The Charles Perkins Centre aims to ease the burden of obesity, diabetes and cardiovascular disease and their related conditions by translating the work of the University of Sydney into real-world solutions. The Charles Perkins Centre facilitates researchers, writers, experts and lay people with great ideas to address complex issues of health and ecology.

Our humanities and social sciences play a central role and we need the creative arts to tell these important stories. The Fellowship will support an established Australian writer to create new work within Australia’s leading interdisciplinary centre for improving health in the modern environment.

Our generous donor

The Charles Perkins Centre Writer in Residence Fellowship has been made possible thanks to the generosity of its inaugural Patron, Judy Harris.

Judy is an alumna of the University of Sydney. She has a Bachelor of Arts (Honours) majoring in Psychology and Economics and a Master of Bioethics.

She has held Director positions with worldwide advertising agencies. Judy is an advocate for creating roles to engage and effectively communicate social and health issues and convey information that will improve individual and public health.

Charles Perkins Centre

The Charles Perkins Centre is a $500 million initiative at the University of Sydney, which brings together many disciplines to develop integrated solutions for easing the burden of obesity and chronic disease in Australia, the rest of the developed world, and increasingly the developing world.

The Research and Education Hub at the University, with regional hubs in Broken Hill and Western Sydney, has created an ecosystem of richly connected, interdisciplinary ‘project nodes’ that form a complex, evolving system of research and educational activities spanning all faculties of the University.

The spirit of the Centre reflects that of our namesake. Charles Perkins was an inspirational Aboriginal man of the Arrente people and alumnus of the University who challenged prevailing views, brought people together across disciplines and divides, and had a major impact on Australian society.

Charles’ own career reflected all that constitutes the interdisciplinary, from a diversity of roles which included professional football, senior government administration, mentorship, development of young Aboriginal people, a patron of the arts and culture and an instigator of social reform.
Charles Perkins also represents Indigenous Australia’s rich history of land management. Our First Peoples managed the land according to sophisticated ecological principles – effectively as a huge, fire-managed estate – and enjoyed good health as a consequence.

By contrast, today in Australia 63 percent of adults and 25 percent of children are overweight or obese, with all manner of associated health consequences.

At one level the reasons are simple – we eat too much and exercise too little; but the public health message to eat less and move more has had little effect because we have designed a world that militates against good health and promotes obesity.

Like all animals, humans have evolved to minimise energy expenditure and maximise safe and palatable food. These are powerfully adaptive traits, but as a consequence of our most notable trait – the human brain – we have designed a world in which we have achieved our ancestral hearts’ desires.

We have selected our food plants and animals, and designed our food production and supply systems to maximise the qualities that were missing in our ancestral environments – energy dense, fat and sugar-rich foods.

Our towns, homes and workplaces are designed to minimise energy expenditure. Our economic and political systems value wealth over health.

In the Darwinian marketplace of the modern economy, companies that sell what we want prosper; even if that means selling us foods that reflect our ancestral appetites but will end up killing us.

Political solutions are not easy – prevention is better than cure, yet makes little profit in the short term. It is easier to put the onus back on individuals: sloth and gluttony are personal issues, not a matter for the state. But if it were as simple as a failure of willpower, then we have failed on a massive scale, both here and throughout the developed and developing world.

Rather, these so-called wicked problems require solutions that take account of the complex network of causal influences.

Through its innovative interdisciplinary approach, the Charles Perkins Centre will provide the Writer in Residence Fellow many opportunities to communicate the complexity of these stories to diverse audiences.

For more information about the Charles Perkins Centre and our mission, please see our website sydney.edu.au/perkins.

Charlotte Wood: Inaugural Writer in Residence Fellow

This is now the second year we are inviting expressions of interest for our Writer in Residence Fellowship.

In 2016, we were delighted to award the highly acclaimed Australian novelist, Charlotte Wood, as our inaugural Charles Perkins Centre Writer in Residence Fellow.

“The Charles Perkins Centre residency is one of the most significant developments of my career. It has not only afforded me extremely generous financial support, space and time in which to work, but has opened up and enriched my writing process in ways I could not have foreseen.

