
2023 Annual Report

Health Equity Research and Development Unit (HERDU)



slhd-herdu@health.nsw.gov.au



Sydney
Local Health District



UNSW
SYDNEY

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The Health Equity Research and Development Unit acknowledges the Gadigal People of the Eora Nation as the traditional owners of the land on which the HERDU office is located. Sydney Local Health District is located on the lands of the Gadigal, Wangal, and Bediagal people of the Eora Nation. We recognise the strength, resilience, and capacity of Aboriginal people on this land. The University of New South Wales is located on the unceded territory of the Bedegal (Kensington campus), Gadigal (City and Paddington Campuses) and Ngunnawal Peoples (UNSW Canberra) who are the Traditional Owners of the lands where each campus of UNSW is situated.

Contact

slhd-herdu@health.nsw.gov.au
Level 1, 18 Marsden Street, Camperdown 2050 NSW

FOREWORD

I am pleased to present the Health Equity Research and Development Unit (HERDU) Annual Report for the 2023 calendar year. HERDU is committed to conducting high quality research that aims to identify and address health inequities. Our work is grounded in the principles of social justice, equity, and diversity, and we strive to ensure that our research has a positive impact on those who are experiencing inequities.

Over the past year, HERDU has concentrated on key areas of equity research, including understanding and embedding equity, social determinants of health, people and places, and health systems research. We have maintained our focus on translating research into action with a growing emphasis on integrating equity principles and practices into systems and institutions. Building on our work from the [Covid-19 Equity Focussed Health Impact Assessment](#) where we examined equity-focused responses to the pandemic, we have been reviewing international best practices and literature to inform our update of the Sydney Local Health District Equity Framework.

Our team has been focussed on advancing our understanding of complex issues and developing effective strategies for improving health outcomes for all community members. Through partnerships with community organisations and local government, we have been able to investigate relationships between place, health and wellbeing. A highlight this year has been our partnership with the [Waterloo Peer Educator Program](#) to understand how and why the program works to achieve its goal of making it easier for Waterloo residents to “live a healthier, more engaged, and fulfilled life”.

In addition to our research work, HERDU has also been actively engaged in knowledge translation and dissemination activities. We have hosted seminars and workshops throughout the year, bringing together researchers, clinicians, and policy makers to discuss the latest research findings and to develop strategies for addressing health inequities in the community and our health system. We have also published research papers in high-impact academic journals and presented internationally. Another highlight was the launch of the [Working Together: Collaboration for Health. A practical guide](#) at this year's Innovation Symposium.

This year, we have made significant investments in strengthening our capacity building initiatives. We updated the content of our Inequalities, Inequities and Health Masters course (PHCM9626), resulting in a record number of students. Furthermore, we offered 15 places to NSW Health staff on the Health Impact Assessment (HIA) course, contributing to the enhancement of their skills and knowledge. These endeavours align with our commitment to building the capacity of individuals and organisations to address health inequities effectively.

Overall, the past year has been productive and successful for HERDU. We remain committed to advancing our understanding of health equity and to developing effective strategies for addressing health inequities in the community and our health system. Looking ahead, a key focus will be updating the Sydney Local Health District Equity Framework and developing tools, resources, and equity-focused ways of working together. We extend our gratitude to everyone for the vital role you play in supporting our work; we couldn't do it alone.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Fiona Haigh'.

Associate Professor Fiona Haigh
Director, Health Equity Research and Development Unit
Sydney Local Health District and Centre for Primary Health Care and Equity,
University of New South Wales

ABOUT HERDU

The Health Equity Research and Development Unit (HERDU) was established in 2013 as a District service in partnership with the Centre for Primary Health Care and Equity (CPHCE) at the University of New South Wales (UNSW).

WHAT WE DO

HERDU works collaboratively with health services, organisations and communities to conduct high quality research to identify and explain causes of health inequities, to develop evidence of effective actions to prevent, reduce or eliminate inequities in health, and to evaluate the impact of implementation.

HOW WE DO IT



Collaborate

HERDU collaborate with government, non-government, private and community organisations to identify and take action to address inequities in health.



Conduct high quality research

HERDU conduct high quality research to identify underlying structures and beliefs that shape health inequities, to develop effective actions to prevent, reduce or eliminate inequities in health, and to evaluate the impact of implementation.



Develop capacity and capability

HERDU develop capacity and capability to increase health equity by working with SLHD staff, partner organisations, communities, and students.



Re-orient

HERDU re-orient local health services, policies and plans towards improving health equity.

HERDU TEAM



Associate Professor Fiona Haigh
Director
(She/Her)



Associate Professor Marilyn Wise
Senior Academic Advisor
(She/Her)



Dr Christopher Standen
Applied Urban Development Fellow
(He/Him)



Dr Esther Alloun
Research Associate
(She/Her)



Miriam Olliek
Strategy, Engagement, and Communications Manager
(She/Her)

Additional Staff Updates

Aboriginal Research Officer:

Wendy Jopson (She/Her), FTE 0.2, is providing Aboriginal Research Support to the HERDU team (funded by UNSW CPHCE until December 2024).

Service Development Manager:

Jude Page (She/Her), FTE 1, is currently on secondment to SLHD Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Program (until June 2024)

Research Fellow:

Dr Cathy O'Callaghan (She/Her), FTE 0.4 is providing support to the HERDU team (until December 2024)

Senior Project Officer:

Cathelijne van Kemenade (She/Her), FTE 0.4, is providing support to the HERDU team (until June 2024)

HERDU ORGANISATIONAL CHART



Sydney
Local Health District



UNSW
SYDNEY

Chief Executive,
Sydney Local Health District

Faculty of Medicine,
University of NSW

Executive Director, Clinical Services
Integration and Population Health,
Sydney Local Health District

Executive Director, Centre for Primary Health
Care and Equity, University of NSW

Director HERDU
1 FTE UNSW
Associate Professor
Fiona Haigh

Research
Fellow
0.8 FTE UNSW
Dr Christopher
Standen

Research
Associate
0.8 FTE UNSW
Dr Esther
Alloun

Senior
Academic
Advisor
0.2 FTE UNSW
Associate Professor
Marilyn Wise

Strategy,
Engagement &
Communications
Manager
1 FTE SLHD
Miriam Olliek

Research
Fellow
(Casual support
Staff)
Dr Cathy
O'Callaghan

Senior Project
Officer
(Casual support
Staff)
Cathelijne van
Kemenade

Aboriginal
Research Officer
(Casual support
staff, UNSW
CPHCE funded)
Wendy Jopson

HERDU FOCUS AREAS

There are three focus areas that HERDU uses to support the Sydney Local Health District to reduce health inequities. They are research, service development, and education.

1: Research

Conducting high quality research to identify underlying structures and beliefs that shape health inequities, to develop effective actions to prevent, reduce or eliminate inequities in health, and to evaluate the impact of implementation.

2: Service Development

Re-orienting local health services, policies and plans towards improving health equity. Working with government, non-government, private and community organisations to identify and address the social determinants of health inequity.

3: Capacity building and education

Developing leadership skills and capacities to increase health equity, through training of SLHD staff, partner organisations, communities and students.

2023 HIGHLIGHTS



Finalised the Equity Focused Health Impact Assessment, on the District's response to the COVID-19 pandemic and the response and recovery plans to inform future crisis responses.



Delivered the Inequalities, Inequities and Health Masters Course (PHCM9626) in Term 2, with a record number of 55 students registering to participate.

Delivered the Health Impact Assessment Masters Course (PHCM9628) in Term 3. 20 complimentary places were offered to NSW Health staff to participate in a workshop component of the course, providing capacity building and support to enhance their skills and knowledge about Health Impact Assessments.



Published and launched the Working Together Collaboration for Health Guide, a joint publication by Sydney Local Health District and the University of New South Wales Centre for Primary Health Care and Equity. The publication is a practical guide for organisations and people working together to resolve complex health problems across sectoral, organisational, and professional boundaries. The guide draws on the experiences of health workers and other social service providers to identify, illustrate, and provide insight into the factors that play important roles in determining the success of working together.



Led the 2023 Community Health Navigator Forum, a partnership initiative between the District, Central and Eastern Sydney Primary Health Network, and the Centre for Primary Health Care and Equity at University of New South Wales, aimed at highlighting the value of Community Health Navigator



HERDU received a Highly Commended Award for the 'Equity Focused Health Impact Assessment of the Covid-19 Pandemic in the District' at the Sydney Local Health District Innovation and Excellence Awards presented at the Annual General Meeting on 6 December 2023.

The Award category focussed on celebrating submissions that showcased collaboration between clinicians, researchers, policy makers, service users, health managers and consumers in healthcare, that supported improved outcomes for our patients. Another Highly Commended Award was presented to the 'Health and Wellbeing Social Housing Peer Education Program', submitted by the District Clinical Services Integration and Partnerships Team. HERDU have continued to partner with the team on this important project and assisted with the submission.

SLHD STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

HERDU supports Sydney Local Health District and helps to facilitate the District's commitment to developing a local health system that is committed to equitable access to quality health services for the community, as well as creating opportunities and environments that improve health.

Sydney Local Health District's vision is to achieve excellence in health and health care for all. The HERDU partnership aligns with the District's strategic priorities to maximise the benefits derived from integrating systems to deliver truly integrated care.

