Projects granted a waiver of consent

Government of South Australia
SA Health

In certain circumstances, it is justifiable to grant a waiver of consent, as opposed to obtaining informed consent from research participants. Conditions are outlined in Section 2.3.10 of the National Statement on Ethical Conduct in Human Research (2023).

Under section 2.3.12 “it is the responsibility of each institution to make publicly accessible summary descriptions of all research projects for which consent has been waived”. The waiver of consent may cover the collection/use of part or all of the data/information required for the project.

The Department for Health and Wellbeing Human Research Ethics Committee has granted a waiver of consent for the following projects since 2023:

Project	Status	Date
Long term effectiveness of meningococcal B vaccine (4CMenB) against gonococcal infections **CPI:** Prof Helen Marshall **Institution:** The University of Adelaide **Summary** Emerging evidence suggests that the licensed meningococcal B (MenB) vaccine, 4CMenB is effective against gonococcal infections due to cross reacting antibodies and 95% genetic homology between the two bacteria, Neisseria meningitidis and Neisseria gonorrhoeae, that cause the diseases. This project aims to undertake epidemiological and genomic surveillance to evaluate the long-term protection of 4CMenB vaccine against gonococcal infections in the Northern Territory (NT) and South Australia (SA), and to determine whether booster vaccine doses are required to provide longer term protection against gonococcal infections.	Approved	March 2023
Personalising colorectal cancer prevention strategies with a risk stratification tool **CPI:** Dr Molla Wassie **Institution:** Flinders University **Summary** Colorectal cancer is the second leading cause of cancer death in Australia. People who are at increased risk for this cancer are recommended to have regular colonoscopies, with minimal personalisation to the individual’s risk factors (such as age, diet and lifestyle). This study will develop a computerised risk factor tool to personalise cancer prevention strategies for this high-risk subgroup of the population thereby utilising colonoscopy resources more efficiently.	Approved	March 2023
Association of COVID-19 attack rate and outbreak duration with adverse health outcomes in residents living in South Australian Residential Aged Care Facilities: a retrospective observational study **CPI:** Dr Mitchell Acland **Institution:** Communicable Disease Control Branch, SA Health	Approved	March 2023

Summary With the aim of improving public health response to COVID-19 outbreaks in residential aged care facilities (RACFs), our study investigated the association of COVID-19 attack rate and outbreak duration with adverse health outcomes for residents with COVID-19 infection. This study used retrospective observational data from 128 South Australian RACFs which experienced COVID-19 outbreaks over a 6-week period in 2023. This revealed a significant association between increased COVID-19 attack rates and severe health outcomes, a result which emphasises the importance of preventing initial and ongoing transmission of COVID-19 in RACFS to protect the health of vulnerable residents.		
Optimising medication use and improving health outcomes in hospitalised middle-aged and older adults with multimorbidity **CPI:** Prof Sepehr Shakib **Institution:** The University of Adelaide **Summary** The research aims to identify individuals at higher risk of medication-related problems to improve medication use in adults with multiple chronic medical conditions. It will assess the risk of adverse drug reactions, hospital readmissions and death associated with the use of guideline-directed medicines.	Approved	March 2023
The Walking Communications Campaign Project **CPI**: Dr Natasha Schranz **Institution:** Department for Health and Wellbeing (Preventive Health SA) **Summary** This project evaluates two waves of a South Australian (SA) walking mass media campaign, linked to the overall SA Walking Strategy and the goal to change the 'community culture towards recognising walking' as convenient, affordable and health-promoting. Evaluation was formative (pre campaign), process (campaign implementation and delivery) and impact. The process evaluation was dominated by social media marketing in Wave 1, with substantially more paid TV media and radio in Wave 2. The impact evaluation comprised two surveys of adult South Australians (n=800 each) following each wave of the campaign. This detailed and structured evaluation of a comprehensive mass media campaign showed good reach, and population changes in perceptions and walking behaviour amongst South Australians.	Approved	April 2023
Uptake and efficacy of prophylactic and therapeutic COVID-19 medications on morbidity and mortality outcomes in South Australia **CPI:** Dr Emmanuel Gnanamanickam **Institution:** Central Adelaide Local Health Network **Summary** This study aims to assess the usage and outcomes of pre-exposure prophylaxis (before infection treatment for high risk groups) and early antiviral treatment of COVID-19 in South Australia. Specifically, it aims to answer the following questions i) what is the usage of antiviral medications amongst eligible patients? ii) what are the outcomes (morbidity and mortality) of South Australian patients at different stages of medication access while Omicron was the dominant variant? iii) what is the efficacy and outcomes of pre-exposure prophylaxis (with tixagevimab and cilgavimab) in high risk patient groups? iv) what is the effect of covid-19 vaccinations on the relationship between covid-19 treatments and outcomes?	Approved	May 2023