I’m surrounded by hundreds of curious, open and superbly intelligent minds in a well-resourced institution which truly respects creativity and risk-taking as fundamental values.

My novel is flourishing and I can see the professional and personal benefits of this residency continuing well into my future. I can’t recommend this residency highly enough to other writers.”
Writer in Residence Fellow - 2017

In November 2016, we invite applications from Australian writers of renown to become our Charles Perkins Centre Writer in Residence in 2017.

Eligibility and selection criteria

The Charles Perkins Centre Writer in Residence Fellowship will recognise an Australian writer working in a creative genre (including fiction, poetry, performance, creative non-fiction, digital media, screen) who has published a major work, or has had it performed/produced professionally within the past five years.

The successful applicant will have the opportunity to promote their new work through a variety of media and public channels in collaboration with the Charles Perkins Centre and the University of Sydney.

The successful Charles Perkins Centre Writer in Residence Fellow will:

- be an Australian citizen or permanent resident
- have a major creative work of excellence published/produced or performed since 2012
- have received, or been shortlisted for an award of national and/or international significance

- be able to commit to the Fellowship as a primary appointment during their tenure and devote a substantial proportion of the year to the Fellowship
- be able to work within the Charles Perkins Centre Research and Education Hub for a substantial proportion of the Fellowship
- commence a new work on a topic or topics that are inspired by and help communicate and interpret issues related to the work of the Centre. Examples might include issues related to health, well-being, food, ageing, social disadvantage or cultural identity. The residency would include working towards production of a new major work
- become a member of the Charles Perkins Centre’s academic community. This would include helping to inspire researchers within the Centre and across the University to think differently about their work and its impact outside of academia, while also raising awareness of the Centre’s work among the general public.

The Fellowship grant and support

The Charles Perkins Centre Writer in Residence Fellowship will be for one year (2017 - 2018), and will include:

- a grant of AUD$100,000
- an honorary appointment at the University of Sydney
- a base in the Charles Perkins Centre Research and Education Hub
- full library access
- the opportunity to meet and work with a diverse range of our researchers, educators and clinicians at the Charles Perkins Centre.

Expected outcomes

It is expected the Charles Perkins Centre Writer in Residence Fellow will produce new work towards production, publication or performance within the period of the Fellowship.

The intellectual property (IP) will remain that of the Fellow but any publications, performances, outcomes or media coverage which results from the Fellowship will acknowledge the support of the Charles Perkins Centre Writer in Residence Fellowship and the University of Sydney.
The Writer in Residence Fellow will present a public keynote address at the Charles Perkins Centre, including a presentation of their work.

The Writer will also participate in three or more associated activities, which might include a selection of the following:

- A session at the Sydney Writers’ Festival.
- Hosting a writers’ workshop at the University of Sydney, in collaboration with the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences creative programs.
- Participating in a University of Sydney public program.
- Engaging with University of Sydney media staff to produce one or more opinion pieces for the media.
- Engaging with Charles Perkins Centre researchers to foster interaction and knowledge sharing between scientists and writers.
- Acting as a creative mentor for selected students.
- Visiting and presenting at one of the Charles Perkins Centre’s regional hubs (Nepean, Westmead and/or Broken Hill).
- Promoting the Charles Perkins Centre on social media.

The successful applicant will be expected to provide a six month progress report to the Board.

**Application process**

The application process involves the following steps:

1. Download and complete application, email to CPC.Writer_In_Residence_2017@sydney.edu.au
2. Board review applications and shortlist applicants
3. Shortlisted applicants are invited to interview
4. The Writer in Residence Fellow is chosen.

Applications should include:

- Name and contact details
- A completed application form
- A statement of background and relevant experience (maximum one page)
- A CV which includes a list of recent creative works (maximum two pages)
- A 10-page sample (maximum) of creative work, or URL that links directly to your work
- A two-page proposed project description including - proposed outcomes, artistic rationale, vision or synopsis, a statement emphasising how the planned activities relate to the CPC mission and a timeline
- Photocopied and scanned proof of Australian citizenship or permanent residency.