A foundational principle of SLHD's 2018–2023 Strategic Plan is that:

Everyone has a fair opportunity to enjoy good health and to access the health services they need. Equity issues should be addressed in our direct patient care, our prevention and health promotion and our research.

Programs and projects that HERDU is currently involved in pertain to the following SLHD Strategic Focus Areas.

Strategic Focus: Area 1

Our communities, partnerships, and environment.

- Further develop and implement a comprehensive, evidence-based approach to prevention, health promotion and community development in accordance with local, state and national objectives.
- Invest strategically in geographical areas where there are high levels of socioeconomic disadvantage, e.g., Redfern/Waterloo, Canterbury.
- Support and grow Healthy Families Healthy Children, a program of services and resources that supports the best development of children, with a focus on the early years – prenatal to five years of age.
- Develop a cross-disciplinary focus on important population health issues such as chronic diseases, diabetes and obesity, and population health priority groups including the early years, young people, ageing, disability, LGBTIQ health, and refugee and multicultural health.
- Collaborate with universities, government agencies, community groups and industry to further develop the global health and education knowledge and cultural corridor (Camperdown to Ultimo) proximate to RPA as a visible and valued health, education and knowledge centre for the state and nation.

Strategic Focus: Area 2

Our patients, families, carers, and consumers

- Partner with our patients, carers, families and consumers to design, provide and evaluate culturally safe and competent, evidence-based, integrated care that truly matters to our patients.

Strategic Focus: Area 3

Our services

- Responsive, integrated, culturally safe and competent multidisciplinary services.
- Ensure our service capacity meets the demand related to population growth and other epidemiological and demographic changes.

Strategic Focus: Area 6

Our research

- Drive a culture committed to research, informed by evidence and the consumer experience.
- Influencing the social and policy factors that affect health – the social determinants of health – by working in partnership with the community and other sectors.
- Improving our population's health literacy, self-management and service navigation. Advocating for healthy built environment planning through community engagement and inter-sectoral collaboration with a focus on equity.

UNSW CPHCE RESEARCH STREAMS

The Centre for Primary Health Care and Equity has 5 streams of research, each with several program areas focusing on national, state, and local research projects to address large system issues with an impact at a community level.

HERDU are currently involved in 4 streams.

Prevention and Management of Long-Term Conditions

This stream is a response to the challenges that arise from health conditions that affect people long-term, and the need to provide health care services to cater to this need. These conditions include, but are not limited to, diabetes, cardiovascular disease, asthma and chronic obstructive lung disease, cancer and mental illness. Long-term conditions commonly occur as multimorbidity (the presence of multiple diseases and medical conditions in the one person). The aim of this stream is to conduct research which identifies ways to improve health care (individual and system level) aimed at the prevention and management of these long-term conditions.

Health System Integration and Primary Health Care Development

This stream is focused on the role of primary health care in improving health and social care integration. Integration is approached at a number of levels and perspectives with the ultimate objectives of improving health and well being, service user experience and system efficiency/effectiveness.

Health Environment

This stream focuses on the health and equity impacts of the built environment, including, urban sprawl, transport and energy infrastructures, walkable communities, greenspace, active transport, and healthcare facility and precinct design. This stream incorporates different methods to identify and address these impacts, including Healthy Urban planning policy, urban planning focused Health Impact Assessments, and placemaking.

Action for Equity

This stream focuses on identifying and tackling the underlying causes of health inequities present within social structures, systems, and places. It focuses on the transformation of systems and structures that either perpetuate health inequities or support health equity. The stream also aims to better understand how people - particularly those who are marginalised - actively negotiate these systems and structures to mitigate stress or hazards.

HEALTH INEQUALITIES AND INTERPRETATIONS

The below table by Dennis Raphael is used as a guide by HERDU to categorise and monitor our areas of equity focused action.

Health Inequalities Interpretation	Key Concept for Addressing Health Inequalities	Primary Approach for Addressing Health Inequalities	Practical Implications of the Approach
1 Health inequalities result from genetic differences and biological dispositions.	Health inequalities can be reduced by identifying the genes and processes causing disease.	Carry out more and better biomedical research.	Medicalisation of health inequalities and the endorsement of the societal status quo.
2 Health inequalities result from differences in access to quality of health and social services.	Health inequalities can be reduced by strengthening health care and social services.	Create more and better health care services in hospitals, clinics, and social service agencies.	Focus limited to providing the health of those already experiencing health inequalities.
3 Health inequalities result from differences in important modifiable medical and behavioural risk factors.	Health inequalities can be reduced by encouraging people to make “health choices” and adopt “health lifestyles”.	Develop and evaluate health living and behaviour modification programs and protocols.	Healthy lifestyle programming that ignores the material basis of health inequalities can widen existing health inequalities
4 Health inequalities result from differences in material living conditions.	Health inequalities can be reduced by improving material living conditions.	Conduct research and disseminate results of how differences in living conditions create health inequalities.	Assumption that governmental authorities are receptive to and will act upon research findings.
5 Health inequalities result from differences in material living conditions shaped by public policy.	Health inequalities can be reduced by advocating for healthy public policy that reduces disadvantage.	Analyse how public policy decisions impact health (i.e., health impact analysis).	Assumption that governments will create public policy on the basis of its effects upon health.
6 Health inequalities result from differences in material living conditions that are shaped by economic and political structures and their justifying ideologies.	Health inequalities can be reduced by influencing the societal structures that create and justify health inequalities.	Analysis of how the political economy of a nation creates inequalities identifies avenues for social and political action.	Requirement that reducing health inequalities requires building social and political movements that will shape public policy.
7 Health inequalities result from the power and influences of those who create and benefit from health inequalities.	Health inequalities can be reduced by increasing the power and influence of those who experience these inequalities.	Critical analysis empowers the majority to gain understanding of and their influence and power.	Requirement that these social and political movements recognise and shift imbalances of power within society.

PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES

January – December 2023

Status Key

A	Progressing well/on track
B	Timelines overrun/delayed/scope change/needs input
C	Significant risks/issues/concerns to escalate
D	Completed this year

FOCUS AREA 1: RESEARCH

#25 PROGRAMS

Conducting high-quality research to describe health inequities, translate evidence into practice, and evaluate the impact of interventions, policies and programs on health equity.

Focus Area 1 – Research, has been categorised under three key areas:

1. LOOKING IN to the SLHD to strengthen health equity.
2. LOOKING OUT of the health system to develop projects and programs to strengthen underlying determinants of health equity.
3. LOOKING WITH other government, non-government organisations, and community groups and partners to strengthen health equity

LOOKING IN to SLHD to strengthen health equity.

Project Name	Status	CPHCE Streams	Funder	Project Team	Timeline and projected completion
COVID-19 Recovery and Resilience: Equity-Focussed Health Impact Assessment	D	Action for Equity	Core work	Fiona Haigh, Christopher Standen, Miriam Olliek, Marilyn Wise, Esther Alloun, Jude Page	Completed 2020 - 2023

Comments:

Identifying health inequity arising from occupation-related differences in exposure to the virus, from differences in access to relevant, comprehensible health information, from differences in access to testing and in capacity to self-isolate (including losing income, or overcrowded housing).

- HERDU has conducted an Equity-Focused Health Impact Assessment of the COVID-19 pandemic, which aimed to:
 - Systematically identify potential health equity impacts of COVID-19 and associated responses, and to identify evidence of effective actions to reduce the likelihood of inequity.
 - Work with stakeholders to embed positive, evidence-based actions in current strategies being developed and implemented by the SLHD.
 - Identify evidence of systemic actions that can be taken by the health sector to protect vulnerable populations from pandemics and ongoing threats to health into the future.
- The Steering EFHIA Committee agreed the investigation scope to consist of 3 main areas of impact, and 5 priority populations. HERDU have since conducted 18 in-depth specialist and key expert interviews, 5 focus groups, 5 literature reviews, and 6 evidence briefs/checks.
- The focus areas of impact:
 - 1) Risk and consequences of COVID-19 Infection
 - 2) Changes to Work
 - 3) Health Services (access to health services)

- The priority populations:
 - 1) Health workers
 - 2) Older adults
 - 3) Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) people
 - 4) Women
 - 5) Young people
- Key outputs of the EFHIA include 3 reports detailing the EFHIA findings, methodology, recommendations, and supporting materials. These reports were approved by the SLHD Chief Executive on 13 November 2023 for publication and dissemination:
 - 1) EFHIA Summary Report
 - 2) EFHIA Technical Report
 - 3) EFHIA Supplementary Material Report.



HERDU received a Highly Commended Award for the 'Equity Focussed Health Impact Assessment of the Covid-19 Pandemic in the District' at the Sydney Local Health District Innovation and Excellence Awards presented at the Annual General Meeting on 6 December 2023.

The Award category focussed on celebrating submissions that showcased collaboration between clinicians, researchers, policy makers, service users, health managers and consumers in healthcare, that supported improved outcomes for our patients.