Prevalence of polypharmacy or multimorbidity and frailty in hospitalised middle-aged and older adults **CPI:** Prof Sepehr Shakib **Institution:** The University of Adelaide **Summary** The research aims to determine the prevalence of polypharmacy (patients taking 5 or more medicines), multimorbidity (patients with two or more chronic medical conditions) and frailty in middle-aged and older adults admitted to hospital. It will also assess the uptake of medications for common cardiovascular conditions.	Approved	May 2023
Risk of adverse birth outcomes associated with maternal exposure during extreme ambient temperature **CPI:** Dr Adriana Milazzo **Institution:** The University of Adelaide **Summary** This project will examine the effects of extreme ambient temperature on preterm birth, stillbirth and low birth weight risk, and identify critical exposure windows during pregnancy, by assessing the number of excess adverse birth outcomes attributable to heatwaves. Findings will provide evidence and recommendations for locally-appropriate interventions, best-practice antenatal protocol and opportunities for prevention in the context of climate change.	Approved	May 2023
Using deep learning to predict COPD patient outcomes obtained from administrative data linkage. **CPI:** A/Prof Sutapa Mukherjee **Institution:** Flinders University **Summary** The investigators will use all the clinical data available on individuals with COPD to determine which parameters are most useful to predict long term outcome and prognosis from COPD. This deep learning project is likely to provide new variables as a focus for further research.	Approved	June 2023
Health, development, and social welfare in South Australia: The Better Evidence Better Outcomes Linked Data (BEBOLD) e-Cohorts **CPI:** Prof John Lynch **Institution:** The University of Adelaide **Summary** BEBOLD is an updatable linked data platform including all SA birth cohorts from 1991. It contains de-identified information from health, education, social welfare, housing and child protection sources. Research using BEBOLD spans several themes concerning improving life outcomes for children, young people and families experiencing health, social or socioeconomic disadvantage. Our research program holds Indigenous Data Sovereignty as a core principle, and we support several projects led by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander researchers.	Approved	July 2023
Surveillance of COVID-19 in South Australia, Annual Report 2021 **CPI:** Dr Emily Fearnley **Institution:** SA Health, Communicable Disease Control Branch	Abandon	July 2023

Examination of the relationship between rainfall, mosquito abundance, and human case incidence of Ross River Virus (RRv) and Barmah Forest virus (BFv) in South Australia from 2017-2023. **CPI:** Dr Adriana Milazzo **Institution:** The University of Adelaide **Summary** This study aims to investigate the relationship between rainfall, mosquito abundance, and disease incidence of Ross River Virus (RRv) and Barmah Forest virus (BFv) in South Australia from 2017 to 2023. By examining these key environmental factors, the study seeks to enhance our understanding of the epidemiology and ecological dynamics of these mosquito-borne diseases.	Completed	September 2023
The Patient Journey for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples with a Road Traffic Injury **CPI:** A/Prof Courtney Ryder **Institution:** Flinders University **Summary** Transport injuries disproportionately impact individuals in remote areas, those in lower socioeconomic situations, and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander populations. There is a lack of insight into transport injuries in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities. This project is addressing characterising the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander patient journey after a serious road traffic injury, along with barriers to access for road traffic compensation. Protocol URL: https://injuryprevention.bmj.com/content/30/1/75	Approved	November 2023
Clustering of health behaviours among young adults in South Australia and its effect on health and wellbeing **CPI:** Dr Kamalesh Venugopal **Institution:** Department for Health and Wellbeing (Preventive Health SA) **Summary** This study aimed to identify clusters of health behaviours among South Australian young adults and examine their association with health and wellbeing outcomes. The study used data from South Australian Population Health Surveys (SAPHS) collected between 2018 up to 2023. Behavioural clusters were determined based on ten health related behaviours (six diet related behaviours, smoking, sleeping, alcohol consumption and physical activity). Latent class analysis was used to identify behavioural clusters. Selection of covariates were made a priori using directed acyclic graph. This study highlights that health behaviours among South Australian young adults are clustered and a considerable proportion of the respondents exhibited risky lifestyle.	Approved	April 2024
Early childhood cancer and development: a national linked data study **CPI:** Dr Jennifer Baldock **Institution:** Cancer Council SA	Abandon	April 2024
Oral health, general health and aging **CPI** Dr Gloria Mejia **Institution:** The University of Adelaide	Approved	May 2024

