

Business Plan

July 2019 to June 2020



Cochrane vision

Our vision is a world of improved health where decisions about health and health care are informed by high-quality, relevant and up-to-date synthesised research evidence.

Cochrane goals

Strategy to 2020, Cochrane's strategic plan, is based around achieving four key goals:

Goal 1: Producing evidence

To produce high-quality, relevant, up-to-date systematic reviews and other synthesised research evidence to inform health decision making.

Goal 2: Making our evidence accessible

To make Cochrane evidence accessible and useful to everybody, everywhere in the world.

Goal 3: Advocating for evidence

To make Cochrane the 'home of evidence' to inform health decision making, build greater recognition of our work, and become the leading advocate for evidence-informed health care.

Goal 4: Building an effective and sustainable organisation

To be a diverse, inclusive and transparent international organisation that effectively harnesses the enthusiasm and skills of our contributors, is guided by our principles, governed accountably, managed efficiently and makes optimal use of its resources.

Mission of Cochrane Australia

Cochrane Australia aims to put Cochrane evidence at the heart of health decision-making in Australia. We will do this by supporting Australians to produce high quality, timely and relevant Cochrane Reviews, and by increasing the number of people and organisations in Australia who access and use Cochrane evidence in their health decision-making.

Goals of Cochrane Australia

The business plan for Cochrane Australia is aligned to Cochrane's *Strategy to 2020* and has six themes organised around three main goals:

Goal 1: Producing evidence

Theme 1: Learning and development for systematic reviewers

Theme 2: Developing and implementing research synthesis methods

Theme 3: Improving review efficiency

Goal 2: Advocating for and making our evidence accessible

Theme 4: Supporting the translation of research into policy and practice

Theme 5: Building greater recognition of Cochrane and Cochrane evidence

Goal 3: Contributing to an effective and sustainable organisation

Theme 6: Supporting Cochrane nationally, regionally and internationally

Goal 1: Producing evidence

Cochrane Australia undertakes a significant number of activities in support of the production of high-quality systematic reviews and other synthesised research evidence. These activities are in the form of our ongoing program of training and support for Cochrane authors and others involved in research synthesis (theme 1); the development and implementation of research synthesis methods (theme 2); and a platform of work to improve the efficiency of review production (theme 3).

Theme 1: Learning and development for systematic reviewers

Activity 1.1: Training and support of systematic review authors, editors and others involved in the conduct of systematic reviews and other synthesised research evidence

<i>Achievement indicators:</i>	<i>Staff responsible:</i>
1 Conduct at least four introductory ‘Writing a systematic review following Cochrane methods’ workshops	SM, SB
2 Provide learning opportunities that cater to the needs of more experienced review authors, editors and researchers and cover new developments in systematic review methods and production	SM, SB
3 Respond to opportunities to provide commissioned training in systematic reviews and evidence synthesis	All

Activity 1.2: Integration of Australian training and support with Cochrane Training

<i>Achievement indicators:</i>	<i>Staff responsible:</i>
1 Continue to integrate the Centre’s training program with Cochrane’s international learning & development strategies	SM
2 Keep up-to-date with developments in review production (e.g. Covidence, RevMan Web) and new methods for Cochrane reviews (e.g. new guidance in Cochrane Handbook)	SM, SB

Theme 2: Developing and implementing research synthesis methods

Activity 2.1: Develop and advance methods for research synthesis

Achievement indicators:

- 1 Contribute to the development and advancement of methods for overviews of systematic reviews
- 2 Contribute to the development and dissemination of methods guidance for applying GRADE in overviews of systematic reviews
- 3 Contribute to the development and implementation of guidance on synthesis methods, following publication of new Cochrane Handbook
- 4 Explore opportunities to collaborate on research advancing and implementing methods for GRADE and narrative synthesis

Staff responsible:

SB, SM

SB

SB

SB

Theme 3: Improving review efficiency

Activity 3.1: Contribute to initiatives to improve review efficiency and develop new evidence services

Achievement indicators:

- 1 Coordinate the development of methods and processes for living systematic reviews, and their potential application to living guidelines
- 2 Contribute to the development, implementation and evaluation of Cochrane's machine-crowd study identification service for groups external to Cochrane
- 3 Explore additional opportunities to support research and development in the areas of review efficiency, living systematic reviews and new evidence services

Staff responsible:

JE, SG, SM

SM, JE

SG, JE, SM

Goal 2: Advocating for and making our evidence accessible

Cochrane Australia works to facilitate better healthcare decisions through the use of evidence for Australian health professionals, policy makers and consumers. This platform of work includes a range of knowledge translation activities (theme 4) plus dissemination, communication and engagement activities with key stakeholder and user groups (theme 5).