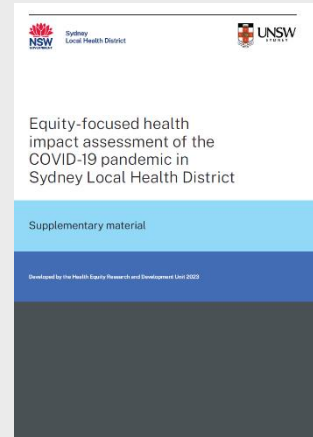
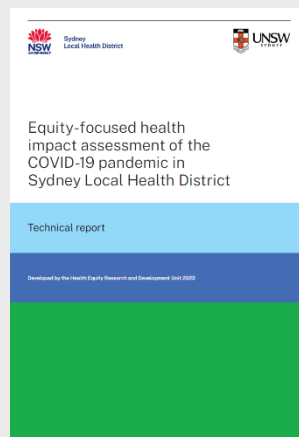
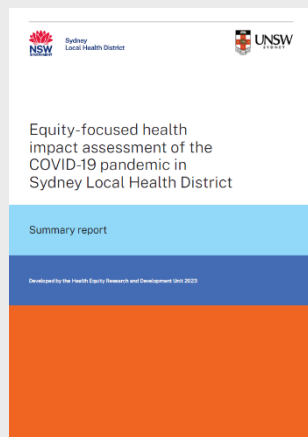
HERDU have since submitted the EFHIA to the Commonwealth Government's COVID-19 Response Inquiry, to not only inform future crisis preparedness, but to also highlight the successes of the equity-focused response of the District during the pandemic. More information on the submission can be found below in 'other activities and support work' section.



HERDU have presented the EFHIA findings and process to various local and international conferences, including but not limited to, the World Congress on Public Health in Rome Italy, the Australian Public Health Congress, and the 3rd Asia Pacific Conference on Integrated Care. To see the full list, please see the 'PRESENTATIONS' section of the Annual Report.



Scan or Click the QR Code to view the full COVID-19 EFHIA



COVID-19 recovery work (various)	D	Action for Equity	Core Work	Fiona Haigh, Christopher Standen, Miriam Olliek, Jude Page, Esther Alloun	Completed 2022-2023
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Comments:

Identify health inequities and responses in relation to SLHD areas of action

HERDU is continuing to support Sydney Local Health District's equity-focussed response and recovery plans regarding the COVID-19 pandemic:

- HERDU was engaged in recovery work supporting the consideration of equity-related impacts in relation to vulnerable population groups and developing plans, activities, and special mapping in response to COVID-19, including vaccinations.
- HERDU were involved in various committee and working groups in relation to Covid-19 recovery strategies, including (but not limited to); Aboriginal Health response, Vulnerable Populations response, Covid-19 safety for Aboriginal Communities in SLHD, Social and vulnerable housing outbreak management team (OMT), and the Covid-19 mobile vaccination hub operations group and response.
- HERDU also worked with SLHD Public Health Unit to consolidate COVID-19 period reporting.

SLHD Population Health Staff Experiences with COVID-19 Surge Workforce	D	Action for Equity	Core work	Dr Sarah Taki , Associate Professor Li Ming Wen, Dr Shih-Chi Kao, Associate Professor Fiona Haigh , Jo Kelly, Dr Lisa Simone, Dr Huilan Xu , Shoko Saito, Cathy O'Callaghan.	Ongoing 2021 - 2024
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Comments:

Identify health inequities and responses in relation to SLHD areas of action.

- HERDU are a part of a research team, led by the Population Health Unit SLHD, to examine the Population Health staff experiences with COVID-19 surge workforce. The overall aim of this study is to understand Population Health staff experiences with their deployment on the COVID-19 surge workforce and the impact on social determinants of health amongst communities residing in SLHD.
- HERDU supported developing a research paper based on the findings. The findings from this project will also help to inform future internal processes within the Department.

SLHD Equity Framework Update	A	Action for Equity	Core work	Fiona Haigh, Esther Alloun, Marilyn Wise, Wendy Jopson, Miriam Olliek, Cathy O'Callaghan, Christopher Standen	Ongoing 2023-2025
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Comments:

Expand the capacity of the SLHD to identify how public policy decisions contribute to health inequity.

Responding to health inequity arising from differences in accessibility and quality of health and social services.

- HERDU have commenced the review and update of the SLHD Equity Framework. A review of international literature has been completed and helped to inform the overall review process.
- The Aboriginal Health and Medical Research Council Ethics Committee (June 2023) approved the progress of the review to also include an Aboriginal Health focus, as well as to carry out interviews across the District and with key partners to inform the review. This involved developing appropriate governance arrangements in collaboration with the Aboriginal Health Unit.
- HERDU is partnering with Wendy Jopson, an Aboriginal Researcher and Scientia PhD Candidate at UNSW on the SLHD Equity Framework review, who is specifically focussing on Aboriginal Health within the Framework.
- Staff Interviews to inform the review are due to commence by mid-2024.



Scan or Click the QR Code to view the current Sydney Local Health District Equity Framework



Strengths Based Approaches in SLHD	A	Health System Integration and Primary Health Care Development Action for Equity	Core work	Esther Alloun, Fiona Haigh, Miriam Olliek, Jude Page, Marilyn Wise	Ongoing 2023 - 2024
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Comments:

Responding to health inequity arising from differences in accessibility and quality of health and social services.

- At request of CE, HERDU have reviewed evidence in relation to strength based approaches and the potential impacts of using strength based approaches in health services.
- A report including key concepts, examples and evidence has been developed. HERDU are currently surveying Departments and will incorporate the findings and next steps into the SLHD Equity Framework update.

Community Health Workers Extending Care in the Community (NHMRC Partnership Grant)	A	Health System Integration and Primary Health Care Development Prevention and Management of Long-Term Conditions Action for Equity	NHMRC	Mark Harris, Parisa Aslani, Jean-Frederic Levesque, Margo Barr, Anurag Sharma, Ben Harris-Roxas, Michael Wright, Richard Osborne, Associate Investigators Elizabeth Harris, Fiona Doolan-Noble, Simone Dahrouge, Sara Javanparast, Pim Valentijn, Partners Investigators Julie Finch, Lou-Anne Blunden, Deborah Donnelly, Brendan Goodyer, Anthony Brown, Olsten, Fiona Haigh	Ongoing 2022 - 2024
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Comments:

Responding to health inequity arising from differences in accessibility and quality of health and social services.

- The “Community Health Workers Extending Care in the Community” study aims to reduce the risk of re-hospitalisation in people with multiple long-term conditions by using community health navigators to assist patients in their transition from hospital to the community.
- Results from interviews and a co-design workshop held in 2021 have informed the roles and responsibilities of a Community Health Navigator (CHN).
- This year, 3 candidates have been recruited to Community Health Navigator positions as part of the project. 14 patients have been recruited to the trial so far (9 intervention, 5 control). The team are currently developing strategies to encourage more interview participant numbers.
- Further details on the project can be found on the UNSW website link: <https://cphce.unsw.edu.au/research/community-health-workers-extending-care-community-checc>

Central and Eastern Sydney Primary and Community Health Cohort (CES-P&CH)	A	Health System Integration and Primary Health Care Development	Sydney Local Health District South Eastern Sydney Local Health District Central and Eastern Sydney Primary Health Network	A/Prof Margo Barr (Principal), A/Prof Elizabeth Comino, A/Prof Elizabeth Harris, A/Prof Ben Harris-Roxas, Prof Mark Harris, A/Prof Anarag Sharma, Mr A.Y.M. Alamgir Kabir, Ms Heidi Welberry Prof John Hall, Dr Kylie Vuong (SPHCM), A/Prof Fiona Haigh (HERDU and CPHCE), Ms Lou-Anne Blunden, Dr Ann-Marie Crozier, Ms Deb Donnelly, Ms Julie Finch (SLHD), Prof Fiona Blyth (USYD and SLHD), Mr Tony Jackson, Dr Sonia van Gessel, Ms Lisa Woodland (SESLHD), Dr Brendan Goodger (CESPHN) Jude Page (HERDU).	Ongoing - 2024
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Comments:

Identifying health inequity arising from differences in accessibility and quality of health and social services and health inequalities result from differences in important modifiable medical and behavioural risk factors.

- The Central and Eastern Sydney Primary and Community Health Research Consortium commenced in 2016 as a response to the expected significant increase in the ageing of the population and people living with long term conditions these challenges. It brings together two local health districts (Sydney and South Eastern Sydney) as well as the co-terminous local primary health network (Central and Eastern Sydney) under one partnership as the Central and Eastern Sydney Primary and Community Health Cohort/Resource (CES-P&CH).
- SLHD, SESLHD, and CESPHN, have continued to fund the program of work until June 30 2024. Ethics approval has been extended to June 2024, and the resource has been updated with data up to the end of 2020 (including new wave of 45 and Up study data, primary care records, prescribing information, emergency department records, cancer registry, hospital records and vital statistics).
- A Research Priorities Webinar was held in November 2022 to identify focus areas for 2023 and beyond. A summary of the forum has been developed and can be accessed at this website: <https://www.unsw.edu.au/research/cphce/news-events/events/research-priorities-forum-2022>
- New members from Public Health Research Analytics and Methods for Evidence (PHRAME) Public Health Unit SLHD (Luke Knibbs and Joseph Van Buskirk) have joined the project.
- A progress report for activities is available at: <https://www.unsw.edu.au/research/cphce/research/collaborations/central-and-eastern-sydney-primary-and-community-health-cohort>

Organisational Health / Community Health Literacy Project - SLHD Nursing	A	Action for Equity	Core work	Fiona Haigh, Mark Harris, Shoko Saito, Miranda Shaw, Cassandra Dearing, Freya Raffan, Cathy O'Callaghan, Cat van Kemenade	Ongoing 2023 - 2024
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Comments:

Responding to health inequity arising from differences in modifiable health/risk behaviours and differences in accessibility and quality of health and social services.

