

**Sunshine Coast Health Network (SCHN)**

**RESEARCH POSITION STATEMENT**

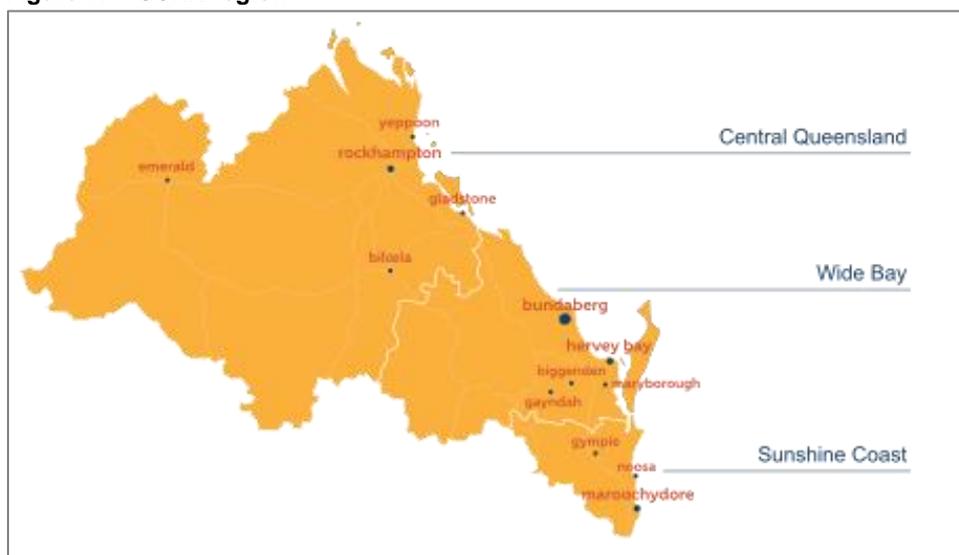
**Date: 18 May 2022**

## Research position statement

### Introduction

While the Sunshine Coast Health Network (SCHN) Ltd., trading as Central Queensland, Wide Bay, Sunshine Coast Primary Health Network, is not a research organisation, it is committed to providing an integrated and improved primary health care system to the communities in its region (Figure 1).

Figure 1. SCHN region



**Vision:**

Healthy, resilient, connected communities – country to coast

**Mission:**

Responsive and effective solutions that optimise population health and wellbeing

Research is one of the key means by which SCHN can pioneer innovation in primary health care, for example, through new models of care to drive change. By establishing a research position statement, SCHN will be better able to facilitate opportunities to collaborate and establish partnerships for grant funding, needs assessments, joint planning and commissioning, and data linkage.

The establishment of a research position statement will also support SCHN to:

- take advantage of opportunities to lead, support and collaborate in quality research as they arise
- provide a systematic approach to how it approves, and determines capacity and suitability, in line with its strategic goals as well as national and local health priorities
- maximize the value of its work by establishing partnerships with university, Hospital and Health Service (HHS) partners and other relevant stakeholders
- apply for relevant grant funding as a collaborative partner and/or lead agency (when applicable), and
- manage the multiple requests it receives for support and participation in research.

### Background

Primary Health Networks (PHNs) have been established with the key objective of increasing the efficiency and effectiveness of health services for patients, particularly those at risk of poor health outcomes, and improving coordination of care to ensure patients receive the right care, in the right place, at the right time. Table 1 lists the key national and local PHN priorities and Table 2 shows the key priorities of SCHN and associated research activities. Research enables SCHN to achieve its vision and mission to be recognised as a leader in delivering efficient health care solutions and for its agility in getting services to the community where they are needed most.

## Research position statement

Table 1. PHN national and local priorities

National priorities	Local priorities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health</li> <li>Aged care</li> <li>Alcohol and other drugs</li> <li>Digital health</li> <li>Health workforce</li> <li>Mental health</li> <li>Population health</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Indigenous health</li> <li>Alcohol and other drugs</li> <li>Chronic disease prevention &amp; management</li> <li>Maternal and child health</li> <li>Older person's health</li> <li>Palliative care/end of life care</li> <li>Mental health and suicide prevention</li> <li>Access</li> <li>Practice support</li> <li>Health intelligence and data analytics</li> <li>System integration</li> <li>Health workforce</li> </ul>

