



Centre for Health Record Linkage

Strategic Plan 2009/10 to 2011/12

MISSION

The Centre for Health Record Linkage (CHReL) 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 CHReL was established in 2006 through a collaboration of 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 the University of Sydney. The University of Western Sydney became a Member of the CHReL in 2008. The Cancer Institute NSW is the host organisation for the CHReL.

The CHReL provides high quality record linkage services that:

- facilitate research which 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 methodologies 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 2009-10 to 2011-12. It describes what the CHReL will do, and how we will demonstrate our progress, under the strategic domains:

- Deliver high quality record linkage services
- Protect privacy and serve the public interest in use of health data
- Encourage the use of record linkage to support improvements in health and human services, and public policy and planning
- Ensure good governance

Strategic Priorities

What we will do	How we will demonstrate our progress
Deliver high-quality record linkage services	
Maintain an up-to-date and relevant <i>Master Linkage Key</i>	A <i>Master Linkage Key</i> of pointers to records on major health-related data collections includes at least the most recent year of data available Selected data collections, including hospitalisations and deaths, updated quarterly in the <i>Master Linkage Key</i> New data collections added to the <i>Master Linkage Key</i>
Maintain efficient and reliable record linkage systems and facilitate access to services	High performance data management systems in place Measures of linkage accuracy reported for each project Satisfaction of member organisations and clients
Undertake and support record linkage research and development	Operational research collaborations established Research on linkage methods and systems adopted to optimise linkage services
Protect privacy and serve the public interest in use of health data	
Protect privacy	All research projects carried out in accordance with privacy and information laws and ethics committee approvals Ethical review is streamlined for research projects seeking access to de-identified datasets created through the <i>Master Linkage Key</i>
Serve the public interest	Community Advisory Committee meets regularly, advises on CHeReL Business Plan and issues of community interest
Encourage the use of record linkage to support improvements in health and human services, and public policy and planning	
Foster a shared understanding of the role of the CHeReL	Relationships and communication channels established with stakeholders Information on CHeReL services, policies and procedures readily available
Support researchers to carry out record linkage studies	Record linkage projects completed Scientific publications and presentations using data linked by the CHeReL Education and teaching in use and analysis of linked data
Promote record linkage studies among health and human services planners and policy makers	Use of record linkage studies by health planners and policy makers Increasing demand for access to linked data from health planners and policy makers, and the social sciences and human services sectors
Engage and inform the community	Completed projects and project outputs reported on CHeReL website CHeReL newsletter distributed annually
Support data custodian participation in record linkage	Prompt and appropriate information and advice available to data custodians. Data custodians support record linkage studies. Data from the human services sector is made available for linkage studies
Ensure good governance	
Establish and sustain collaborative management	Executive Committee and Advisory Committee in place Member of Community Advisory Committee on Advisory Committee Memoranda of Agreement with partner organisations established Meetings held to schedule and decisions implemented
Ensure efficient and effective operations	Polices and procedures are maintained, including policies on access, charging and data security
Build a sustainable future	CHeReL Membership model supported by stakeholders Increasing demand for CHeReL services Research grants utilising CHeReL services Participation in national strategic initiatives in population health record linkage, and opportunities maximised