Summary This project examines the epidemiology of oral health conditions with regard to general health, multi-morbidity and mortality. The project will use previously collected data from two cohorts of older adults, with added information from linked administrative datasets. The South Australian Dental Longitudinal Study (SADLS-1) was conducted between 1991 and 2002. The Intergenerational Change in Oral Health Study (SALDS-2) was conducted between 2013 and 2016.		
Health behaviour patterns and relationships with wellbeing and health care utilisation among cancer survivors: the impact of multimorbidity **CPI:** Dr Katia Ferrar **Institution:** Flinders University **Summary** Using cluster analysis, this study will use data from the South Australian Population Health Survey (2023) to investigate patterns of health behaviours, relationships with health outcomes and healthcare utilisation, and explore the impact of multimorbidity. Cluster analysis has been underutilised with survivors of cancer and presents an opportunity for targeted intervention strategies for South Australians living with and beyond cancer.	Approved	May 2024
Economic evaluation of a virtual Emergency Department, the South Australian Virtual Care Service **CPI:** Prof Jonathan Karnon **Institution:** Flinders University **Summary** The South Australian Virtual Care Service (SAVCS) is a virtual emergency department that allows an emergency department doctor to treat patients through video-conferencing with an ambulance officer, residential aged care or disability staff, or remote/regional healthcare staff. The economic impacts on the health system are not well understood and we aim to answer the questions of whether the additional costs of the SAVCS are justified by its impact on the health system and patient outcomes, and whether there is variation in costs and outcomes for different components of the SAVCS. Our modelling approach will use routinely collected health systems data to describe patient pathways for patients who used the SAVCS and to estimate counterfactual pathways predicting patients pathways if they had not used the SAVCS. We will then model the effects of the difference in observed and counterfactual pathways on health system flow and patient outcomes.	Approved	June 2024
Assessing Risks, Managing Rights: An Exploration of Information Sharing Provisions in Child Protection. **CPI:** Bianca Broadwood **Institution:** University of South Australia **Summary** This study explores the impacts on health consumers' human rights when information sharing requests are made under Section 152 of the Children and Young People (Safety) Act, 2017. Two methods are used, a focus group with SA Health Social Work Advisory group members and analysis of case reports analysing responses made by SA Health Social Workers to the information requests made by the DCP under the Act. Qualitative thematic analysis will be undertaken. This study will inform the practice of SA Health social workers, improving their patient centred practice and promoting accountability, human rights, and social justice.	Approved	July 2024

BEBOLD and PLIDA: Better data driving better outcomes for children, young people, families and communities **CPI:** Prof John Lynch **Institution:** The University of Adelaide **Summary** BEBOLD-PLIDA brings together the ABS managed, federal data asset, the Person Level Integrated Data Asset (PLIDA) with the SA Better Evidence Better Outcomes Linked Data (BEBOLD) platform. The joint dataset is housed in the high security ABS Datalab. Our research program using BEBOLD-PLIDA focuses understanding lifecourse processes related to health, social, and economic circumstances of populations including their health and human services use, and how these experiences relate to a range of health, development, education, and wellbeing outcomes. Our research program holds Indigenous Data Sovereignty as a core principle, and we support several projects led by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander researchers.	Approved	July 2024
Population based health survey to understand awareness and effectiveness of the Preventive Health SA physical activity portfolio among South Australians. **CPI:** Prof Corneel Vandelanotte **Institution:** Central University Queensland **Summary** This research aims to explore the effectiveness of the Preventive Health SA physical activity portfolio of initiatives on South Australian adults' self-reported physical activity and walking between 2021 and 2023. The overall Preventive Health SA physical activity portfolio has included many walking-related activities and strategies to improve walking among South Australians.	Approved	August 2024
Epidemiology of secondary malignancy after haematopoietic stem cell transplant (HSCT): A South Australian Population-Based Study **CPI:** A/Prof Devendra Hiwase **Institution:** Royal Adelaide Hospital **Summary** Secondary malignancy is the leading cause of non-relapse mortality after haematopoietic stem cell transplant. Despite this, an evidence-based clinical practice guideline for the risk reduction, screening and management is lacking – an urgent unmet need. Moreover, existing data does not account for contemporaneous changes in transplant practice. This study will utilise sophisticated linkage between the South Australian Cancer Registry and Statewide Bone Marrow Transplant Database to assess incidence, outcomes and risk factors of secondary malignancy to inform development of a clinical practice guideline.	Approved	September 2024
Standing on the shoulders of giants: Harmonising 40 years of data to revolutionise Australia's response to increases in psychological distress **CPI:** A/Prof Matthew Sunderland **Institution:** University of Sydney **Summary** This project aims to examine changes in psychological distress over time by harmonizing data from multiple Australian population-based datasets from the past 40 years that measured psychological distress/mental health. This project will use	Approved	September 2024