Please collate all documents and send as a single PDF.
Applications can be submitted electronically to: CPC.Writer_In_Residence_2017@sydney.edu.au and must be received by 5pm, 10 February 2017.

Notification of receipt of application will be provided by return email.

**Application Checklist**

- Read the *Charles Perkins Centre Writer in Residence Fellowship 2017* guidelines.
- Download and complete the application form from our website http://sydney.edu.au/perkins.
- Sign the completed application form, scan and email (with associated documents) to: CPC.Writer_In_Residence2017@sydney.edu.au.

Each application must include:

- Photocopied and scanned proof of Australian citizenship or permanent residency.
- A 10 page sample, or URL link to the applicant’s major creative work since 2012. If a digital copy is not available, a hard copy will be accepted by delivery to:

  Writer in Residence Fellowship
  Charles Perkins Centre (Building D17)
  University of Sydney NSW 2006.

The applicant must submit the application form electronically, as detailed above, by 5pm, 10 February 2017.

**Board review**

The Board will assess each expression of interest against the following criteria:

**Artistic merit**
- The Board will assess your artistic achievement and vision as described in your expression of interest.

**Artistic capacity**
- The Board will assess your capacity to undertake the *Charles Perkins Centre Writer in Residence Fellowship* and engage with the Centre as described in your expression of interest.

**Relevance to Charles Perkins Centre mission**
- The Board will assess the relevance of your proposed creative program to the Charles Perkins Centre mission as described in your expression of interest.

**Shortlisted applicants**

Applications will be reviewed by the Charles Perkins Centre Writer in Residence Board and a shortlist will be invited for interview.

Shortlisted applicants will be advised by 15 March 2017.

**Interview with Board**

Shortlisted applicants will be asked to attend an interview at the Charles Perkins Centre Research and Education Hub, the week beginning 27 March 2017.

**Notification**

The Charles Perkins Centre Writer in Residence Board will notify the successful applicant by 31 March 2017.

In consultation with the successful applicant, a public announcement will be made by June 2017 at a time mutually agreeable between the successful applicant and the Charles Perkins Centre.

**Charles Perkins Centre Writer in Residence Fellowship Board**

The *Charles Perkins Centre Writer in Residence Fellowship* Board will choose the successful candidate.

In honour of her generous contribution, Judy Harris is named Patron of the *Charles Perkins Centre Writer in Residence Fellowship*.

The Board comprises representatives from Australian Literature and Arts administration, the Charles Perkins Centre, and the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences at the University of Sydney.
Board membership

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Board Members</th>
<th>Title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Judy Harris</td>
<td>Patron</td>
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<tr>
<td>Professor Stephen Simpson AC FAA FRS</td>
<td>Academic Director, Charles Perkins Centre, University of Sydney</td>
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<tr>
<td>Professor Duncan Ivison</td>
<td>Acting Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Research Professor of Political Philosophy, University of Sydney</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jill Eddington</td>
<td>Director of Literature, Australia Council for the Arts</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chip Rolley</td>
<td>Freelance Journalist</td>
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<tr>
<td>Timothy Jones</td>
<td>Director, Seymour Centre, University of Sydney</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr Beth Yahp</td>
<td>Acting Director, Creative Writing Program, Department of English, University of Sydney</td>
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Fellowship timeline

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Expression of interest opens</td>
<td>28 November 2016</td>
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<tr>
<td>Expression of interest closes</td>
<td>10 February 2017</td>
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<tr>
<td>Interview of applicants commences</td>
<td>27 March 2017</td>
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<tr>
<td>Offer to successful applicant</td>
<td>31 March 2017</td>
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<tr>
<td>Announcement of successful applicant</td>
<td>TBC</td>
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<tr>
<td>Commencement of Fellowship</td>
<td>July - September 2017 (TBC)</td>
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<tr>
<td>End of Fellowship</td>
<td>July - September 2018 (TBC)</td>
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For more information about this unique opportunity, please email your enquiry to:

E CPC.Writer_In_Residence_2017@sydney.edu.au

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