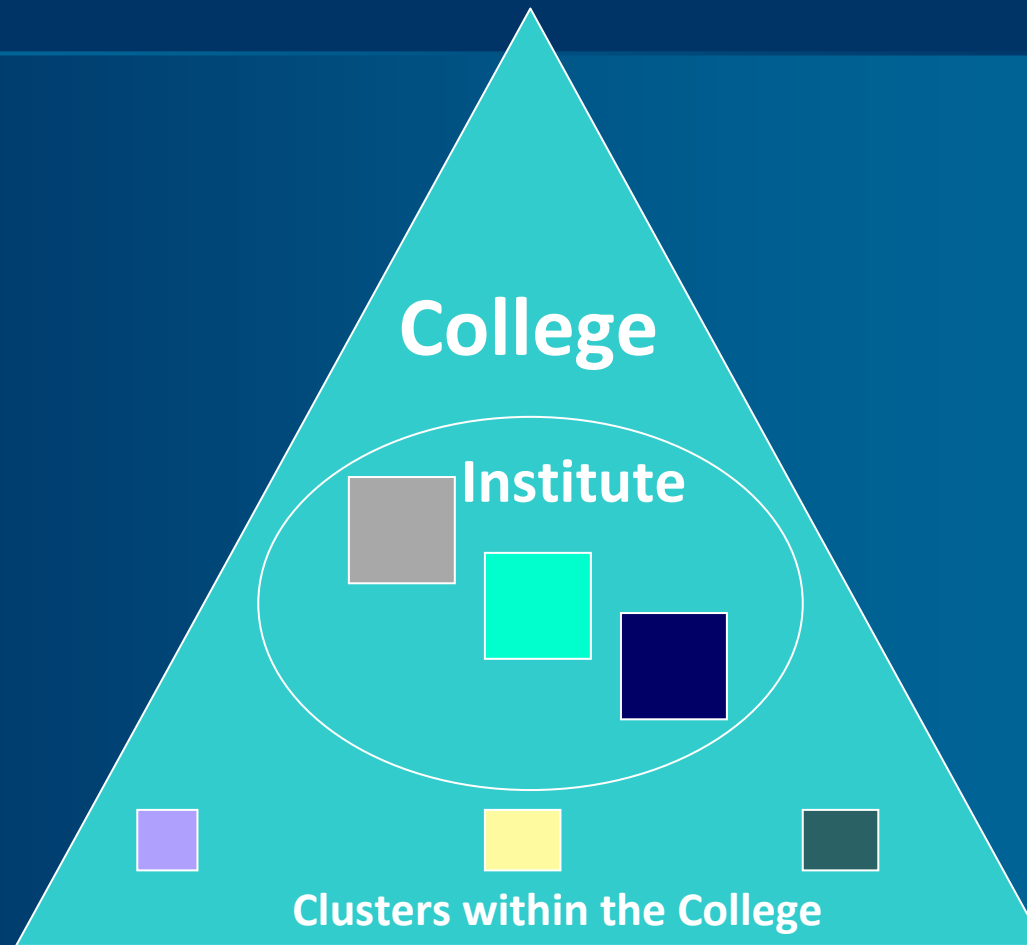
The breadth of activities reflects the focus of the foundation research groups on the four themes of preventing chronic diseases, managing complex conditions, optimising health services, and enhancing community wellbeing.

The existing partnerships also reflect the strong commitment to improving health and well-being of the communities that we serve.

Growing and strengthening existing partnerships as developing new strategic partnerships is one of the strategies for growing the Research College.



The Research College for Health and Wellbeing: A Dynamic Structure



The Research Institute of Prevention and Health: an Institute to Complement the College

The Research Institute of Prevention and Health which we are proposing will comprise the work of three elements of the Research College for Health and Wellbeing. The elements of the proposed Institute include:

- Behavioural Epidemiology – Led by Professor David Crawford in association with professors Bass and Nowson, this group has focused its research program on identifying and influencing physical activity and nutrition behaviour.
- Mental Health Promotion and Intervention – Led by Professor Marita McCabe in association with professors Cummins, Graffam and Toumbourou, this group has focused on addressing mental health issues for 'high risk' groups (adolescents, the aged, and disadvantaged groups).
- Health Policy and Health Economics – Led by Professor Boyd Swinburn in association with Professor Carter, this group has focused on public health policy and program evaluation, as well as health economics research.