modern statistical data harmonisation techniques to allow integrated analysis of data from multiple sources and will examine age-period-cohort trends in psychological distress in the total population and at-risk subgroups.		
Climate variability and selected infectious diseases in Australia: Risk Assessment and Future Burden Projection **CPI:** Prof Peng Bi **Institution:** The University of Adelaide **Summary** Climate change poses significant threats to human health, leading to an increase in infectious diseases worldwide. The aim of this research is to: 1) quantify the relationship between climate variables (temperature, rainfall and humidity) and selected infectious diseases vector borne diseases (Ross River virus and Barmah Forest virus infections) and food borne diseases (Salmonellosis, Campylobacter infections), using disease notification data from the National Notifiable Disease Surveillance System (NNDSS) in Australia from 1997 to 2023; 2) map the disease burden at national, state, and local (SA3) levels; 3) project future climate related disease burden in Australia for 2030s, 2050s under different climatic change scenarios, and 4) examine the current capacity of the healthcare workforce in South Australia (as a case study) to deal with emerging and re-emerging diseases under climate change scenarios.	Approved	October 2024
Cancer and Mortality among Australian Firefighters and Exposure to PFAS-containing Firefighter Foam. **CPI:** Prof Debroah Glass **Institution:** Monash University **Summary** This study of 233,000 Australian paid and volunteer firefighters is an updated study of the cohort that was assembled in 2011. The primary objective is to determine whether exposure to per-and poly-fluoroalkyl substances (PFAs) from firefighting foams poses heightened health risks, and to explore potential exposure-response relationships for any identified risks.	Approved	October 2024
Outdoor fitness equipment usage in South Australia: a secondary data analysis. **CPI:** Dr Alyson Crozier **Institution:** University of South Australia **Summary** This project analyzes the use of outdoor fitness equipment (OFE) in South Australia by examining data from a 2023 Population Health Survey with 3,000 adult participants. It aims to identify the frequency of OFE use, factors predicting usage, and barriers faced by adults. The findings aim to inform local government decisions on OFE installations and community fitness initiatives.	Approved	October 2024
Effects of Mental Health Alternative Care Service on rates of regional emergency department presentations: interrupted time series analysis. **CPI:** Dr Engida Derbie **Institution:** University of South Australia **Summary** The Mental Health Alternative Care Service (MHACS) at Port Pirie Hospital offers non-emergency mental health support during regular business hours, aiming to alleviate strain on the emergency department. Utilizing a Peer in – Peer Out model,	Approved	October 2024

MHACS connects individuals with Peer Workers who provide empathetic support based on personal experiences. An interrupted time series analysis will evaluate MHACS's impact on emergency department presentations, comparing rates before and after its implementation. Additionally, interviews with consumers, families, and stakeholders will gather qualitative insights into their experiences with MHACS. The study aims to determine whether MHACS should extend its operating hours to include weekends and after hours, potentially enhancing access to mental health support. By providing a safe and supportive environment for individuals experiencing mental health crises, MHACS seeks to reduce hospital admissions and improve overall mental health outcomes in the Port Pirie community.		
Impact of Social and Environmental Determinants on Polypharmacy in Individuals with Mental Disorders. **CPI:** Dr Nasser Bagheri **Institution:** University of Canberra **Summary** Management of mental disorders is complex, requiring both drug and non-drug interventions. Individuals with mental disorders are frequently comorbid with other physical illnesses, increasing the likelihood that these individuals are exposed to polypharmacy. Polypharmacy is now becoming a significant global patient safety issue associated with morbidity, mortality and high cost. There has been inadequate information on social and environmental determinants of polypharmacy in Australia. This project will, therefore, aim to investigate the impact of social and environmental determinants on polypharmacy in individuals with mental disorders.	Approved	March 2025
Palliative radiotherapy utilisation in people with cancer during the last 30 days of life—a retrospective analysis of administrative data. **CPI:** Dr Ramkumar Govindaraj **Institution:** Royal Adelaide Hospital **Summary** In terminally ill people with cancer nearing their end of life (the last 30 days of life), there is no agreement on what constitutes appropriate or excessive use of radiotherapy, and there is lack of nationwide data on how radiotherapy is used near end of life. This study aims to determine how often, how many treatments and what techniques of radiotherapy was used, and examine the variations and patterns of its use within the last 30 days of life in individuals with cancer across Australia.	Approved	March 2025
Cancer in incarcerated South Australians. **CPI:** Dr Julia Morris **Institution:** Cancer Council of South Australia **Summary** Australians who experience incarceration face profound health inequity. They are often characterised by ongoing experiences of social exclusion and marginalisation that impede engagement with healthcare. Compounding this is excess exposure to carcinogens that are introduced due to disproportionate risky health behaviours in the context of entrenched social and structural disadvantage. It follows that they are likely at increased risk of cancer incidence and mortality, co-morbidities, and barriers to treatment access. However, there is a lack of Australian evidence about cancer-related outcomes among this population to inform appropriate and accessible health and support services.	Approved	March 2025

