



Institute for Social Science Research

SOCIAL SCIENCE OF POLICY & PRACTICE



THE UNIVERSITY
OF QUEENSLAND
AUSTRALIA

CREATE CHANGE

WHAT WE DO

The Institute for Social Science Research (ISSR) builds deep partnerships with policymakers, researchers, citizens and external agencies to undertake solutions-focused research. We develop infrastructure and design activities to advance social science methodologies, data analytics, research translation, public policies, and capacity to inform policy making. We work to ensure that policy and practice make a meaningful difference in people's lives.

Building on and challenging current approaches, ISSR seeks to align research with policy impact in areas such as child, family and community wellbeing, inequality, social disadvantage, vulnerable populations and international development.

ISSR contributes to the evidence base for population- and place-based policy interventions, innovative social governance and other policy approaches to address the complex challenges of inequality, poverty, disadvantage and social exclusion.

OBJECTIVES

- Understanding, influencing and evaluating the impacts of social policies and programs
- Building strategic policy and practice partnerships
- Co-developing and implementing social solutions

IMPACT THEMES

- Child, family and community wellbeing
- Inequalities and social mobility
- Strengthening vulnerable populations and places
- International development effectiveness
- Co-developed policy and practice

LEAD RESEARCHERS

- Professor Tim Reddel
- Professor Janeen Baxter
- Professor Karen Thorpe
- Professor Lisa McDaid
- Associate Professor Wojtek Tomaszewski
- Associate Professor Jenny Povey



PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS



Queensland Housing Strategy Research and Evaluation Partnership

Queensland Department of Housing and Public Works, 2019-2020

Queensland Housing Strategy 2017-2027: A bold policy initiative positioning housing as a key enabler for social and economic change.

Researchers from ISSR, UQ and ARTD Consultants are working in partnership with the Queensland Department of Housing and Public Works to set the foundation for the evaluation of the Queensland Housing Strategy (2017-2027). This partnership is a flagship project of ISSR's Social Solutions research group providing collaborative, evidenced-based and outcomes-focused research and evaluation support.

The partnership team have been providing agile support to the Department. This has included the delivery of a flexible overarching monitoring and evaluation framework for the Strategy. The Framework developed is flexible enough to respond to emerging policy and program directions and still provide a structured and coordinated approach for monitoring and evaluation.

As well as general research support, the partnership has also delivered an interim analysis on the progress of the Strategy that was used to support the Department's state budget preparations, and a policy and practice review that benchmarks the Strategy against comparable jurisdictions undertaking housing system reform. The current version of this partnership is due to end in February 2021 and will deliver a final Partnership Report incorporating, our current reviews of the COVID-19 Residential Rental Sector Reforms and the Homelessness Response, a synthesis evaluation of Action Plan 1, lessons learnt from the partnership and a proposed future work program

Developing the Keep Queenslanders Healthy Evaluation Framework

Queensland Health, 2019-2020

Our Future State: Advancing Queensland's Priorities - working to shift the burden of disease and make Queensland the leading healthy state.

ISSR co-designed a flexible, iterative and responsive evaluation framework with Queensland Health for the Keep Queenslanders Healthy (KQH) priority of the Our Future State: Advancing Queensland's Priorities Queensland Government agenda.

To support Queensland Health's achievement of its KQH key targets, an ISSR team that undertook a number of key activities to rapidly develop the framework:

- a rapid review of relevant health policies, strategies, plans and reports;
- an audit of data sources;
- ensuring a shared conceptual framework through systematic engagement with key stakeholders, including experts in the fields of obesity and healthy weight, mental health and wellbeing, and Indigenous health.



The final KQH evaluation framework comprised evaluation principles, research questions, program logics, a core indicator matrix, an evaluation approach, and guidelines for implementation.



The National Mental Health Workforce Strategy Literature Review

Australian Department of Health, 2020

National Mental Health Workforce Strategy (NMHWS) - Meeting the demands of the mental health system.

A multidisciplinary team of ISSR experts worked in close partnership with the Department of Health and the NMHWS Taskforce to help shape the NMHWS Strategy. The team took a co-design approach to undertake a rapid and targeted systematic literature review of a broad range of sources, including existing national and jurisdictional workforce strategies, the most recent findings of mental health reviews and inquiries, and academic and grey literature.

The final review was completed in six weeks and is recognised by the Department as providing relevant and fit-for-purpose information to the Strategy Taskforce to assist with their role of overseeing the development of a new National Mental Health Workforce Strategy.

This literature review will serve as a foundational resource for the Taskforce who are due to provide a report and recommendations to the Government by December 2020, prior to endorsement of the final Strategy by the Australian Health Ministers' Advisory Council in June 2021.

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