- HERDU was engaged by SLHD RPA-Virtual to provide a health literacy intervention to support Sydney District Nursing to communicate with and engage with low health literacy clients.

- Analysis of findings is complete, and a working group has developed a health literacy training course.
- The training course was delayed due to the pandemic response.
- An ethics amendment to carry out an evaluation of the training course was approved in 2023.
- The research team met with Sydney Education and the Health Literacy Framework team to discuss and plan pilot training delivery in 2024. A milestone progress report has been submitted through REGIS.

LOOKING OUT of the health system to develop projects and programs to strengthen underlying determinants of health equity.

Project Name	Status	CPHCE Streams	Funder	Project Team	Timeline and projected completion
Waterloo Redevelopment: Health Needs Assessment and Longitudinal Study	A	Healthy Environments Health System Integration and Primary Health Care Development Action for Equity	Core work and external funding	Christopher Standen, Fiona Haigh, Jennifer Green, Hazel Easthope, Susan Woolfenden , Xiaoqi Feng , Melanie Andersen , Erica McIntyre, Patrick Harris	Ongoing 2022 - 2035

Comments:

Identify health inequity arising from differences in material living conditions and generating responses.

- HERDU was awarded funding from the Healthy Urban Environments (HUE) Seed Funding Scheme in relation to a pilot project for a health needs assessment and longitudinal health study of the Waterloo redevelopment – in response to recommendations made in the Waterloo health impact assessment. The pilot project has been successfully completed in 2022, which included testing of data collection methods and a scoping review.
- A final report and a research proposal for the next stage of the project are being developed.
- An article describing the study and findings can be viewed in the Public Health Research and Practice Journal <https://www.phrp.com.au/issues/december-2023-volume-33-issue-4/social-housing-redevelopment-and-health/>

Healthy Waterloo: A Study into the Maintenance and Improvement of Health and Wellbeing in Waterloo	B	Healthy Environments	Core work, Waterloo HIA	Christopher Standen, Fiona Haigh, Jennifer Green, David Lilley	Ongoing 2022 - 2024
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Comments:

Identify health inequity arising from differences in representation of marginalised social groups in public policy decisions.

- The final draft report of the Health Impact Assessment report on the psychological distress associated with the announcement of the Waterloo redevelopment project, has been sent to the Secretary's Office, NSW Health, for review.
- The final draft report was finalised with the cooperation of the NSW Land and Housing Corporation (LAHC) and NSW Department of Communities and Justice.
- HERDU is progressing with the next stages of the Health Impact Assessment, including developing a plan to action the key recommendations of the HIA, and conducting an assessment of the revised 2020 proposal and supporting the Waterloo community to carry out a Community led Health Impact Assessment. An update has been provided to the Secretary, NSW Health, Ms Susan Pearce.
- HERDU is progressing with the next stages of the Health Impact Assessment to develop a plan to action recommendations, including a progress update.

Waterloo Community-led Health Impact Assessment - (second stage of the Waterloo Estate Redevelopment HIA)	A	Healthy Environments	Core work, Waterloo HIA	Christopher Standen, Fiona Haigh, Counterpoint Community Services	Ongoing 2023 - 2024
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Comments:

Identify health inequity arising from differences in representation of marginalised social groups in public policy decisions.

- HERDU is supporting the second stage of the Waterloo estate redevelopment Health Impact Assessment (HIA). The second stage, is community-led under the auspice of Counterpoint Community Services. Community-led HIA is an evidence-informed and practical way in which communities can contribute to decisions - moving beyond a simple reliance on consultation. It is a democratic and political process, rather than a technocratic one.
- A series of scoping workshops begun in late March 2023. The HIA had been put on hold while the redevelopment plans are being reviewed. The HIA will recommence in early 2024.

Developing a Climate Change Vulnerability Health Impact Assessment Framework for Health Services	A	Healthy environments Action for Equity	Maridulu Budyari Gumal the Sydney Partnership for Health, Education, Research and Enterprise (SPHERE): Healthy Urban Environments Collaboratory	Fiona Haigh, Ben Harris Roxas, Alana Crimeen and investigators from CHETRE, SESLHD, SWSLHD and UTS	Ongoing 2021 - 2024
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Comments:

Responding to health inequities that result from differences in material living conditions that are shaped by public policy. Responding to health inequity arising from differences in accessibility and quality of health and social services.

- Funded by Maridulu Budyari Gumal, the Sydney Partnership for Health, Education, Research and Enterprise (SPHERE). HERDU is leading the development of a Climate Change Vulnerability Health Impact Assessment Framework.
- A literature review focusing on the role of Health systems in relation to climate change and vulnerable communities was completed and a conceptual framework developed..
- An article describing the study and findings can be viewed in the Public Health Research and Practice Journal: <https://www.phrp.com.au/issues/december-2023-volume-33-issue-4/climate-change-inequality-health-impact-assessment/>

Developing a research agenda for HIAs (for the next decade).	A	Healthy environments Action for Equity	Core Work	Fiona Haigh, Ben Harris-Roxas	Ongoing 2022 - 2024
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Comments:

Responding to health inequities that result from differences in material living conditions that are shaped by public policy. Responding to health inequity arising from differences in accessibility and quality of health and social services.

- Fiona Haigh attended an invited meeting in Edinburgh in 2022 “Health Impact Assessment (HIA) Where Next? Opportunities and Approaches for Research and Practice in the Next Decade” involving international HIA experts and leaders who have been involved in HIA development and advancement in different settings.
- In addition an international survey and 2 workshops and international conference were carried out to gather views from the field.
- A paper has been developed based on the findings presenting a 10 year research agenda for the field and will be submitted early 2024.

Place Based Interventions	A	Healthy Environments	Core work	Fiona Haigh, David Lilley, Erin Miller, Lisa Parcsi, Esther Alloun	Ongoing 2021 – 2024
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Comments:

Expand the capacity of the SLHD to identify how public policy decisions contribute to health inequity.

- The draft typology was presented to the International Union for Health Promotion and Education conference in New Zealand on 9 April 2019.
- In 2023 the framework has been further developed integrating a systems approach. The framework was tested at a workshop at [ChangeFest23](#)
- HERDU are currently collaborating with colleagues across the Clinical Service Integration and Population Health Directorate to build a methodology to conceptualise and map place based approaches across the District.

Can Get Health in Canterbury (CGHiC)	D	Action for Equity	SLHD, SESPHN, Core work	Fiona Haigh, Renee Moreton, Barbara Luisi.	Concluded 2023
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Comments:

Responding to health inequity arising from differences in accessibility and quality of health and social services – including accessibility of health education and health care services.

- Can Get Health in Canterbury is an innovative research partnership program that was introduced and supported through an MOU since late 2013 (SLHD, UNSW, and CESP HN).
- The Project examines the impacts on the health of a marginalised community achieved by empowering the community by building health literacy, improving access to services, and acting to address some of the social determinants of health.
- HERDU has reviewed and analysed core components of the Can Get Health approach to support scaling out into other locationally disadvantaged areas within the district. The transition of the Can Get Health in Canterbury program from HERDU to Population Health (Strategy and Diversity Hub) is complete.
- HERDU will continue to provide support as required, as it becomes a core service delivery program in Population Health.

Economic Active Transport Project to deliver a best-practice method to cost the health benefits of active transport in NSW (Phase 1, 2, 3)	A	Healthy Environments	NSW Health	Fiona Haigh, Christopher Standen, Lennert Veerman, Holger Moeller, Mary Wanjau	Ongoing 2022 - 2024
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Comments:

Identifying cost of health inequities arising from differences in access to material resources arising from public policy.

- HERDU is part of a research team commissioned by NSW Health to deliver a best-practice method to cost the health benefits of active transport in NSW.
- The project is being carried out in close collaboration with the Ministry of Health NSW, Transport for NSW and an interagency stakeholder group.
- The third stage of the project commenced in 2022. The pilot projects have been completed and the final report for NSW Health completed. A related systematic review of studies investigating substitution between physical activity domains has been completed.
- Three papers have been published from the project this year. They can be accessed here - <http://doi.org/10.1016/j.jth.2023.101631> and <http://doi.org/10.1123/jpah.2022-0541> and <http://doi.org/10.1016/j.focus.2023.100074>
- Additional papers for publication are currently being developed.

Health, well-being and physical activity during/following a pandemic	A	Healthy Environments	University of Sydney Business School	Christopher Standen	Ongoing 2022 - 2024
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Comments:

Identifying health inequity arising from the urban environment (e.g., access to public open space and opportunities for physical activity).

- Christopher Standen from HERDU, with colleagues from The University of Sydney, won a competitive grant from University of Sydney Business School to conduct further data collection waves for the Sydney Travel and Health Study. This longitudinal study has been running since 2013 to investigate differential impacts of urban developments on physical activity, health and well-being.
- A paper describing the findings has been published in the Journal of Travel Behaviour and Society <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.tbs.2023.100707>

Transport for urban sustainability and health	A	Healthy Environments Action for equity	Henry Halloran Trust	Christopher Standen	Ongoing 2022 - 2026
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Comments:

Identifying the influence of economic and political structures on how public policy decisions impact health.