This study will utilise retrospective linked de-identified data to examine cancer incidence and outcomes for South Australians with a history of incarceration. It aims to generate critical insights to inform policy and improve cancer diagnosis, treatment, and survival for justice-involved people.		
VRU Road Safety: Measuring, Understanding and Mitigating the Cost Burden of Severe Injuries in South Australia. **CPI:** Dr Ali Soltani **Institution:** Flinders University **Summary** This project aims to address the underexplored domain of non-fatal but severe road crashes involving vulnerable road users (VRUs) in South Australia. These include pedestrians, pedal cyclists, and motorcyclists who have suffered injuries between 2018 and 2024. The research adopts an innovative approach by linking police crash data with hospital records, enabling a detailed and comprehensive analysis of the prevalence, outcomes, and associated costs of VRU-related injuries. By leveraging validated techniques, this project aims to overcome the limitations of existing surveillance systems, which frequently underestimate injury prevalence and economic costs. This research also aligns with the objectives outlined in the National Road Safety Strategy 2021–2030, thereby contributing valuable insights to national and state -level road safety frameworks.	Approved	March 2025
Exploring the HIV epidemic before and after the arrival of COVID-19 in Australia. **CPI:** Dr Richard Gray **Institution:** Kirby Institute - UNSW Sydney **Summary** This project has two components. The first component explores how the COVID-19 pandemic has affected the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) epidemic among gay, bisexual, and other men who have sex with men in Australia. A mathematical model will be used to understand changes in HIV testing and sexual behaviour to see if the decrease in HIV cases that occurred during the first two years of the COVID-19 pandemic were due to a genuine fall in HIV transmission or an artefact of the fall in HIV testing. The second component of the project involves a temporal and spatial data analysis to understand the changes in HIV epidemiology since 2000. There has been an increase in late diagnoses in recent years. This project seeks to understand whether late diagnoses are more prevalent in certain areas of Australia, which could inform gaps in public health services including HIV testing.	Approved	March 2025
Trends in HIV diagnoses among people from Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) backgrounds in Australia 2010-2023. **CPI:** Ela Naruka **Institution:** Kirby Institute - UNSW Sydney **Summary** This project will analyse existing de-identified HIV notifications data from the National HIV Registry (NHR), to understand if there are any differences in the transmission and diagnosis of HIV in CALD populations compared to the population born in Australia. Data will also be analysed to investigate if there are differences in late diagnosis of HIV among the above-mentioned population groups.	Approved	April 2025

Integration of Genomic and Epidemiological Surveillance Data to Enhance the Control and Management of Notifiable Diseases. **CPI:** Dr Lex Leong **Institution:** SA Pathology **Summary** This project will build on routine public health work conducted by SA Pathology and the SA Health Communicable Disease Control Branch (CDCB) and analyse routinely collected genomic and epidemiological data associated with critical notifiable diseases to help strengthen future public health interventions and surveillance activities.	Approved	April 2025
Using population-based cancer registry in South Australia to examine trends in incidence and survival of Myeloid Neoplasms, 1992 to 2022 2023 **CPI:** Kerri Beckmann **Institution:** University of South Australia South Australian haematologists have noticed an increase in myeloid neoplasms (MN), particularly among people with a prior diagnosis of cancer. This project aims to investigate whether there has been any increase in the incidence of MN in SA. The study will determine whether the risk of MNs is greater among people who have a prior cancer diagnosis than among the general population. To undertake this project, data from the South Australian Cancer Registry will be used. This exploratory study will provide insights into epidemiology of MN and provide evidence to support future funding applications to explore reasons for increased MN incidence.	Approved	June 2025
Mini SMART-PH (Part Two: Datasets) **CPI:** A/Prof Courtney Ryder **Institution:** Flinders University This project aims to identify data needs and priorities within the Public Health Division at SA Health to develop a digital data platform. This platform will draw on deidentified data sets to streamline reporting processes and enable access to visual dashboards. As a proof-of-concept project, it will demonstrate the value of digital data platforms for the Department of Health and wellbeing.	Approved	August 2025
Audit of preventative health measures for people living with HIV attending a sexual health service in South Australia **CPI:** Dr David Johnson **Institution:** Department for Health and Wellbeing (CDCB) This audit will determine if SHINE SA, a sexual health service in South Australia, is meeting best practice standards for preventative health care for people living with HIV (PLWHIV). Treatment of HIV has improved significantly since its inception, increasing the life expectancy of PLWHIV. A consequence of this is that PLWHIV now face increasing rates of other comorbidities such as cancers, heart disease, and sexually transmitted infections. HIV guidelines recommend preventative health measures to address these conditions. International audits show variable adherence to these guidelines, and there are few Australian audits reviewing local guideline adherence. This audit will review SHINE SA clinicians' adherence to several preventative health measures recommended by the Australasian Society for HIV, Viral Hepatitis, and Sexual Health Medicine	Approved	August 2025