Theme 4: Supporting translation of research into policy and practice

Activity 4.1: Implement Cochrane's Knowledge Translation (KT) Strategy

<i>Achievement indicators:</i>	<i>Staff responsible:</i>
1 Develop KT activities and seek additional funding for KT projects in Australia	SG
2 Contribute to leading the implementation of Cochrane's KT strategy globally	SG

Activity 4.2: Provide consultation advice to the NHMRC and other government agencies on specific projects or committees

<i>Achievement indicators:</i>	<i>Staff responsible:</i>
1 Serve on NHMRC Advisory Group on the Synthesis and Translation of Research Evidence (STORE)	SG
2 Support NHMRC in development of the Handbook for guideline developers and other guideline reform activities	SG, SM, SB
3 Respond to requests from NHMRC and other government agencies for provision of consultancy and advice	SG, SM, SB

Activity 4.3: Ensure policy makers, guideline developers and others involved in setting guidance have access to training in how to use the findings of systematic reviews, including training in the application of GRADE

<i>Achievement indicators:</i>	<i>Staff responsible:</i>
1 Develop resources and conduct training in (1) the application of the GRADE framework for summarising and assessing the quality of bodies of evidence, and (2) how to apply GRADE criteria to formulating recommendations	SB
2 Maintain the Melbourne GRADE Centre, aligned to and co-located with Cochrane Australia	SB
3 Continue to pursue opportunities to work with policy makers and policy agencies by providing training and knowledge brokerage services to facilitate the use of review findings	SB, SG, SM

Theme 5: Building greater recognition of Cochrane and Cochrane evidence

Activity 5.1: Undertake communications and media activities to build greater recognition of Cochrane's work and promote Cochrane evidence

Achievement indicators:

Staff responsible:

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| 1 | Implement the communications and engagement strategy for Cochrane Australia to disseminate Cochrane evidence and services, and develop the profile of Cochrane Australia as a leading advocate for evidence-informed health care | SH, SM, SG |
| 2 | Maintain Cochrane's web and social media presence in Australia, in line with Cochrane activities internationally | SH |
| 3 | Publish and increase the readership of Elements, Cochrane Australia's e-newsletter, on a quarterly basis | SH |
| 4 | Enable media and social media coverage of Cochrane reviews and authors | SH |

Activity 5.2: Implement engagement strategies to build greater recognition of Cochrane's work and promote Cochrane evidence

Achievement indicators:

Staff responsible:

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|---|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|
| 1 | Produce and promote a series of podcasts that highlight health research findings, issues and current debates | SH |
| 2 | Work with Cochrane groups in Australia to build partnerships and alliances with organisations to promote and disseminate the Cochrane Library and Cochrane evidence | SH, SG, SM |

Goal 3: Contributing to an effective and sustainable organisation

Cochrane Australia plays a key role in Cochrane's ambition to be a diverse, inclusive and efficiently managed international organisation. We undertake a range of activities to support Cochrane nationally, regionally and internationally.

Theme 6: Supporting Cochrane nationally, regionally and internationally

Activity 6.1: Sustain Cochrane activity in Australia

<i>Achievement indicators:</i>	<i>Staff responsible:</i>
1 Foster collaboration with Australian Cochrane groups in support of Cochrane's mission and respond to requests for support	SG, SM
2 Work with NHMRC and other agencies and organisations to secure long-term sustainability of Cochrane in Australia	SG, SM
3 Provide opportunities to invest in skills and leadership development to strengthen and sustain Cochrane in Australia	All
4 Maintain Cochrane reviews in which Centre staff are authors	All

Activity 6.2: Plan a biennial scientific event for Cochrane contributors and others

<i>Achievement indicators:</i>	<i>Staff responsible:</i>
1 Plan and host a scientific symposium in November 2019	All

Activity 6.3: Fulfil the functions of a Cochrane Centre as required by Cochrane and contribute to Cochrane committees and advisory groups

<i>Achievement indicators:</i>	<i>Staff responsible:</i>
1 Report to Cochrane through its monitoring processes	SM, SG, MM
2 Participate in Centre Director activities, including attendance at biannual meetings of Cochrane Centre Directors	SG, SM
3 Administer annual Chris Silagy Prize	SG
4 Contribute to Cochrane working groups and committees, including Cochrane Governing Board	All

Activity 6.4: Support Cochrane Australia's associate centres and networks in the region

<i>Achievement indicators:</i>	<i>Staff responsible:</i>
1 Provide regional coordination of Cochrane Australia's associate centres in New Zealand, South East Asia and East Asia in support of Cochrane's mission	SM, SG

Cochrane Australia staff

Co-Directors	Professor Sally Green	0.4
	Mr Steve McDonald	0.6
Living Evidence	A/Professor Julian Elliott	0.2
GRADE centre	Dr Sue Brennan	0.8
Communications and Engagement	Ms Shauna Hurley	0.6
Administrator	Ms Carly Fry	0.4
Business Manager	Ms Melissa Murano	0.3

Affiliate researchers with Cochrane Australia

Senior Research Fellow	Dr Tari Turner
Research Fellows	Dr Jo Brooker