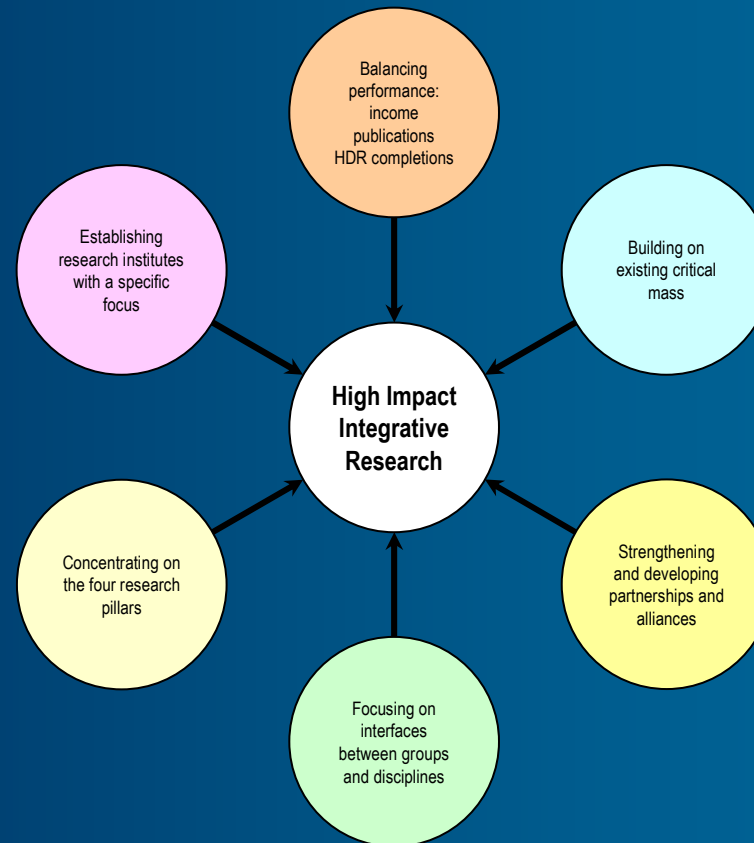


The Research College's Research Model

- Balancing performance in terms of income, publications, and HDR completions;
- Building on existing critical mass with additional academic appointments plus strategic funding from the University to accelerate what has been rapid growth over the past several years;
- Strengthening existing strategic government, industry, and community partnerships and alliances that the founding groups have developed and adding significant partnerships as the Research College grows;
- Increasing collaborations among research groups to focus on the interfaces between groups and on research into complex conditions that require integrative, multi-disciplinary research designs;
- Concentrating on the four research pillars of preventing chronic diseases, managing complex conditions, optimising health services, and enhancing community wellbeing; and
- Establishing research institutes, each with a specific research focus, that combine the work of internationally recognised lead researchers.



The Research Model in Action



The Research College Business Development Model

Our development plan is predicated upon five elements:

- **recruitment and appointment of additional academic staff within Schools who are themselves 'active researchers';**
- **allocation of a modicum of funding for the Research College that will provide additional support to current research group leaders;**
- **strategic appointment of additional full time researchers who will focus on development of innovative multi-disciplinary projects at the interfaces of the foundation research groups;**
- **establishment of health and wellbeing research 'hubs' on each of the Geelong and Melbourne campuses; and**
- **establishment of the Research Institute of Prevention and Health with strategic central University funding for appointment of additional research staff, as well as a management and administration structure for the Institute.**

In the first five years, development can be ensured by a continuation of internal University funding which has been approximately 10% of the external income earned; an increase to 12% is considered necessary to sustain substantial growth.

Continuity of internal funding is considered necessary for the Research College. Substantial central strategic funding for the Research Institute of Prevention and Health will be necessary as well.



The Research College for Health and Wellbeing: Competitive Advantage

Deakin University has a well developed and well deserved reputation for 'making a difference' and for being a 'can do' university, while many universities have reputations for being conservative and inflexible.

The work of the Research College will focus on solutions-based research, relevant to current and emerging health conditions that impact on individuals, communities, the nation, and the international community. 'Real world' relevance of the research provides another competitive advantage.

The lead researchers have strong track records of collaborative research and working in partnership with government departments, major health service providers, and community organisations across a wide range of settings.

The focus on all four fundamental elements of systemic health solutions (our 'pillars') gives the Research College a very definite competitive advantage.



The Research College for Health and Wellbeing: Competitive Advantage

There are features of the Research College model that also provide a competitive advantage:

- the 'systemic approach' that is possible by consolidating the six foundation groups and focusing direct attention and application of resources on the four themes;
- the balance in income, publications, and creation of the next generation of researchers through research training;
- the critical mass that we have already assembled together with projected academic staff increases and strategic funding to appoint additional lead researchers to work in innovative areas at the interfaces of existing work and disciplines;
- the combination of pure/basic, clinical/applied, population health, and systems level analyses that allow the work to address complex issues comprehensively;
- the range of disciplines that are represented gives us the ability to implement an integrative, multi-disciplinary, translational, high impact research model; and
- the capacity to grow and develop additional concentrations within specific areas of research that allow establishment of additional research institutes based on demonstrated critical mass of work and international recognition and reputation.