Responding to health inequity arising from differences in accessibility and quality of health and social services.

- Christopher Standen from HERDU is part of a research team that has won a competitive incubator grant from the Henry Halloran Trust.
- The Transport for Urban Sustainability and Health project aims to provide an evidence-based approach to address the challenges of health and climate change for built environments and urban communities with local relevance to the SLHD. The project seeks to take a translational research approach to examine current urban mobility and travel behaviour in Sydney and investigate the implications for climate, population health and urban planning.
- The project seeks to involve stakeholders including representatives from local communities, health and clinical practitioners to explore factors contributing to urban health outcomes. The project then will develop a tool to assist government and non-government organisations to consider the health implications of new urban planning initiatives.
- An urban planning intervention within SLHD will be used as a case study for testing this tool.

Boarding House mapping Project	A	Healthy Environments Action for equity	Core work	Paul Clenaghan, Jude Page, Fiona Haigh	2022 - 2024
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Comments:

Identifying the influence of economic and political structures on how public policy decisions impact health.

Responding to health inequity arising from differences in accessibility and quality of health and social services.

- The project was undertaken in partnership between the newly established Program Director, Homeless and Rough Sleepers and the Health Equity Research and Development Unit (HERDU) to identify the number and type of registered Boarding Houses in SLHD and provide an overview of outreach activities to Boarding Houses during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- A report has been finalised and is due for publication early 2024.
- The report contains an overview of the number, type, and locations of Boarding Houses in SLHD registered with NSW Fair Trading. It outlines the regulatory framework in which Boarding Houses operate and provides insights into some of the most vulnerable residents of the community who reside in this form of low-cost accommodation.


LOOKING WITH other government, non-government organisations, and community groups and partners to strengthen health equity.

Project Name	Status	CPHCE Streams	Funder	Project Team	Timeline and projected completion
Working together: Intersectoral and inter-organisational collaboration for health	A	Action for Equity	Core work	Marilyn Wise, Liz Harris, Penelope Finlay, Don Nutbeam, Miriam Olliek, Cathy O'Callaghan	Ongoing December 2022 - 2024


Comments:


Responding to health inequity by increasing the capacity of the health sector to improve the accessibility and quality of material and social living conditions.


- Marilyn Wise from HERDU is co-author with Elizabeth Harris, Penelope Finlay, and Don Nutbeam, of the Working Together: Collaboration for Health Guide, a joint publication by Sydney Local Health District and the University of New South Wales Centre for Primary Health Care and Equity. The publication is a practical guide for organisations and people working together to resolve complex health problems across sectoral, organisational, and professional boundaries. The guide draws on the experiences of health workers and other social service providers to identify, illustrate, and provide insight into the factors that play important roles in determining the success of working together.
- The guide was published in December 2022 and launched in 2023.
- In the lead up to the launch, 86 Public Primary Schools and School for Specific Purposes were invited to participate in a poetry competition where students were asked to write about the themes of working together, collaboration, and the power of communities. 66 entries were received from 8 Schools. District Staff were also invited to participate in a poetry competition to write about the themes of working together, collaboration, and the power of communities.
- The official launch of the Guide was held at the District's Innovation Symposium week on 20 July at the Seymour Centre Sydney. During the launch, the audience heard from the District Staff Poetry winners, and the Public Primary School Poetry winners as they performed their winning poems and received their prizes.
- HERDU are collaborating with the District's School Health Promotion Team on next steps and will be visiting all the schools that participated in December 2023 - February 2024.
- Workshops on the guide and its practical application are planned for 2024.



Scan or Click the QR Code to view the Working Together Guide







MACHI – Multi-sectoral Action for Community Health	D	Action for Equity	The Australian Prevention Partnership Centre	Stephen Jan, Fiona Haigh, Patrick Harris, Janani Shanthosh, Bindu Patel	Concluded 2021 – 2023
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Comments:

Identifying the influence of economic and political structures on public policy decisions that have an impact on health.

- Fiona Haigh from HERDU is part of a [research team](#) funded by the Australian Prevention Partnership Centre investigating how multi-sectoral partnerships for health can be effectively embedded into governance and policy.
- The project completed in 2023, and a paper describing the findings is being developed.
- Findings were presented at a Australian Prevention Partnership Centre [Webinar](#)

Co-governance: Working together better	A	Health Environment Action for equity	ANZSOG and co-sponsored by NSW Department of Premier and Cabinet	Miri Raven, Bingqin Li, Ilan Katz, Fiona Haigh, Ciara Smyth, Shona Bates	Ongoing 2022 – 2024
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Comments:

Identifying the influence of economic and political structures on how public policy decisions impact health.

Responding to health inequity arising from differences in accessibility and quality of health and social services.

- Fiona Haigh is part of a research project aiming to increase understanding of effective approaches to co-governance, in particular whether and how co-governance can increase trust in government.

- The project will include an evidence review, case studies and the development of a guidance document.
- The first case study from the Waterloo Collaborative Group is underway. More information can be accessed via this link: <https://anzsog.edu.au/news/anzsog-research-model-project-co-governance/>

Waterloo Human Services Action Plan Action Plan Review and Waterloo Human Services Collaborative Group	A	Health Environment Action for equity	DCJ	Margo Barr, Fiona Haigh, Cathy O'Callahan, Margaret Williamson.	Ongoing 2022 – 2024
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Comments:

*Identifying the influence of economic and political structures on how public policy decisions impact health.
Responding to health inequity arising from differences in accessibility and quality of health and social services.*

- The Waterloo Human Services Collaborative Group was formed by the Department of Communities and Justice (DCJ), in partnership with SLHD and Counterpoint Community Services as Co-chairs of the group, and is a collaboration between Government, Non-Government Organisations (NGOs), community representatives, consumer services, and Waterloo residents.
- The Collaborative group has been established to assist with engagement, planning and coordinated responses by human services agencies to the Waterloo community, in advance of the Waterloo Estate redevelopment, to address the current and future needs of the Waterloo community, specifically those living in public housing. The Waterloo Human Services Coordination Group developed a draft Waterloo Services Action Plan in late 2021.
- HERDU with colleagues from CPHCE have been commissioned by DCJ to review the Collaborative Group Action Plan. The project reports have been completed and findings presented at the 3rd Asia Pacific Conference on Integrated Care
- HERDU is providing ongoing support to the Collaborative group and the two coordination groups and is supporting a review of the Collaborative Group.

Waterloo Peer Wellbeing Educators	A	Health Environment Action for equity	Core work	Fiona Haigh, Esther Alloun, SLHD Clinical Services Integration and Partnerships Team	Ongoing 2022 – 2024
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Comments:

*Identifying the influence of economic and political structures on how public policy decisions impact health.
Responding to health inequity arising from differences in accessibility and quality of health and social services.*

- The Waterloo Peer Wellbeing Educators project is a community led project, training local people to be information-gatherers and health educators using a peer champion model.
- HERDU helped develop the project and will provide research support and lead an evaluation support of the project as it is being implemented, including, developing and testing initial program logic, gathering feedback from the project working group and implementation team to refine the logic, and in turn the selection of appropriate and relevant data collection tools.
- The pilot project and evaluation are underway. The evaluation report will be completed in early 2024.
- Findings from the project have been presented at the Australian Public health Conference and 3rd Asia Pacific Conference on Integrated Care



The Peer Educator Project received a Highly Commended Award at the District Innovation and Excellence Awards, during the District Annual General Meeting on 6 December 2023. Submitted by the SLHD Clinical Services Integration and Partnerships Team, the award category celebrated submissions that focused on health services in the community, including raising awareness of healthy choices, and improving the overall health and wellbeing.



Pictured: Dr Esther Alloun, Shane Brown, and Associate Professor Fiona Haigh, after Shane Brown accepted the Award on behalf of the SLHD Clinical Services and Integration Team.

CREHSCI (Centre of Research Excellence for Integrated Health and Social Care)	A	Action for equity	Core work	Fiona Haigh	Ongoing 2022 – 2024
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Comments:

Identifying the influence of economic and political structures on how public policy decisions impact health.

Responding to health inequity arising from differences in accessibility and quality of health and social services.

- CREHSCI is a Centre of Research Excellence funded by NHMRC focussed on reducing hospitalisation through innovative, high quality, collaborative research of home and community-based service systems, including the development of digital and virtual modes of community-based service delivery. A/Prof Fiona Haigh has recruited a PhD candidate funded by the CRE. (See more in EDUCATION).
- CREHSCI was a partner in the recent 3rd Asia Pacific Conference on Integrated Care. A/Prof Fiona Haigh was part of the scientific committee.

FOCUS AREA 2: SERVICE DEVELOPMENT #5 PROGRAMS

Re-orienting local health services, policies and plans towards improving health equity; and working with government, non-government, private and community organisations to identify and address the social determinants of health inequity.

Project Name	Status	Categories	Funder	Project Team	Timeline and projected completion
SLHD EquityFest Activities	A	Service Development	Core work	Fiona Haigh, Miriam Olliek, Marilyn Wise, Cathy O'Callaghan	Ongoing 2017 – 2024

Comments:

Responding to health inequity by increasing the capacity of the health sector to improve the accessibility and quality of material and social living conditions.

Identifying the influence of economic and political structures on how public policy decisions impact health.

Responding to health inequity arising from differences in accessibility and quality of health and social services.