(ASHM) HIV Monitoring Tool. Improving adherence to these guidelines will allow clinicians to prevent or treat comorbidities early, potentially improving health outcomes for PLWHIV attending this practice.		
Evaluating the Urgent Mental Health Care Centre's Recovery-Based Fusion Model **CPI:** Dr Monika Ferguson **Institution:** UniSA The Urgent Mental Health Care Centre (UHMCC) in South Australia represents a shift in the way that people in mental health and suicide related distress are understood and supported. The origins of the Centre lie in the progressive nature of lived experience perspectives on emergency department alternatives alongside a move away from medicalised approaches to mental health, prevention and mitigation of suicide. The research aims to understand the UMHCC's "recovery-based fusion model," which blends peer support and clinical care, as an alternative to traditional emergency department approaches. To answer the research questions, the project will analyse existing UMHCC survey data collected from guests of the Centre since it initially opened as a 12-hour service in March 2021 until now.	Approved	August 2025
Generating real-world evidence using the National Health Data Hub (Real-Hub) **CPI:** Prof Louisa Jorm **Institution:** University of New South Wales This project aims to use the National Health Data Hub (NHDH) at the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) to generate real-world evidence across four key themes: 1. equity in access and outcomes, 2. effectiveness and quality of care 3. health system efficiency, and 4. policy impacts. Health care consumers, clinicians and policymakers need high-quality population-level evidence to inform decision-making and evaluate policy and practice. Undertaking a series of analyses, the project will produce timely, reliable, and unbiased evidence regarding variations in care and outcomes in Australia. It will include all individuals represented in the NHDH and use multiple study designs, e.g. retrospective cohort studies, time series analysis, to assess outcomes over time. No new data will be collected; all research will be conducted using existing data within the AIHW-managed ABS Environment for Analysing Data.	Approved	September 2025
Understanding the Burden of Liver Cirrhosis on the Healthcare System in South Australia - An Observational Epidemiology Study **CPI:** Dr Libo Xiong **Institution:** Flinders University This project aims to study the prevalence of liver cirrhosis and its healthcare complications, as well as its impact on healthcare resource utilisation in a population of patients presenting to public hospitals in South Australia. This will help to guide future financial modelling and the development of preventative strategies.	Approved	September 2025

Prognostic prediction of outcomes in atrial fibrillation using deep learning **CPI:** Dr Rajiv Mahajan **Institution:** The University of Adelaide The project seeks to create a retrospective cohort study of participants diagnosed with atrial fibrillation (AF) at NALHN. Deep learning (a form of machine learning) methods will then be used to analyse clinical and imaging data from this cohort. The project aims to improve the prediction of clinically relevant outcomes from participants presenting with AF. The output of the project has the potential to provide new insights and opportunities into precision medicine in the care of participants with AF, as well as providing a foundation for further large-scale database analytic research into AF in South Australia.	Approved	September 2025
Injury-related hospitalisations in Australia and health outcomes **CPI:** Prof Rebecca Mitchell **Institution:** Macquarie University This program of injury research aims to determine the role of morbidity and prescribed mediation use on individual health outcomes after an injury-related hospitalisation in Australia. The research findings will inform care quality enhancements after injury, identify opportunities to improve health outcomes for injured Australians, identify potential gaps in health service delivery, identify resource allocation needs, and guide the enhancement of injury prevention policy.	Approved	October 2025
Optimising our definitions of 'small' and 'large' in pregnancy **CPI:** Natasha Pritchard **Institution:** The University of Melbourne Small infants (<10th centile) face increased risks of pregnancy complications, including stillbirth. While monitoring and early delivery are often recommended, not all small babies are equally high-risk. This project aims to deepen the understanding of risks and optimal management for small babies. The objectives are 1) to identify if the pregnancy's clinical characteristics can help identify particularly high-risk small babies, 2) to determine whether twin babies should be classified as small using singleton or twin-specific charts, 3) to determine the birthweight centile associated with the healthiest outcomes, including for preterm babies, and 4) to investigate whether it's better to deliver very small, growth-restricted babies before they "drop" to an extremely small size or allow them to grow longer in the womb. The National Perinatal Data Collection will be utilised to answer these questions.	Approved	November 2025
Trends in survival from Lymphoma in South Australia, 2004-2023. **CPI:** Dr Kerri Beckmann **Institution:** UniSA This study aims to determine trends in survival for Lymphomas, and examine differences in survival trends by age, sex, socioeconomic status, remoteness of residence, birth of place and subtypes of lymphoma among South Australians diagnosed between 2004 and 2023. Survival will be analysed using disease-specific survival (Kaplan-Meier product-limit estimates) and multivariate Cox proportional hazard regression, testing for proportionality. Parallel analyses will be undertaken using competing risk regression, with deaths from other causes as the competing risk. Interaction terms will be used to test for differences in trends by sociodemographic factors	Approved	November 2025

