



Strategic Plan 2006-07 to 2008-09

MISSION

The Centre for Health Record Linkage (CHeReL) will create and sustain a record linkage infrastructure for the health and human services sector, and provide access to these resources to *bona fide* researchers and health planners and policy makers.

The CHeReL has been established collaboratively by ACT Health, the Cancer Institute NSW, the NSW Clinical Excellence Commission, the NSW Department of Health, The Sax Institute, the University of New South Wales, the University of Newcastle and the University of Sydney. The Cancer Institute NSW is the host organisation for the CHeReL.

The CHeReL will provide high quality record linkage services that will:

- facilitate research that may contribute to the promotion, protection and maintenance of the health of the public
- facilitate the planning, evaluation and delivery of health services
- contribute to knowledge regarding research methods relating to health data collection, linkage of health-related data and compilation and use of health-related statistics generally
- allow the outcomes of activities related to the above objects to be available for the benefit of the public and to contribute to knowledge on an open and equitable basis.

The strategic plan covers the 3-year period 2006-07 to 2008-09. It describes what the CHeReL will do, and how we will demonstrate our progress, under the strategic domains:

- Deliver high quality record linkage services
- Serve the public interest in use of health data and protect privacy
- Engage stakeholders
- Ensure good governance



Strategic Priorities

What we will do	How we will demonstrate our progress
Deliver high-quality record linkage services	
Create efficient and reliable record linkage systems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A <i>Master Linkage Key</i> of pointers to records on major health-related data collections developed and maintained New data sets progressively incorporated into the <i>Key</i> High performance data management systems in place Measures of linkage accuracy reported for each project Service delivery performance routinely monitored and reported Member organisations and clients demonstrably satisfied
Undertake and support record linkage research and development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Operational research priorities identified and funded Research collaborations established Publications and reports Methodological advances adopted to optimise record linkage systems Opportunities to link with human services data explored
Serve the public interest in use of health data and protect privacy	
Ensure that research projects are in the public interest	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All research projects approved by a Human Research Ethics Committee Community Advisory Committee functioning effectively CHeReL Business Plan and Work Plan reviewed by Community Advisory Committee on a quarterly basis Advice of the Community Advisory Committee acted on promptly
Protect privacy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Policies and procedures implemented for collection, use and disclosure of information by the CHeReL as required by privacy laws
Engage stakeholders	
Foster a shared understanding of the role of the CHeReL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Relationships and communication channels established with stakeholders Policies and procedures available to stakeholders Agreements with data custodians negotiated and observed Communications strategy implemented
Actively promote record linkage studies among researchers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information on CHeReL services readily accessible to researchers Training courses in use and analysis of linked data run at least annually Record linkage projects completed Scientific publications using data linked by the CHeReL Promotion and presentations at scientific and professional meetings
Actively promote awareness of utility of record linkage studies among health planners and policy makers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use of information from record linkage studies by health planners and policy makers Increasing demand for access to linked data from health planners and policy makers
Engage the community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information for the community easily accessible Mechanisms for community advice developed and functioning effectively
Ensure good governance	
Establish and sustain collaborative management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Management Committee and Community Advisory Committee in place Memoranda of Agreement with funding organisations established Meetings held to schedule and decisions implemented
Ensure efficient and effective operations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Policies and procedures developed including: risk management plan and policies on charges, access to services, and procedures to ensure physical and electronic security of data.
Build a sustainable future	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Research grants utilising CHeReL services Record linkage research programs established and supported by stakeholders Participation in national strategic initiatives in population health record linkage Demand for CHeReL services is growing CHeReL membership aligned with strategic priorities