

Background

[The Prevention Research Collaboration](#) (PRC) is part of the School of Public Health and is located at the [Charles Perkins Centre](#), University of Sydney. The PRC is a specialised research group with a focus on public health approaches to physical activity, public health nutrition, obesity prevention, epidemiology and health promotion research, as well as other aspects of primary prevention. Our vision is 'collaborative research solutions for a healthier world'. Our expertise centres on chronic disease (NCD) from a public health perspective, but also works across other areas of health promotion and disease prevention, including a strength in longitudinal epidemiological studies, population measurement and surveillance systems. Our interests are in population-wide research, and in translational research. In particular, PRC is engaged in evaluating population-wide prevention programs and in the subsequent dissemination of those which are judged to be effective within given cost efficiency boundaries.

Mission

We will undertake research of the highest quality, in a collaborative endeavour involving researchers and decision makers, to create the knowledge needed for better policy and practice in the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases. We will give our priority endeavour to research in physical activity, nutrition and obesity, bringing expertise, innovation, support and solutions for preventing disease and promoting health.

Our work

PRC has 3 main streams of work (see Figure 1):

- Research;
- Knowledge exchange; and
- Teaching and capacity building

Research

PRC is engaged in a range of policy-relevant research studies which generate different types of public health evidence:

- NCD prevention – needs assessment and intervention evaluation studies
- Applied NCD prevention research in real-world and pragmatic settings
- Policy and technical research
- Research designed to improve research methods and measurement studies
- Epidemiological studies of new NCD risk factors, and of the interaction between multiple risk factors in causing NCDs

PRC undertakes research in epidemiology, measurement studies, health promotion program evaluation, qualitative and mixed methods research, and translational research, investigating the processes of building and applying evidence for large-scale population health programs and policies. PRC has



PRC is based at the Charles Perkins Centre

specialised research expertise in physical activity and public health nutrition, and specific programs of research in support of state, national, and international efforts to promote healthy lifestyles.

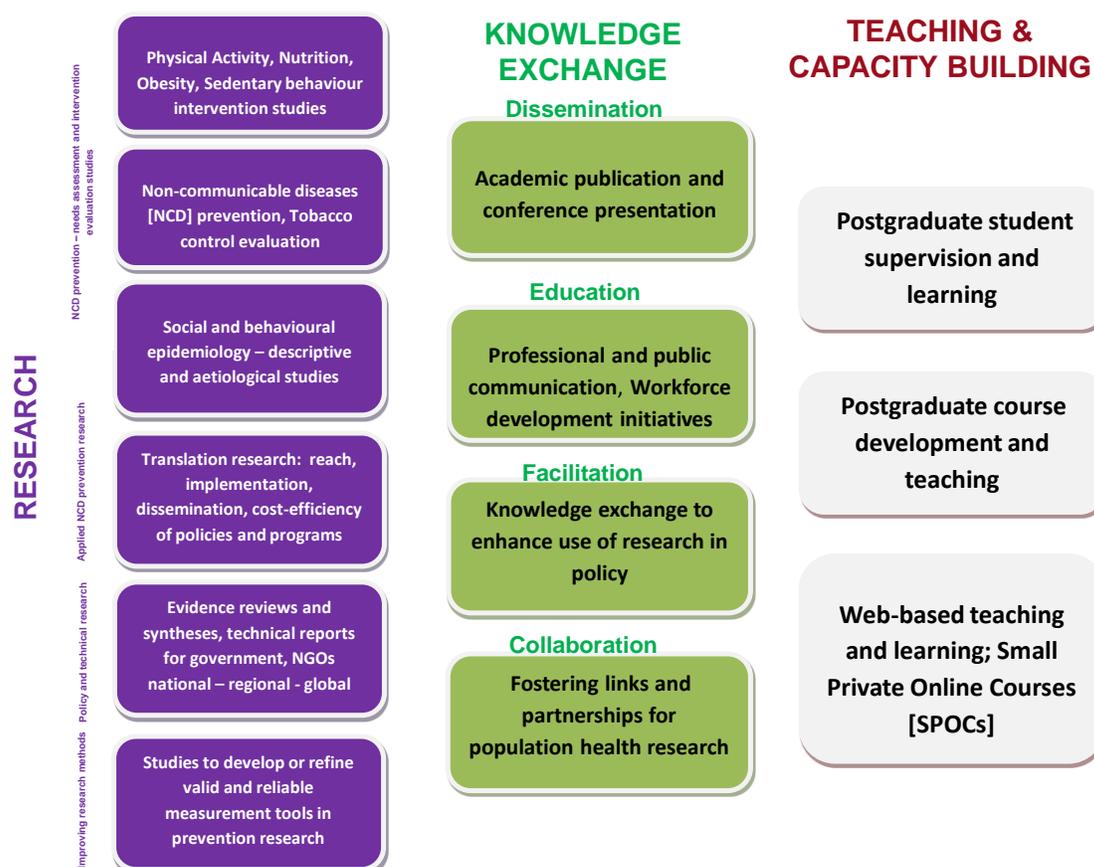


Figure 1 The three work streams of the PRC: Research, Knowledge Exchange, and Teaching

Knowledge Exchange

PRC work in knowledge exchange can be categorized as (i) dissemination, (ii) education, (iii) facilitation and (iv) collaboration.¹ Consistent with our mission goals, our approach to knowledge exchange embraces strategies that support the translation of research into policy and/or practice. A partnership approach that engages researchers, policymakers and practitioners is a central endeavour. PRC works closely with the [Australian Prevention Partnership Centre \[TAPPC\]](#) and others to achieve this.

