

ARC NWC Health Equity Mainstreaming Strategy 2020-2024

Executive Summary

Objectives

Integrate health equity considerations in applied research activities

- Engage ARC NWC themes, members and the public in health equity mainstreaming
- Review ARC NWC member organisations strategies/policies on health equity to inform our approach, allow collaboration and ensure consistency.
- Ensure all research activities use the Health Inequalities Assessment Tool (HIAT) and/or other relevant health equity tools to guide their research.
- Provide guidance to ARC NWC themes, members and public advisers on the general principles involved in incorporating health equity in their research.
- Support ARC NWC themes, members and public advisers in applying health equity considerations in their research, helping to identify and problem solve the differing challenges found. Provide guidance to others through developing exemplars focusing on different research designs.
- Evaluate the impact of health equity mainstreaming on the conduct of research (short-term), provision of services (medium-term) and the population's health and wellbeing (long-term).
- Review and refine ARC NWC's approach to health equity mainstreaming.

Increasing competencies, capabilities and awareness of health equity

- Collaborate across the ARC NWC to improve knowledge and expertise in health equity mainstreaming, producing educational and training materials, conducting training sessions (face-to-face, on-line and self-directed) and organising a seminar series.
- Develop a strategy for communicating the importance of health equity, our approach to addressing it through research, the support and resources available, and the progress the ARC NWC has made in reducing the effects of inequalities.
- Identify, engage and support advocates in ARC NWC member organisations and the public to champion the importance of adopting health equity mainstreaming.
- Recognise ARC NWC's good practice and achievements through publicising and rewarding impact.

Strengthen institutional mechanisms for health equity mainstreaming

- Establish a health equity sub-group to promote networking among those interested in health equity, educate on best practice, and support the conduct of methodological and applied research.
- Support research with a focus on factors that support health and wellbeing rather than on causes of disease (salutogenesis not pathogenic) and on the unequal distributional impacts of policies on health and wellbeing.

Engaging and Involving Patients, the Public and Communities

- Collaborate with ARC NWC Patient and Public Involvement and Engagement on providing guidance and training to public advisers and the wider community on health equity.