- EquityFest is a public-facing program to promote equity across the District. The core functions are to support District staff and partners to reflect, engage and explore, enable action, and celebrate health equity. Clinicians, communities, consumers, patients, and government and non-government organisations come together to build on strengths and past successes in promoting and protecting health equity, and to help shape and action the future of health equity in the District. EquityFest activities and events aim to gain insight into the evidence of work done with populations; foster new partnerships; enable real change by building the capacity of staff to effectively address inequities in health; and celebrate and build on strengths and past successes in promoting and protecting health equity.
- Since inception in 2017, and development post Covid, EquityFest has evolved from a single annual event to a program of engagement activities and capacity building initiatives culminating to an end-of-year showcase event. Participation has diversified and changed to ensure participants can attend in person, virtually and on demand. EquityFest events continue to adapt to the current needs of staff and communities; and is now a program of work consisting of several smaller activities and initiatives culminating to a large-scale end-of-year showcase, next scheduled for 2024. The program builds year-to-year, with learnings from the previous year feeding into the next.
- Other activities under the EquityFest banner include (but not limited to) the 2023 Community Health Navigator Forum, and the Working Together Collaboration for Health workshops scheduled for 2024, and the SLHD Equity Challenge.
- Plans for 2024 EquityFest are underway

SLHD Equity Challenge (Process review and update)	B	Service Development Education	Core work	Fiona Haigh, Miriam Olliek, Marilyn Wise, Cathy O'Callaghan	Ongoing 2023 - 2024
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Comments:

Responding to health inequity by increasing the capacity of the health sector. Responding to health inequity arising from differences in accessibility and quality of health and social services.

- The Equity Challenge aims to develop capacity and skills among staff and partner organisations to identify and address equity issues.
- Participants are offered mentoring to develop and implement a project that will contribute to reducing inequities in access to health care.
- HERDU are currently reviewing and updating the process for the next Equity Challenge to be held in 2024, with in the series of 2024 EquityFest activities.

<p>“Learning by Doing” Course - part of SLHD Equity Challenge (Process review and update)</p>	<p>B</p>	<p>Service Development Education</p>	<p>Core work</p>	<p>Marilyn Wise, Fiona Haigh, Cathy O’Callaghan</p>	<p>Ongoing 2023 - 2024</p>
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Comments:

Responding to health inequity by increasing the capacity of the health sector. Responding to health inequity arising from differences in accessibility and quality of health and social services.

- “Learning by Doing” is an approach to learning and teaching that enables participants to reflect on and extend their knowledge of and skills in identifying whether there are inequities in access to their services, why these are occurring, and what can be done to reduce or eliminate the inequities.
- HERDU is reviewing the Health Equity Learning by Doing and Equity Challenge program, and are developing a new Equity Focussed Learning by Doing training course to be delivered over a series of four 2-hour workshops over 10 weeks:
 - Introduction to understanding health equity
 - Using evidence-based approaches to identify health inequities
 - Responding to current health inequities and the implications for action
 - Preventing future health inequities (what we can do and how)
- HERDU are currently reviewing and updating the process of the Learning by Doing Course, for the next delivery to be held in 2024 as part of EquityFest activities.

<p>Community Health Navigator Forum</p>	<p>A</p>	<p>Service Development</p>	<p>Core work, Partnership (SLHD, CESPNN, UNSW CPHCE)</p>	<p>Miriam Olliek, Cathy O’Callaghan, Lou-Anne Blunden, Elizabeth Harris.</p>	<p>Ongoing 2022 – 2024</p>
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Comments:

Responding to health inequity by increasing the capacity of the health sector. Responding to health inequity arising from differences in accessibility and quality of health and social services.

- HERDU led the organisation and facilitation of the 2023 Community Health Navigator Forum as an EquityFest activity, held on Wednesday 8 November 2023. The forum is a partnership with Sydney Local Health District, Central and Eastern Sydney Primary Health Network, and the Centre for Primary Health Care and Equity at the University of New South Wales.
- It was a hybrid event, held online, and in-person at the Kerry Packer Education Centre, Auditorium 4.1, RPA Hospital Campus, Camperdown, Sydney NSW. There were 134 registrations to attend the event, and a total of 105 people joined the forum live, either online or in person (an increase of 27 people compared to last year).
- The forum highlighted the partnering organisations’ ongoing commitment to improving health equity by supporting access to their services and ensuring the community has equitable access to high-quality, patient-centred care.
- HERDU is now assisting with plans to develop a community of practice group to support knowledge exchange between the partners in the Community Health Navigator space.
- HERDU are progressing with next steps, and aim to upload the 2023 forum activities by early 2024. To access the 2022 forum activities, scan or click on the QR Code below.



Scan or Click the QR Code to view more about the Community Health Navigator Forum



Pictured: 2023 Community Health Navigator Forum Panel

SLHD Innovation Symposium 2023	A	Service Development	Core Work	Miriam Olliek, Fiona Haigh	2023
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Comments: (also above in RESEARCH)

Responding to health inequity by increasing the capacity of the health sector. Responding to health inequity arising from differences in accessibility and quality of health and social services.

- HERDU was part of the 2023 working group for the Innovation Symposium 2023. This included leading the planning of the Working Together Collaboration for Health Guide launch. The publication is a practical guide for organisations and people working together to resolve complex health problems across sectoral, organisational, and professional boundaries. The guide draws on the experiences of health workers and other social service providers to identify, illustrate, and provide insight into the factors that play important roles in determining the success of working together.
- In the lead up to the launch, 86 Public Primary Schools and School for Specific Purposes were invited to participate in a poetry competition where students were asked to write about the themes of working together, collaboration, and the power of communities. 66 entries were received from 8 Schools. District Staff were also invited to participate in a poetry competition to write about the themes of working together, collaboration, and the power of communities.
- The official launch of the Guide was held at the District's Innovation Symposium week on 20 July at the Seymour Centre Sydney. During the launch, the audience heard from the District Staff Poetry winners, and the Public Primary School Poetry winners as they performed their winning poems and received their prizes.

FOCUS AREA 3: EDUCATION

#7 PROGRAMS

Developing leadership skills and capacities to increase health equity through training of SLHD staff, partner organisations, and communities.

Project Name	Status	Project Team	Timeline and projected completion
UNSW Masters of Public Health Elective: Inequalities, Inequities, and Health (PHCM9626)	D	Fiona Haigh, Esther Alloun, Christopher Standen, Marilyn Wise	Concluded 2023 next scheduled term 2 2024

- This is an elective course of the Master of Public Health Program at UNSW.
- The overall aim of this course is to introduce students to major conceptual and practical issues in understanding and addressing health inequities in western industrialised countries. Specific topics explored include the patterns of health inequity, the political and structural causes of inequities, and action to address health inequities presented.
- HERDU delivered the Inequalities, Inequities and Health Masters course, in Term 2, with a record number of 55 students.

UNSW Masters of Public Health Elective: Health Impact Assessment (PHCM9628)	D	Fiona Haigh, Christopher Standen	Concluded 2023
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- HERDU coordinate and delivers the University of New South Wales Master of Public Health subject on Health Impact Assessments (PHCM9628).
- HERDU delivered the Health Impact Assessment Masters Course (PHCM9628) in Term 3 2023. 20 complimentary places were offered to NSW Health staff to participate in a 2 Day workshop component of the course, providing capacity building and support to enhance their skills and knowledge about Health Impact Assessments.

"Learning by Doing" Course (part of SLHD Equity Challenge)	B	Fiona Haigh, Marilyn Wise, Cathy O'Callaghan	Ongoing 2023 - 2024
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Comments: (Also above in SERVICE DEVELOPMENT)

- "Learning by Doing" is an approach to learning and teaching that enables participants to reflect on and extend their knowledge of and skills in identifying whether there are inequities in access to their services, why these are occurring, and what can be done to reduce or eliminate the inequities.
- HERDU is reviewing the Health Equity Learning by Doing and Equity Challenge program, and are developing a new Equity Focussed Learning by Doing training course to be delivered over a series of four 2-hour workshops over 10 weeks:
 - Introduction to understanding health equity
 - Using evidence-based approaches to identify health inequities
 - Responding to current health inequities and the implications for action
 - Preventing future health inequities (what we can do and how)
- HERDU are currently reviewing and updating the process of the Learning by Doing Course, for the next delivery to be held in 2024 as part of EquityFest activities.
- HERDU are also contributing to a review and update of 'learning by doing; training across CPHCE

Visiting Academic from Canada, Quebec	D	Fiona Haigh, Christopher Standen, Esther Alloun, Marilyn Wise, Miriam Olliek	Concluded 2022 – 2023
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- HERDU hosted Professor Alexandre Lebel, a Visiting Academic from Laval University, Quebec, Canada from February 2023 to May 2023.
- Alexandre partnered with HERDU to focus on Health Impact Assessment.

HERDU Interns 2023	D	Fiona Haigh, Christopher Standen, Esther Alloun, Cathy O'Callaghan, Miriam Olliek	Concluded 2023
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- HERDU hosted 2 Interns during 2023 in Term 1 and in Term 3.
- 2023 Term 1 Intern – Masters of Public Health course: Maria Ruiz Ynez assisted with the evaluation of the SLHD Mobile Health Van program.
- 2023 Term 3 Intern - Dual Masters in Global Health, Masters in Health Leadership and Management course: Ratu Marika Uluinadawa Lewanavanua worked on Health equity programs focusing on service delivery, engagement, and research translation, including assisting with the planning and facilitation of the Community Health Navigator Forum.

