



Centre for Migrant and Refugee Health

We embrace your health

STRATEGIC RESEARCH FRAMEWORK 2023-2028



(03) 8382 2125



www.cmrh.org.au



205 Thomas Street
Dandenong Vic 3175



Prepared by :

**CMRH Research
Team**

Strategic Research Framework 2023-2028

Content

1. Introduction	2
2. Scope	3
3. Vision	3
4. Mission	3
5. Principles	5
6. Objectives	5
7. Cross-collaborations and interwoven themes in research	5
8. Strategic Research Approach and Priorities	5
9. Engagement and Collaboration	7
10. Governance	7
11. Risk Management	7
12. Ethics and Social Licence	8
13. Benefit Realisation	8
14. Translation	8
15. Publications and Data	9
16. Review	9

Contact

205 Thomas Street, Dandenong Vic 3175

For more information, please get in touch with us through:
(03) 8382 2125 or info@cmrh.org.au | Thecentremrh@gmail.com

1. Introduction

The Centre for Migrant and Refugee Health (CMRH) takes a proactive research approach to build effective evidence-based research outcomes that support the physical, mental health, and social wellbeing needs of migrants, refugees, and people seeking asylum or culturally linguistically diverse (CALD) communities in Australia.

This Strategic Research Framework was developed to detail the analytical and research principles and priorities for CMRH, focusing on future research, including identifying research priorities, research design, data collection, and impact analysis.

The CMRH anticipated its research to provide actionable outcomes translated into policy and program development, especially in mental health and wellbeing areas. The primary targets for CMRH research are:

- To inform policy support, program design, monitoring, and evaluation.
- To inform advocacy and reinvigoration of mental health and wellbeing, existing policies.
- To support CMRH as a leader and data-driven organisation.

The CMRH seeks to widen its research scope to collect data in key information gaps based on migrants, refugees and asylum seekers' health indicators and social determinants of health, including employment, education, justice, housing, safety, finance, racism, and discrimination.

This Strategic Research Framework sets out the research scope, vision, mission, principles, objectives, cross-collaborations and interwoven themes in research, research priorities, engagement and collaboration, governance, risk management, ethics, social licence, benefits realisation, translation, publications, data and review.

By filling up knowledge gaps, the priority projects research will help us better understand the needs of our clients and anticipate the future of the targeted population's needs, as well as the policies and services that will meet those needs.

2. Scope

The Strategic Research Framework applies to all internal and external research designs, and evaluations, undertaken by, or carry out in partnership with partners and CMRH.

3. Vision

To deliver comprehensive, authentic, high-quality research and data that underpins effective service delivery and facilitates quality health outcomes.

4. Mission

To build and establish reliable and accessible evidence-based data that inform health, mental health and wellbeing to facilitate effective mental health services delivery and decision-making that support quality of life and health outcomes for migrants, refugees and people seeking asylum in Australia.

5. Principles

We work in partnership and collaboration with our partners and researchers, utilising CMRH core values and beliefs that serve as a guide for our actions and approaches, including:

- **Accentuating Research Quality**

Encouraging health professionals, academics, researchers, and parties involved in research to create work that exceeds expectations and meets high standards of excellence.

- **Fairness**

Acknowledging that partners and our staff should be treated with diligence, respect, justice, and likeness, regardless of their differences, preferences, or affiliations.

The principles support our way of working- perform in our roles and achieve our functions in research domains and processes (see Figure 1 below).

Figure 1: CMRH Research Principles



Any research done by CMRH or in collaboration with other organization must:

- Focus on migrants, refugees, and people seeking asylum from culturally and linguistically diverse communities and/or their families.
- Promote awareness of the effects of mental health and other social determinants of health on migrants, refugees, and people seeking asylum from culturally linguistically diverse communities and their families.
- Deliver reproducible and applicable research findings.
- Offer findings that can be translated and applied to developing and improving policies, services, guidelines, and/or decision-making processes.

