

Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of Country throughout Australia, and their continuing connection to land, sea and community. We pay our respects to them and their cultures, and to elders both past and present.

We pay our respects to all First Nations people with intellectual disability and acknowledge the higher prevalence of intellectual disability among First Nations peoples and the distinct challenges they face, along with the contributions they make to society.

Acknowledgements

The Centre acknowledges the rich and diverse lived experiences of people with intellectual disability. We acknowledge with appreciation all the people and families who have shared their stories which have informed the National Roadmap for Improving the Health of People with Intellectual Disability and the work of the Centre.

We extend our thanks to everyone who contributed to making this strategy, including the leadership teams from across the consortium, our partner and collaborator organisations, the Learn and Lead Group, the First Nations, National and International Advisory Committees, and our Council.

The National Centre of Excellence in Intellectual Disability Health receives core funding from the Australian Government Department of Health, Disability and Ageing to support the delivery of the Australian government's National Roadmap for Improving the Health of People with Intellectual Disability.



Cover Image:

Working together every step of the way: created by live sketch artist, Paul Telling and attendees at the Centre's National Conference July 2025.

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About the Centre

Our Vision

Our vision is that every person with intellectual disability in Australia gets high quality health care.

Who we are

Building on the work of 9 consortium organisations, the Centre is co-governed and co-led by people with intellectual disability, consortium leads and an independent council.

Our work is informed by First Nations, Learn and Lead (lived experience), and National and International Advisory Committees and grounded in principles of collaboration and co-design.

We work with growing national networks of

- people with intellectual disability and their families
- partner and collaborator organisations
- clinicians and oral health professionals
- First Nations people and organisations

to achieve our shared objectives.

While the Centre's operations are based at University of New South Wales (UNSW), our work is delivered by organisations across Australia.

Many organisations, one vision

The Centre's multi-organisational approach to governance and delivery fosters cross-sector learning, accelerates knowledge of translation, and drives innovation and change.

About the Centre

What we do

The Centre exists to improve health care for people with intellectual disability and plays an important role in delivering the National Roadmap for Improving the Health of People with Intellectual Disability.

We work in partnership with people with intellectual disability, families, and organisations across sectors to; build evidence, create and promote real world solutions, and advocate for their adoption across the health system

Connect and collaborate



The Centre works in partnership with people with intellectual disability, families, health and disability workers, researchers, advocates, policy and decision makers to share ideas and information, and drive collaboration.



Build evidence about the issues

We build evidence about the issues and what makes a difference, drawing on data, research, and the voices people with intellectual disability.



Create real-world solutions

We use the evidence to create real-world solutions including policy, clinical models, frameworks, training, and resources.



Promote and advocate

We promote the solutions and advocate for them to be adopted across the healthcare system, leading to real long-term improvements to health care for people with intellectual disability.

Centre Strategy 2025-2028

We made a strategy for the Centre.

The strategy is our plan to progress change towards our goals in 2025-2028.

The strategy has three parts.



Priorities

We identified 5 strategic priorities to maximise our impact.



Focus Areas

The health system is big, and it is complex.
We identified 5 parts of the health system to further focus our work.

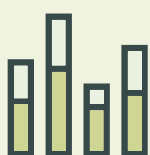


Continued Investment

We identified 5 areas to continue and invest in.
These areas are critical to the Centre achieving its goals.

1 Priorities

We identified 5 priorities.



Better data about intellectual disability health

Finalise identifiers in national data systems and common data to be collected, so health outcomes can be monitored and regularly published and shared.



Training and resources for healthcare workers

Improve access to training and resources that support better care and effective communication with people with intellectual disability.



Promote understanding and uptake of effective models of care and good practice

Test and disseminate model of care findings and continue to develop additional, tailored models of care.



Resources for people with intellectual disability, families/carers

Develop and encourage uptake of new and existing resources that support people to understand their rights, make informed decisions, and build health literacy and advocacy skills.



Potential for change through social determinants of health

Partner with others to address the systemic barriers that prevent people from accessing good health care, like housing, transport and income.

2 Health System Focus Areas

The health system is big and complex.

We chose 5 parts of the health care system to focus on in the next 3 years.
The health systems focus areas will help us direct resources to maximise impact.



Improve acute care

Make hospitals safer and more responsive to the needs of people with intellectual disability, focussing on quality, safety and effectiveness.



Improve access to mental healthcare

Make sure people with intellectual disability can access the mental health care they need.



Improve care coordination

Improve coordination and continuity of care, particularly for people with complex needs, including coordination with the NDIS.



Improve continuity of care, transitions

Ensure greater continuity of care throughout life course, especially at key transition points (e.g. child-adult, adult-older care/geriatric).



Preventative care across lifespan

Increase access to preventative care including screening, immunisation and oral health at all stages of life.

3 Ongoing Investments

We have 5 ongoing investment areas.

These are areas that we will keep investing in because they are critical to us achieving our goals.



Champion inclusive practice

Invest in and advocate for ways of working that build and embed inclusive practice and cultural safety to create new norms.



Raise awareness and provide a national voice

Communicate regularly with partners and people to raise awareness of the issues and encourage accountability and collaboration across the Roadmap.



Deliver on existing commitments

Deliver all committed work and respond to, and build on, learnings from these projects.



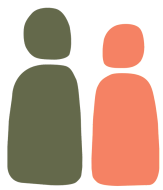
Leverage the collective potential of the Centre's work and adapt to emerging issues

Connect work across the Centre, embed impact measurement, and stay responsive to emerging issues through regular horizon scanning.



Continue to build and bring in the right expertise

Apply agile thinking and approaches to the capabilities required to drive change. Bring in specific expertise as needed to ensure we are ready to meet evolving challenges.



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