PhD Student: Australian Government Research Training Program	A	Fiona Haigh	Ongoing 2023 - 2024
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- HERDU is jointly supervising (with Ben Harris-Roxas) UNSW CPHCE PhD candidate An Tran.
- An has received an Australian Government Research Training Program (RTP) scholarship to investigate Social Determinants of Health in Refugee Settlement, and will be assisting HERDU on various programs and teaching activities.

PhD Student: Centre of Research Excellence for Integrated Health and Social Care	A	Fiona Haigh	Ongoing 2023 - 2024
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- HERDU will be jointly supervising (with Professor Ilan Katz at the Social Policy Research Centre), a PhD candidate as part of the CRE on Health and Social Care Integration. Emeritus Prof Mark Harris from the Centre for Primary Health Care and Equity at UNSW will be an advisor on the PhD. The scholarship is funded by UNSW and CREHSCI (Centre of Research Excellence for Integrated Health and Social Care).
- A student has been recruited and is due to begin September 2024



“Health equity is a foundational principle in ensuring equal access to healthcare for underserved communities. I consider myself fortunate to have undertaken my internship with HERDU/CPHCE, where I collaborated with an exceptional team that provided valuable guidance and support, enriching my learning experiences throughout my placement.

My exposure to key concepts, such as the roles of community health navigators, involvement in research projects, and the implementation of a multi-disciplinary approach through a practical guide for delivering equitable health services, has been instrumental. These opportunities have significantly contributed to enhancing my understanding of the importance of health equity, roles of stakeholders, particularly in addressing the needs of disadvantaged communities. I am eager to apply these insights to make a positive impact on healthcare disparities throughout my profession.”

Ratu Marika U. Lewanavanua
HERDU Intern Term 3 2023

OTHER ACTIVITIES AND SUPPORT WORK

#10

HERDU have been engaged in support work and ad-hoc activities to provide equity support on policy reviews, plans, and strategy documents. Listed are key activities and support work that HERDU have been involved with.

Activity	Date
Covid-19 activities and support work, please refer to the 'RESEARCH' section.	Ongoing 2022 – 2023
Comments and review of SLHD Strategic Plan update	July 2023
Comments and review of 'Building better health guidelines' by SLHD Public Health Unit	October 2023
Comments and review of South Eveleigh Explorer St rezoning, with SLHD Planning Unit	November 2023
Comments and review of SLHD Sydney Institute for Women, Children and their Families Annual Report	November 2023
HERDU supported the planning of an Integrated Care Study Tour. Six VIP Delegates from Singapore visited SLHD sites and toured the Croydon Health Centre and King George V building at RPA. During their visit the District shared insights into Aged Health Care, RPA virtual, and mental health services.	November 2023
COVID-19 Response Inquiry to the Commonwealth Government – EFHIA Submission	December 2023
Comments and review of the Burwood North Masterplan, with SLHD Planning Unit	December 2023
Comments and review of the Inner West Council Proposed Changes to Planning Controls for the Parramatta Rd Corridor, with SLHD Planning Unit	December 2023
HERDU Hosted the University of New South Wales (UNSW) Centre for Primary Health care and Equity (CPHCE) Staff Development Day, and led the planning and facilitation of the day. It was held at RPA Health One Green Square, on 5 December 2023.	December 2023



“We know that in new urban development assessment, in planning studies and new District strategies that when we work with HERDU we will receive sound, evidence-based advice and comment.”

Dr Pamela Garrett, Director of Planning
Sydney Local Health District

DISSEMINATION AND PRESENTATIONS

#19

Activity	Date
<u>Healthy Strong Communities Workshop May 2023 – Postponed.</u> HERDU is supporting the planning and facilitation of the Healthy Strong Communities Workshop. Originally planned for 23 May 2023 the workshop was postponed and will be rescheduled later this year. The goal of the workshop is to prepare a draft work plan for 2023 – 2025.	Ongoing 2023 - 2024

<u>Introduction to Health Equity</u> CSI&PH SLHD Graduate Management Trainee presentation by Fiona Haigh, Miriam Olliek	Ongoing 2022 - 2024
<u>Place Based Approaches - ChangeFest 2023 Conference - The national celebration of place based social change</u> HERDU supported the planning of a workshop 'What do we mean by place-based systems change?' held in Bridgewater Tasmania as part of the national ChangeFest 2023 Conference on 1 March 2023	March 2023
<u>Liverpool University United Kingdom</u> Fiona Haigh from HERDU presented on 'Equity Infrastructure- understanding a local health service's equity focussed response to a pandemic' to the Department of Public Health, Policy and Systems, Liverpool University, UK.	May 2023
<u>Liverpool University United Kingdom</u> Fiona Haigh from HERDU presented on 'Evidence Synthesis in a Crisis' as a Guest lecture, Masters in Public Health, Department of Public Health, Policy and Systems, Liverpool University, UK	May 2023
<u>The World Congress on Public Health</u> Fiona Haigh from HERDU co-delivered a workshop 'The future of Health Impact Assessment- Setting the Research Agenda' at the World Congress on Public Health (WCPH), in Rome, Italy.	May 2023
<u>The World Congress on Public Health</u> Fiona Haigh from HERDU presented on 'An Equity-Focused Health Impact Assessment of the COVID-19 pandemic and associated response', at the World Congress on Public Health (WCPH), in Rome, Italy.	May 2023
<u>Infrastructure Conference - in unequal worlds</u> Fiona Haigh and Esther Alloun from HERDU presented at the 2 day workshop organised by Australian Geographer Association on care and infrastructures enabling care across different sectors. Presentation name: 'Equity infrastructure and just health care in pandemic times'.	June 2023
<u>Centre for Social Research in Health Seminar Series</u> Fiona Haigh and Esther Alloun presented on 'Equity infrastructure and just health care in pandemic times' during the Centre for Social Research in Health Seminar Series - held online.	August 2023
<u>SLHD RACMA</u> SLHD RACMA Candidate Insights Session will be held on Thursday, 21 September 2023. Fiona Haigh and Miriam Olliek from HERDU presented on 'Health Equity and the Social Determinants of Health'.	September 2023
<u>Australian Public Health Conference 2023 - Hobart</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chris Standen presented on 'Does transport-related physical activity displace other physical activity?' Penny Finlay presented on behalf of Marilyn Wise on 'Working together: collaboration for health' Esther Alloun presented on 'Equity Infrastructure: understanding a local health service's equity-focussed response to a crisis' and also 'Investing in community based peer educators- engaging, enabling and influencing' which has also been selected as an Award finalist in the category of Advocacy and Leadership. Fiona Haigh was a part of a team that presented on Examining the barriers and facilitators of community engagement for alcohol decision making in New South Wales: Preliminary Findings (Reid, A., Bestman, A., Knight, S., & Haigh, F.) 	September 2023
<u>The UNSW School of Population Health research seminar</u> Dr Esther Alloun, Dr Christopher Standen, A/Prof Fiona Haigh presented on 'Equity in a crisis - An Equity-Focused Health Impact Assessment of the COVID-19 pandemic and associated response'	September 2023
<u>UNSW People & Place Cluster</u> Chris Standen from HERDU presented on 'Planning towns and cities for health instead of for speed' at the online UNSW People & Place Cluster Session.	October 2023

NNHMR Congress 2023

Esther Alloun from HERDU presented at the Northern Network for Medical Humanities Research (NNHMR) Congress Online on 'Enduring crisis and resilience in Australian health care work: what can a critical lens tell us?'

November 2023

UNSW CPHCE Promotional Video:

HERDU supported the planning and creation of the new University of New South Wales Centre for Primary Health Care and Equity (CPHCE) Promotional Video. The short 3 minute promotional video showcases the goals, strengths, key partnerships and collaborators of CPHCE. Sydney Local Health District is featured as a key partner in the video, including hearing from featured SLHD staff: Lou-Anne Blunden, Executive Director Clinical Services Integration and Population Health; Miranda Shaw, General Manager, RPA Virtual Hospital; and Associate Professor Fiona Haigh, Director, Health Equity Research and Development Unit. The Video can be viewed via this link: <https://youtu.be/hL-UoGakxns>

November 2023

Asia Pacific Conference on Integrated Care 2023 presentations

HERDU staff presented at the Asia Pacific Conference on Integrated Care (APIC3) 2023.

- Associate Professor Fiona Haigh presented on the 'Sustainability and resilient equity infrastructure: understanding a local health service's equity focused response to a crisis'.
- Dr Cathy O'Callaghan presented on the 'Review of the Waterloo Human Services Action Plan'.
- Associate Professor Marilyn Wise presented on a poster on 'Collaboration in Health'.
- Esther Alloun contributed to a workshop session 'Exchanging of knowledge - lessons learnt from implementation of a peer education program in Sydney Australia'

November 2023

<https://conferences.armchairmedical.tv/3rd-asia-pacific-conference-on-integrated-care/videos/8c-improving-access-and-experience-for-priority-populations>

Rozelle Interchange

Chris Standen was interviewed about Sydney's new Rozelle Interchange on ABC Radio's [The World Today, 4/12/23](#).

December 2023

Rozelle Interchange

Chris Standen was quoted in an ABC news article: [Rozelle Interchange design issues will be a problem for Sydney's future, experts say](#).