Evaluation of Hepatitis C reflex RNA testing trial in SA Pathology **CPI:** Dr Tracy Miller **Institution:** Department for Health and Wellbeing This project examines whether a new testing process for hepatitis C virus in SA Pathology has led to more infections being found, and therefore potentially more people starting treatment. The testing change means that patients have one less visit to a doctor and one less blood test required to confirm if they have an infection, making it easier and faster to reach a diagnosis. The study will look at numbers of tests, numbers of people found to have infections, and numbers of people starting treatment in the year before and year after this change was made. The study will also look at particular groups who are at higher risk of infection, to see if they have particularly benefitted from this change. Data already collected through SA Health as part of usual patient care will be used.	Approved	November 2025
Hepatitis B infection and antiviral therapy in pregnancy: maternal and neonatal outcomes - a linkage study **CPI:** Dr Kelly Hosking **Institution:** NT Health/ Menzies School of Health Research The management of hepatitis B in pregnancy, including the use of antiviral therapy for maternal health and to prevent transmission of the virus to unborn babies, is well-established and an important part of care for pregnant women living with chronic hepatitis B infection. However, associations between chronic hepatitis B infection, antiviral therapy and pregnancy concerns such as high blood pressure, gestational diabetes and preterm birth are not well understood, especially in the Australian context. The study proposes to use population-based samples from both South Australia and the Northern Territory to understand how living with hepatitis B might affect pregnancy outcomes. In South Australia, the study proposes to link the South Australian Perinatal Statistics Collection with SA Pharmacy data to examine the impact of hepatitis B, and its treatment, on pregnancy and neonatal outcomes.	Approved	January 2026
Hepatitis B infection and antiviral therapy in pregnancy: maternal and neonatal outcomes - a linkage study **CPI:** Dr Lavenia Cagi **Institution:** Department of Neurology, FMC/Department for Health and Wellbeing This project will evaluate the use of intravenous immunoglobulin (IVIg) in patients with neurological conditions, focusing on adherence to current clinical guidelines and opportunities for optimisation. Patients with neurological conditions who received IVIg will be included. The audit will assess whether the documented diagnoses meet established criteria, referencing the latest European Academy of Neurology (EAN) and Peripheral Nerve Society (PNS) 2023 guidelines. It will also examine the clinical indications for initiating IVIg, the frequency and type of outcome measures used in follow-up assessments, and whether a weaning regimen was initiated, particularly in long-term treatment cases. Special attention will be given to patients with CIDP and MMN receiving IVIg for more than five years, to evaluate if ongoing therapy is clinically justified. The findings will support evidence-based practice, identify potential gaps in monitoring or review, and contribute to more efficient and appropriate use of IVIg in neurology.	Approved	January 2026
A retrospective cohort study of anti-epileptic prescribing practices in patients with Intellectual Disability **CPI:** Dr Chantall Baldwin **Institution:** Department of Neurology, NALHN	Approved	January 2026

The SA Intellectual Disability Health Service is a statewide service that provides comprehensive assessment and planning for individuals with intellectual disability. Among these patients, comorbid refractory epilepsy occurs at a higher incidence compared to the general population. This has often led to the prescription of multiple anti-epileptic medications, although the efficacy, monitoring and safety of this in this population has historically not been well recorded or studied. This retrospective cohort study proposes to audit the Sunrise data from the clients of SAIDHS Neurology Clinic over a 20-month period. The aim of this study is to describe and quantify antiepileptic prescribing practices and the associated rates of polypharmacy and therapeutic monitoring in South Australian patients with intellectual disability and epilepsy. The hopeful outcome would be to propose recommendations for future prescribing and monitoring practices in this population in Australia.		
A retrospective cohort study of anti-epileptic prescribing practices in patients with Intellectual Disability **CPI:** Dr Nadine Hillock **Institution:** Adelaide University Unnecessary and inappropriate use of antibiotics is an important factor driving antimicrobial resistance, a rising public health concern threatening the safe delivery of healthcare. Urinary Tract Infections (UTIs) remain the top indication for antibiotic prescriptions in Australian Residential Aged Care Facilities (RACFs), however, National data suggests a large proportion of prescriptions do not comply with current guidelines. Leecare is an electronic medical record software system recently implemented in public South Australian RACFs in 2024. Prior to the implementation of Leecare, most resident medication charts were recorded by hand and not centralised. A closer examination of South Australian data will enable a description of current antimicrobial usage, volume, and appropriateness which will be useful in informing future antimicrobial stewardship projects within the state.	Approved	January 2026
A population-based data linkage project evaluating maternal immunisation programs in South Australia **CPI:** Prof Helen Marshall **Institution:** Adelaide University/Women's and Children's Health Network This project aims to evaluate the safety and effectiveness of COVID-19, influenza, pertussis, respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) and meningococcal vaccines during pregnancy and their impact on maternal and birth outcomes, leveraging data from the South Australian Perinatal Statistics Collection (SAPSC) for all births from 2020 to 2030. To ascertain maternal vaccine data, our project will link SAPSC with the Australian Immunisation Register (AIR) and SA hospital data through the The National Health Data Hub (NHDH).	Approved	February 2026
Assessing the operation of voluntary assisted dying laws in Australia: Stage 1 **CPI:** Prof Ben White **Institution:** Queensland University of Technology This project will undertake the first national assessment of how Australia's new voluntary assisted dying (VAD) laws are operating in practice. Working with VAD Boards and health departments in 5 states (South Australia, Victoria, Western Australia, Tasmania and Queensland), this research will use, for the first time, non-public Board data to better understand the VAD experience at state and national levels. Stage 1 of the project involves secondary analysis of data held by the VAD Boards on each person who has applied for VAD in the participating jurisdictions. Participants have previously provided data as part of the prescribed VAD request and assessment process. Existing data collected by the VAD Boards will be analysed to understand how VAD is operating in practice.	Approved	March 2026