6. Objectives

The Strategic Research Framework's goals are to:

- a. Increase the evidence base data and use of data to support CMRH services.
- b. To raise awareness of the issues facing newly arriving migrants, refugees, and asylum seekers from culturally and linguistically diverse communities and their families.

7. Cross-collaborations and Interwoven Themes in Research

CMRH brings together researchers, epidemiologists, educators, data managers, project managers, program managers, and evaluators in related areas relevant to mental health.

Some of our staff have affiliations with universities and other learning institutions working on the following research domains:

- CALD, Migrants, Refugees, Asylum Seekers, and Emerging Community Health Mental.
- Health and Mental Health Policies for the Refugee, Migrant and Asylum Seekers.
- Crime and Incarceration.
- Injuries, Homicide and Suicide.
- Racism and Discrimination.
- Domestic and Family Violence.
- Education and Learning.
- Homelessness and Housing.
- Education, Empowerment and Employment for women and young people.
- Emerging Infectious Diseases, including COVID-19.
- Alcohol and Other Drugs (AODs).
- Cancer Literacy, Cancer Communication, Mental Health, and Wellbeing.
- Laws and Justices' Policies.
- Health Technologies, such as Telehealth and other health technological areas.

8. Strategic Research Approach and Priorities

Over the following five years, 2023-2028, this Framework will direct the implementation of priority research areas. In the early phases of deployment, research that uses current CMRH data and facilitates horizon scanning of current and emerging challenges will be given priority.

This supports CMRH's Migrants, Refugees and Persons Seeking Asylum Centric Reform, which aims to change business practices by prioritizing migrants, refugees, and people seeking asylum and their families. CMRH's Transformation Agenda aims to transform from a claims-focused organization to one that is more agile, responsive, and effective and places clients at the centre of our work.

The model of our research delivery ensures networking, collaboration, and partnership with a broad range of service providers.

I. Research and Data Collections

Our services domain encompasses research, analysis, evaluation, and translation of information into evidence to support policy and advocacy. CMRH will seek and support researchers interested in undertaking research projects for refugees, migrants and asylum seekers, CALD Community, and new and emerging communities.

CMRH provides submissions, reviews, gap analysis, grey literature, surveys, and formative research.

The research outcomes will link the CMRH strategic vision and mission. The support across research ranges from strategic advice to co-design, evaluation program, and research project and program management.

Our data collection establishes a systematic gathering of specific information and analyses to provide solutions to relevant research questions or evaluations.

II.Types of Data Collection

Our data collection falls under two categories:

- Primary and secondary data using qualitative and quantitative methodologies.

We can support or help generate primary and secondary data for those interested in conducting the research study through the community. We use different research methodologies, such as qualitative and quantitative, to collect the data for any agency, government, non-governmental, high institutions, etc.

Research that adheres to the Framework must provide evidence for the following:

- a. Shifting the emphasis from a paradigm of illness to one of wellbeing;
- b. Increase client awareness, considering the health and wellness of migrants, refugees and asylum seekers, and their families; and
- c. Enhance services provision.

All partners or CMRH proposals are assessed against this Framework and must:

- a. Focus on migrants, refugees, and people seeking asylum.
- b. Use existing CMRH datasets to extend practicably.
- c. Specify concrete policy goals for the planned research.
- d. Deliver an innovative strategy.
- e. Show a high level of business involvement in the project; and
- f. Encourage the assessment and enhancement of CMRH services.
- g. Have finished a needs/design analysis.
- h. Align policy deadlines.

Projects that address one or more of the CMRH's defined research goals and align with the stages of the lived experience of migrants, refugees, and people seeking asylum will be given greater attention.

9. Engagement and Collaboration

In collaboration with several important stakeholders, including communities, academic institutions, and government departments, CMRH can conduct the research with various service providers by:

- a. By increasing business area participation with research design and research outputs.
- b. CMRH staff will better comprehend, extrapolate from, and utilise research findings, leading to better policy outcomes and service design.
- b. Improving data literacy and management in the business sector.
- c. Expanding strategic research collaborations and highlighting creative research outputs.
- d. Making use of stakeholder knowledge.
- f. Support for the research sector may be considered case-by-case and evaluated following this Framework to enhance research sector competence.

