



# CRE-DH

Centre of Research  
Excellence in  
Disability and Health

## Vision

The aim of the **Centre of Research Excellence in Disability and Health** is to identify cost-effective policies that improve the health of working-age people with disabilities in Australia. There are four work programs in the CRE-DH which work together to create a multi-disciplinary, cross-sectoral exchange of knowledge in order to develop the best policy reform options. The CRE-DH is funded by the National Health and Medical Research Council and is comprised of academics from five universities, a team of international advisors and a Partner Advisory Group consisting of stakeholders from the disability and health sectors.

## Research Programs

There are four interconnected research areas:



### Mapping Inequities

Using Census data, we map the spatial distribution of social, economic and health inequities between Australians with and without disabilities over a period of time and across geographical areas, to gain knowledge of the extent and distribution of these inequities. We are also developing a Monitoring Framework and indicators to identify potential policy issues.

### Social Determinants of Health

We analyse data from longitudinal studies (tracking individuals over time) to identify how different social, economic and environmental factors contribute to the poorer health of people with disabilities. We focus on the relationships between health and housing, employment, poverty and discrimination. We will quantify how much the health of people with disabilities would improve if they were less disadvantaged.

### Health Economics

We model policy intervention to identify policy that reduces disadvantage and improve health and are value for money among people with disabilities. We do this by estimating the health benefits of the policies, the cost savings realised by improving health, and the costs of the policy interventions. This is the first disability-specific cost-effectiveness model, publicly available to assess policies.

### Policy Analysis and Reform

Policy change is a complex process in which differing values and social context are key factors. An understanding of this dynamic requires in-depth analysis with key policy actors. This is why we have created a 'Policy Lab' consisting of influential stakeholders to hear about the most important policy priorities and issues.

Our members come from a range of contexts such as government and non-government organisations, statutory bodies, the disability service sector, and consumer representative organisations, thus ensuring that a diversity of viewpoints are heard.

We use a 'Delphi' process of iterative feedback and consultation to create engagement with the Policy Lab over a sustained time period. We explore current and emerging policy concerns and help develop group consensus on the best policy reform options.

This information informs our other research programs, thus positioning the views of key stakeholders as central to the research and policy development process.

## Partner Advisory Group

As well as a cross-disciplinary research team, we have a Partner Advisory Group who shape the development of our research agenda. Advisory Group Members are from government and non-government organisations, statutory bodies, peak bodies and consumer representative organisations.

Members are selected for their detailed knowledge of the disability and health sectors and their relationships with critical decision-makers. Members facilitate a two-way flow of information between their constituencies and the CRE-DH. The Advisory Group is chaired by Graeme Innes AM, Australia's former Disability Discrimination Commissioner and Chair of the Attitude Foundation.

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