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.

**WHAT WE DO**

**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
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.