

Communique

ACT Health Summit: Research, Teaching and Training

Tuesday 13 November 2018

Leaders from the ACT Health Directorate and Canberra Health Services today met with leaders from Canberra's tertiary education and research sectors for the ACT Health Summit: Research, Teaching and Training.

The purpose of the Summit was to bring together leaders and decision makers to agree on a clear path for working together on shared priorities that will improve the health and wellbeing of the Canberra community.

The Summit was hosted by the ACT Health Directorate in partnership with the Australian National University (ANU) and the University of Canberra (UC). It was opened by the ACT Minister for Health and Wellbeing, Minister for Medical and Health Research and Minister for Higher Education Meegan Fitzharris, who called for a new partnership, built on a shared determination to make the ACT a leading example of health system innovation and excellence.

The Summit was successful in developing a stronger and more collaborative relationship between research, tertiary education and health service sectors in the ACT, with attendees from the local health and education sectors and consumer representatives setting a new direction for the ACT health system.

As part of this, participants endorsed a vision for a renewed collaboration that will focus on:

- collaboration, complementary strengths, interdependency and synergy
- in research, education and through joint action to improve community health
- the opportunity for improvement in patient care, innovation and excellence
- attraction and retention of the workforce we want
- all to become leaders in the Australian health and healthcare landscape.

The following outcomes were agreed at the Summit:

- 1. All parties share the intention to work together in health research, education and on joint priority endeavours that will improve the health of both Canberrans and people in the surrounding regions of NSW.**

- a. The development of integrated research and education precincts. There is already a precinct at UC in Bruce, and ANU has a significant presence at the Canberra Hospital. ANU is prepared to partner in a significant expansion of its facilities to create a shared capacity with Canberra Health Services and the UC.

These precincts will locate leading researchers and teaching staff on site at two of Canberra's public hospitals to facilitate research, teaching and innovation. The precincts will also facilitate the recruitment of leading clinicians who are active in cutting edge research and teaching, in addition to the highest standards of clinical care for patients.

- b. A diverse health research agenda building on existing research strengths in population health, prevention, cutting-edge laboratory science, clinical research, implementation science, and health services research striving for positive local, national and international impact on health for people at all stages of life.

Partners will also focus on co-design of programs that will include participation of researchers across multiple disciplines, primary care and specialist clinician researchers and the consumers of health care. Quality improvement research will be embedded within all areas of health care delivery.

Summit participants agreed to collaborate to access funding opportunities where these benefit the ACT region and its community. This research effort will be supported by world class infrastructure, including not just the precincts but also cutting-edge IT systems, data analytics capability, and capability regarding IP and commercialisation practices.

A commitment to improving health research governance, with the overall governance structure to be settled over the next few months.

- c. Tertiary education in the health professions. Specifically, initiatives include:
 - High quality education of health professionals
 - Excellence in interprofessional learning for all health graduates in the ACT
 - Joint strategic appointments of clinical and administrative staff, encouraging transparency, clear expectations and line management.
- d. Shared priority endeavours, initially the Living lab project for Canberra, including health promotion, health service innovations, piloting new approaches to health service delivery and work across government to promote healthy lives and take opportunities to promote health across government and non-government services

2. A new governance structure (or structures) to oversee the design and implementation of all these initiatives.

- a. A high-level partnership board will be chaired by the Director-General of the ACT Health Directorate, with membership including the Chief Executive Officer of Canberra Health Services and the Deans of Health from both ANU and the UC. The committee will report to the Minister for Health and Wellbeing and Minister for Medical and Health Research and the Vice Chancellors of the ANU and UC, with draft Terms of Reference, an agreed work plan and a meeting schedule to be developed.
- b. Governance structures that allow a diversity of research, shared processes for prioritising investment and infrastructure.

The Summit demonstrated that the ACT is well positioned to draw upon the extensive local expertise and knowledge in the medical and health research, education and training sectors. As the stewards of the ACT public health system, the ACT Health Directorate will lead the outcomes of the Summit and drive them forward in close collaboration with the ANU and UC.