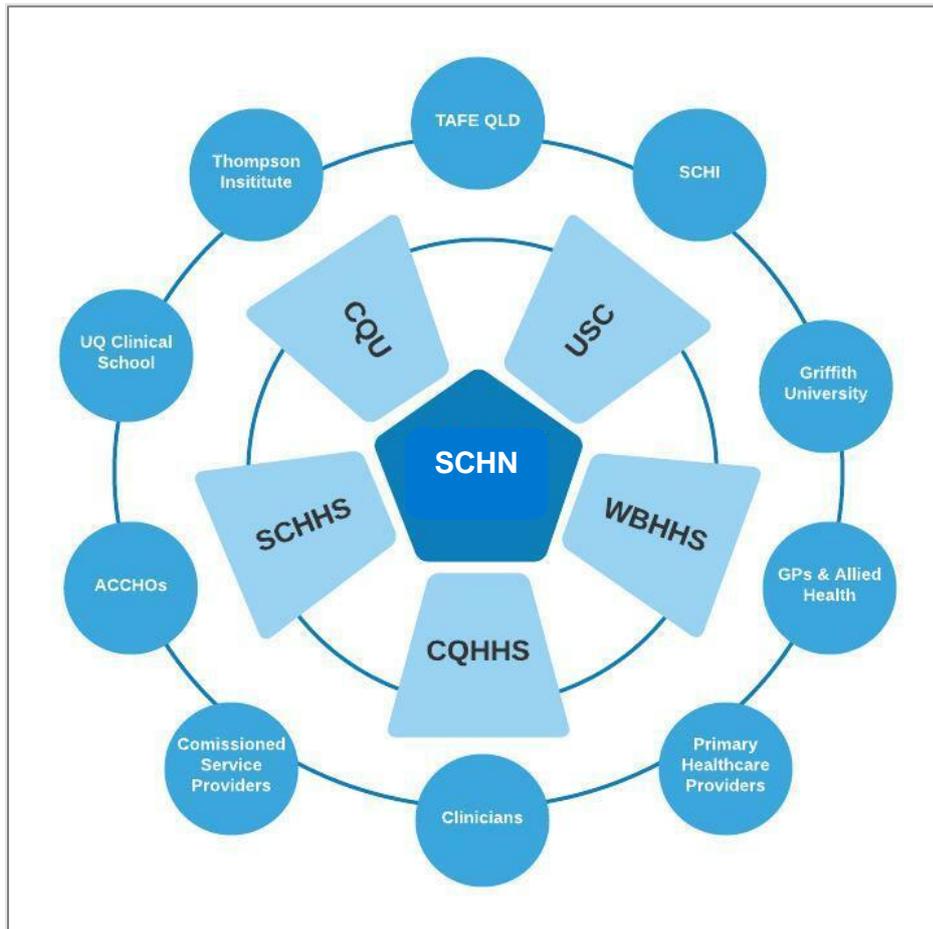
Table 2. 2021 SCHN strategic plan and research actions

Priorities	Strategies	Research actions	
<b>Build healthier communities through primary health outcomes</b>	Connect young people to trusted services that set them up for healthy lives	Research actions to be aligned with relevant strategies (as completed): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="#">Healthy ageing strategy</a></li> </ul>	
	Connect older people to services that keep them healthy and active at home		
	Give babies a healthy start in the first 5 years (first 2000 days)		
	Enable people with disabilities to take control of their primary health care needs		
	Improve mental health in the community		Research activities aligned with <a href="#">Joint Regional Plan</a>
	Contribute to meeting the primary health needs as determined by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people		
<b>Meet emerging challenges through innovation</b>	Co-design integrated and innovative ways to provide more effective primary care solutions	SCHN to support the establishment and ongoing facilitation of the regional joint consortia (Figure 2) and research activities to be aligned to mapped priorities that include developing new models of care, data linkage and other primary health care opportunities.	

## Research position statement

Priorities	Strategies	Research actions
Investment and partnerships	Secure new investment partners and collaborators to support research and implementation of new models of primary health care	<p>SCHN to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>support the establishment and ongoing facilitation of the regional joint consortia (Figure 2) with key partnerships from universities, HHSs and other key stakeholders to enable research and planning opportunities</li> <li>define relationship with the Sunshine Coast Health Institute (SCHI) for collaboration opportunities, and</li> <li>seek adjunct membership at universities and/or HHS partners for SCHN staff to assist with collaboration, data sharing and/or student supervision opportunities.</li> </ul>

Figure 2. SCHN key research stakeholders



**Abbreviations**

- USC – University of Sunshine Coast\*
- CQU – Central Queensland University\*
- SCHHS – Sunshine Coast Hospital & Health Service\*
- WBHHS – Wide Bay Hospital & Health Service\*
- CQHHS – Central Queensland Hospital & Health Service\*
- ACCHOs – Aboriginal community-controlled health organisations
- UQ – University of Queensland
- SCHI – Sunshine Coast Health Institute (SCHI)
- \*Current members of Regional Joint Consortia (USC, CQU, SCHHS, CQHHS, WBHHS)