Pathways from child abuse and neglect through mental ill-health/substance abuse to intimate partner violence **CPI:** Prof Leonie Segal **Institution:** Adelaide University This project aims to measure some of the long-term costs and consequences of child maltreatment in South Australia. The study uses only de-identified linked administrative data. Comparisons will be made between different groups according to their recorded involvement with child protection services (including out-of-home-care and family support services), indicative of child protection concern and likelihood and seriousness of child maltreatment exposure. Outcomes of interest include rates of hospitalisation, emergency department presentation and the underlying health conditions that these represent, community mental health service contact, school readiness, secondary educational attainment and behavioural problems at school, criminality, teenage parenting, death, family functioning and perpetration of child maltreatment in the next generation as well as factors influencing child maltreatment incidence and severity and factors that moderate the consequences. The wider research objective is to inform evaluation of interventions and policies which target prevention of child maltreatment.	Approved	April 2026
Karenia algal bloom in South Australia and health effects **CPI:** Dr Chris Lease **Institution:** Department for Health and Wellbeing Since March 2025, an algal bloom has been persisting in South Australian waters. Some people have reported symptoms including respiratory, skin and eye irritations during algal bloom events. This study aims to find out whether algal bloom events in South Australia are linked to changes in people's health that lead to hospital visits. The study will look at hospital admissions and Emergency Department (ED) visits during times of algal bloom. The study will focus on respiratory, skin and eye conditions. The study uses existing, deidentified data from March 2022 to March 2026. Weekly hospital admissions and ED visits across South Australia will be analysed by age, condition, health service, and residential area. Algal bloom, weather, and air quality data will be included. Statistical analyses will assess changes in health service use during bloom periods. Findings will be shared and used to inform community advice and future preparedness.	Approved	April 2026
The Aboriginal Governed Cancer Cohort Study: Data linkage to address Aboriginal equity in cancer care, access, and outcomes in South Australia **CPI:** Prof Odette Pearson **Institution:** SAHMRI The goal of this project is to generate high-level evidence through AIHW's pre-linked datasets available in the National Health Data Hub (NHDH) to better understand the drivers of disparities in cancer care and outcomes experienced by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander South Australians and inform policy and practice reforms that redress these inequities. The Aboriginal cancer cohort will comprise all Aboriginal South Australians diagnosed with cancer between 2012 and 2023 (or the most recently available data), including all ages and cancer types. All non-Aboriginal South Australians who were diagnosed with cancer during the same period will also be included to enable important equity questions to be addressed. Examination of disparities in access to use of and follow-up after cancer screening and prevention will be undertaken within the whole South Australian population.	Approved	April 2026

From silos to synergy: improving timely access to health services that support healthy ageing in people with intellectual disability - national data **CPI:** Prof Kate Laver **Institution:** Flinders University People with intellectual disability often show signs of ageing earlier than others. However, in Australia, the age that someone is considered “older” is 65. This age does not reflect the health needs of people with intellectual disability who have ageing changes earlier in life. Many health services for ageing are still hard to access for people with intellectual disability. This research project aims to redefine age eligibility for people with intellectual disability to access health services related to ageing well, and to improve the coordination between health, aged and disability services.	Approved	June 2026
Building a culturally competent, flexible, generalist and extended-scope surgical workforce to meet regional, rural and remote community need in Australia **CPI:** A/Prof Wendy Babidge **Institution:** The Royal Australasian College of Surgeons This research addresses a long-standing need to improve the distribution of surgical workforce in rural, regional and remote (RRR) regions of Australia. RRR populations comprise 29% of the Australian population and experience significant health inequity, yet the specialist workforce is markedly smaller in these regions compared to major cities. This research aims to broaden the skills of the specialist workforce in RRR Australia to create a sustainable model of generalist, rural-ready surgical training and practice. The Royal Australasian College of Surgeons, in partnership with five specialist medical Colleges will investigate the evidence base for patient safety, community need and compare generalist and subspecialist outcomes to define safe and high-quality generalist surgical practice in RRR settings. This research will inform the design of a Global, Regional, Rural, Remote Deployable Surgery (GRiD) Faculty model and produce recommendations for curriculum, surgical pathway accreditation, rural training networks and scope of practice for RRR surgeons.	Approved	June 2026