Teaching & Capacity Building

PRC staff members contribute to a range of teaching and capacity building activities, including a range of public health postgraduate courses at the University of Sydney. PRC undertakes research-informed workforce development activities to enhance the planning, implementation and evaluation of policy and practice in the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases. These activities are often delivered with a focus on the State of NSW, but as a host organisation² of the [WHO Collaborating Centre for Physical Activity, Nutrition and Obesity](#) we provide support globally for WHO prevention programs addressing physical activity, nutrition and obesity prevention.

¹ For detailed explanation of these terms see Walter, I., Nutley, S., Davies, H. (2003). [Developing a taxonomy of interventions used to increase the impact of research](#), Research Unit for Research Utilisation, University of St. Andrews.

² The WHO Collaborating Centre is a collaboration between the University of Sydney's [Boden Institute](#) of Obesity, Nutrition, Exercise & Eating disorders (Faculty of Medicine) and the Prevention Research Collaboration

Our staff team

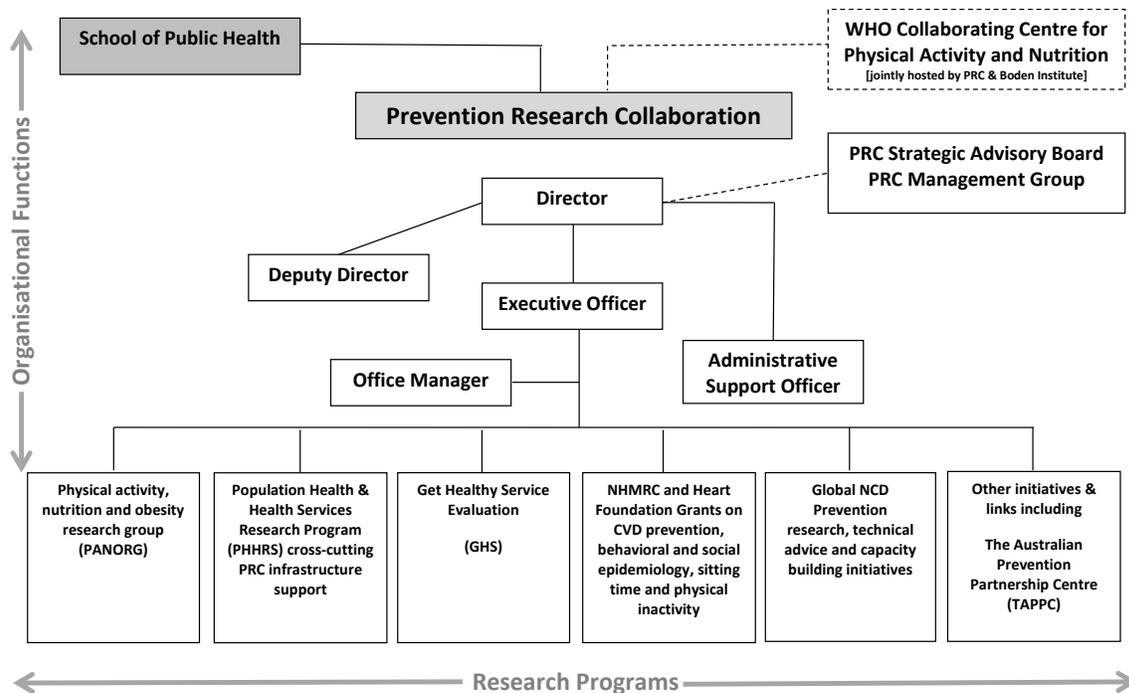
PRC comprises about 25 staff members, who are engaged in research in a variety of ways and levels. Our team includes senior academics from a range of health and social science disciplinary backgrounds, researchers with specialised technical expertise, postdoctoral fellows, postgraduate students and research officers, as well as staff with policy and health services experience.

Our funding

PRC is externally funded through a mix of sources, comprising traditional research funding such as NHMRC and ARC scientific grants, as well as government and non-government agencies who are seeking research support and evidence to guide policy and practice. Currently, our work is substantially based on two core programs, the Physical Activity Nutrition Obesity Research Group [PANORG] and the Population Health and Health Services Research Support [PHHSRS] Programs, both funded by the NSW Ministry of Health. The PANORG Program circumscribes a specific program of research activity, whereas PHHSRS funds research infrastructure and capacity building efforts.

Governance

The PRC organogram is shown as Figure 2. The PRC Director is Professor Adrian Bauman. PRC has a Strategic Advisory Board with formal terms of reference, chaired by Professor Andrew Wilson. The overall purpose of the Strategic Advisory Board is to advise the PRC, through its Director, on how best to fulfil its mission and achieve the goals set out in the PRC Strategic Directions 2014-2019. An internal PRC Management Group comprising ex officio Board members also guides the work.



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Figure 2 Organogram for the Prevention Research Collaboration

For more information, visit the [PRC website](http://sydney.edu.au/medicine/public-health/prevention-research/index.php) <http://sydney.edu.au/medicine/public-health/prevention-research/index.php>