December 2023

SLHD Planning Unit

Chris Standen from HERDU presented on 'Planning towns and cities for health instead of for speed' to the SLHD Planning Unit.

December 2023

The image displays a presentation slide from the 3rd Asia Pacific Conference on Integrated Care. The slide features the title 'Working Together: Collaboration for Health' and is described as 'A practical guide' by Marilyn Wise, Elizabeth Harris, Penelope Finlay, and Don Nutbeam. It also notes that Dr Cathy O'Callaghan and Mr Ratu Marika Uluinadawa Lewanavanua made the poster presentation possible. The slide includes a small graphic of a person and a diagram. To the right of the slide is a photograph of Associate Professor Marilyn Wise, an older woman with short grey hair and glasses, wearing a black jacket over a yellow top, speaking at a podium with a microphone.

Pictured: Associate Professor Marilyn Wise, presenting the Working Together Collaboration for Health Guide at the 3rd Asia Pacific Conference on Integrated Care

KEY MEETINGS AND COMMITTEES

#46 KEY GROUPS

HERDU staff participate in and are members of various SLHD and UNSW Meetings and Committees. Reoccurring and recently attended ad-hoc and intermittent meetings are listed below.

Reoccurring Meeting or Committee	HERDU Member
HERDU Executive Steering Committee	All HERDU
Aboriginal Social Determinants of Health Committee	Fiona Haigh
Aboriginal Social Determinants of Health Working Group	Fiona Haigh
Australian Human Rights Institute Research Committee	Fiona Haigh
Centre for Research Excellence for Integrated Health and Social Care (CREHSCI) CIs and AI meetings	Fiona Haigh
Clinical Service Integration and Population Health Directorate Executives	Fiona Haigh (Miriam Olliek as proxy)
Community Health Navigator Workshop Planning	Miriam Olliek, Cathy O'Callaghan
Community Health Worker Community of Practice (CPHCE)	Fiona Haigh, Cathy O'Callaghan
Community Health workers Extending Care into Community Steering Committee	Fiona Haigh
Covid-19 Equity Focussed Health Impact Assessment Steering Committee	Fiona Haigh, Miriam Olliek, Christopher Standen, Marilyn Wise, Esther Alloun
CPHCE Staff Development Day	All HERDU
CPHCE UNSW Randwick Office Staff Meetings	All HERDU
District Population Health Clinical Stream and Budget Meeting	Miriam Olliek
EquityFest Activities: Working Groups, Planning Groups, Advisory groups	Fiona Haigh, Miriam Olliek, Cathy O'Callaghan
Geospatial mapping – special interest group (SLHD)	Christopher Standen, Fiona Haigh
Healthy Strong Communities Committee	Fiona Haigh (Christopher Standen as proxy)
HERDU Staff and Strategic Planning Meeting	All HERDU
International Union of Health Promotion and Education – Global Working Group on Health Impact Assessment	Fiona Haigh (Co-Chair)
MACHI PWG Meeting Working Group	Fiona Haigh
Mobile Health Clinic Working Group (SLHD)	Christopher Standen
NSW Active Transport Project Team	Fiona Haigh, Christopher Standen
NSW Justice Health and Forensic Mental Health Network, work group (Partnership with, SLHD, Murrumbidgee LHD, Western NSW LHD, Illawarra Shoalhaven LHD, NSW Ministry of Health).	Miriam Olliek
Peer Educator Workshops (with Counterpoint Community Services)	Esther Alloun
Peer Wellbeing Educator Implementation Group	Esther Alloun
Peer Wellbeing Educator Working Group	Esther Alloun, Fiona Haigh
Refugee Health Community of Practice (CPHCE)	Fiona Haigh, Esther Alloun
SLHD and CESPHE GP Liaison Committee	Fiona Haigh (Miriam Olliek as proxy).
SLHD Canterbury Hospital Multicultural Access Committee	Miriam Olliek, Cathy O'Callaghan
SLHD CE Consolidated COVID Reporting Taskforce	Christopher Standen
SLHD District Managers Meeting (Executive)	Fiona Haigh (Miriam Olliek and Christopher Standen as proxy)
SLHD Health Literacy Framework Meeting	Fiona Haigh
SLHD Innovation Symposium Planning	Miriam Olliek, Fiona Haigh
SLHD Organisational Health Literacy Project Working Group with District Nursing	Fiona Haigh

SLHD Patient & Family Centred Care (PFCC) - Our Patients - Working Group	Fiona Haigh, Miriam Olliek
SLHD Patient & Family Centred Care (PFCC) Steering Committee	Fiona Haigh (Miriam Olliek as proxy)
SLHD Public Health Unit Research Steering Committee	Fiona Haigh
SLHD Reporting and Analytics Subgroup	Christopher Standen
Strength Based Approach planning	Esther Alloun, Fiona Haigh, Cathy O'Callaghan, Miriam Olliek
Sydney Healthy Eating and Active Living Committee (SLHD)	Christopher Standen
UNSW CHECC Investigators Meeting	Fiona Haigh
UNSW CPHCE Advisory Group Committee	Fiona Haigh
UNSW CPHCE Director Meeting	Fiona Haigh
UNSW CPHCE Primary and Community Health Cohort Management meeting	Fiona Haigh
Waterloo Collaborative Group Human Services Action Plan (DCJ)	Christopher Standen, Fiona Haigh
Whole of Health Steering Committee SLHD meeting	Fiona Haigh, Miriam Olliek
Working Together – Collaboration for Health Activities	Miriam Olliek, Cathy O'Callaghan, Marilyn Wise

PUBLICATIONS AND CONFERENCE PAPERS

#17

Alloun E, Cook N. Actually existing intersectionality: The place-based and embodied politics of animal and human rights activism. *Environment and Planning E: Nature and Space*. 2023.

Alloun E. Gone to the Dogs. *Feral Feminisms*. 2023(12):29-35.

Haigh F, Alloun E, Standen C, Olliek M, Wise M. An equity-focused health impact assessment of the COVID-19 pandemic and associated response. *Population Medicine*.5(Supplement).

Haigh F, Crimeen A, Green L, Moeller H, Conaty S, Prior J, et al. Developing a climate change inequality health impact assessment for health services. *Public Health Research and Practice*. 2023;33(4).

Haigh F, Douglas M, Mekel O, Green L, Hirono K. The future of health impact assessment- setting the Research Agenda. *Population Medicine*.5(Supplement).

Harris-Roxas B, Parker S, Wright S, Barr M, Sharma A, Haigh F, et al. Community Health Navigator assisted transition of care from hospital to community: A randomised control trial. 3rd Asia Pacific Integrated Care Conference. Sydney 2023.

Jaques K, Haigh F, Zapart S, Beer M, Peisley G, Calalang C, et al. Inter-sectoral policy partnerships: a case study of South Western Sydney's Health and Housing Partnership. *International Journal of Housing Policy*. 2023;23(2):381-402.

Lynch H, Holdroyd I, Black D, Cave B, Harris-Roxas B, Haigh F, et al. Sick Britain: A call for mandatory Health Impact Assessments across government with the support of a dedicated 'Health in All Policies' support unit (Evidence Brief). London: Queen Mary University of London for The Health Foundation; 2023.

Mengesha Z, Weber D, Smith M, Harris P, Haigh F. 'Fragmented care': Asylum seekers' experience of accessing health care in NSW. *Health Promotion International*. 2023;38(5).

Reid A, Bestman A, Knight S, Haigh F. Examining the barriers and facilitators of community engagement for alcohol decision making in New South Wales: Preliminary Findings. Australian Public Health Conference 2023. Hobart, Tasmania.

Serova N, Alloun E, Yashadhana A, Mengesha Z. Making place in refugee health research: An Australian perspective. *Refugee Mental Health and Place Network (King's College London)*; 2023.

Standen CM, McIntyre E, Easthope H, Green J, Haigh F. Assessing tenant health amid social housing redevelopment: lessons from a pilot project. *Public Health Research & Practice*.33(4).

Stephen Greaves, Matthew Beck, Alec Cobbold, Christopher Standen, Chris Rissel, Melanie Crane, Working from home, active travel, health and wellbeing: Legacies of a pandemic, *Travel Behaviour and Society*, Volume 34, 2024

Wanjau MN, Dalugoda Y, Oberai M, Möller H, Standen C, Haigh F, et al. Does active transport displace other physical activity? A systematic review of the evidence. *Journal of Transport and Health*. 2023;31.

Wanjau MN, Möller H, Haigh F, Milat A, Hayek R, Lucas P, et al. Physical Activity and Depression and Anxiety Disorders: A Systematic Review of Reviews and Assessment of Causality. *AJPM Focus*. 2023;2(2).

Wanjau MN, Möller H, Haigh F, Milat A, Hayek R, Lucas P, et al. The Potential Impact of Physical Activity on the Burden of Osteoarthritis and Low Back Pain in Australia: A Systematic Review of Reviews and Life Table Analysis. *Journal of Physical Activity and Health*. 2023;20(8):690-701.

Yashadhana A, Alloun E, Serova N, de Leeuw E, Mengesha Z. Place-making and its impact on health and wellbeing among recently resettled refugees in high income contexts: A scoping review. *Health and Place*. 2023;81.

Health Equity Research and Development Unit Annual Report 2023

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