10. Governance

To carry out research initiatives throughout the CMRH procurement techniques. The CMRH may carry out new projects through open or partnership bidding processes, with proposals evaluated against the priorities established in this Framework through the CMRH Research Board. For more information, please review the CMRH Research Committee Terms of Reference and the Declaration of Principles. The CMRH Research Committee, with assistance from the board of directors, are crucial for the Framework to meet the strategic policy requirements.

11. Risk Management

The CMRH will consider the overall cost-effectiveness of research, any financial or other resources required; including any risks to participants and/or perceived or actual conflict of interest as per the Rules; and Potential Reputational Risks not confined to procurement.

12. Ethics and Social Licence

The Social License requirements for utilising new research projects and current data must be explicitly defined. This is done to make sure that the purpose for using any data is understood clearly and to keep the migrants, refugees, people seeking asylum/CALD communities and other important stakeholders' trust.

For these reasons, researchers must adhere to the Ethical Standards outlined in the Human Research Ethics Committee (HREC) guidelines of the CMRH or partners when they recruit a targeted population for the study or research. An HREC ethics approval may be required for other research that does not recruit individuals but uses CMRH data or is supported by CMRH. These studies must also be done ethically. CMRH is creating a more thorough research ethics policy to facilitate this procedure.

13. Benefit Realisation

The Framework highlights the necessity for research to produce benefits for CMRH while acknowledging the difficulties in closing the research policy gap. Research proposals must unequivocally show quantifiable advantages to meet a policy or service purpose.

Project outcomes should be quantifiable to demonstrate the success of applying research findings and suggestions, to direct improvements in program efficacy, and/or to lead the selection of new research avenues. This can be done by using, but not restricted to:

I. Evaluation Techniques

- Qualitative: Interviews and focus groups, case studies, literature reviews
- Quantitative: Post-research surveys, cost-benefit analyses

II. Participant Research

- Researchers working closely with those who develop and execute policy
- Migrants, refugees, asylum seekers and other research participants, including family members and service providers

14. Research Translation

Studies by CMRH or its collaborators must use study findings to inform policies and initiatives; as a result, research outcomes must effectively reach end users and make apparent how they might impact the "real world."

Knowledge translation (KT), according to the World Health Organization, is:

"The synthesis, exchange, and application of knowledge by relevant stakeholders to accelerate the benefits of global and local innovation in strengthening health systems and improving people's health."

Translation activities should start during project planning and design to guarantee that the project plans reflect policy needs and are structured to provide findings that can be applied in policy and/or practice. Continuous communication between the CMRH and researchers is essential for the project's success, as are well-defined channels for disseminating findings to the public, and private sectors.

To maximize the benefits to the community of migrants, refugees, asylum seekers, and CALD communities, research initiatives must develop products that are easy for policy decision-makers to employ. To ensure that research and data are easily accessible and adaptable, a communication and engagement strategy will be developed to identify the following:

- End-user engagement and understanding of their needs;
- Production of end-user-friendly products, including research summaries; and
- Communication channels that regularly bring researchers and end-users, particularly CMRH business areas, together, such as through research forums, seminars, and research/policy workshops support.

15. Publications and Data

The Framework marks a change in the way CMRH views research in the context of data analytics, emphasizing creative, dynamic methods to spot new trends and requirements. The variety of data that CMRH has is prized for its potential for scientific study and, increasingly, for internal data analytics projects. This includes administrative data about client services and health study data from sponsored research projects.

This Framework acknowledges that data is a vital asset that helps CMRH as a data-driven organization and aligns with the CMRH Enterprise Data Strategy.

16. Review

The Research Priorities described in this Framework will be examined annually, with a thorough evaluation occurring at least every five (5) years.

Contact

205 Thomas Street, Dandenong Vic 3175

**For more information, please get in touch with us through:
(03) 8382 2125 or info@cmrh.org.au | Thecentremrh@gmail.com**