

Submission
No 49

**INQUIRY INTO CURRENT AND FUTURE PROVISION OF
HEALTH SERVICES IN THE SOUTH-WEST SYDNEY
GROWTH REGION**

Organisation: Ingham Institute for Applied Medical Research

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SUBMISSION TO THE INQUIRY INTO HEALTH SERVICES IN THE SOUTH-WEST SYDNEY GROWTH REGION

The Ingham Institute would like to thank the committee for the opportunity to contribute to this inquiry. Since 2012 when the Institute was established, SWSLHD has been a significant and principal partner. Our shared vision is to embed research into clinical practice and to provide evidence-based quality healthcare.

Introduction

South West Sydney has one of the fastest growing populations in Australia and is expected to grow from 966,000 (only a few years ago) to just under 1,300,000 by 2031¹. This will see South West Sydney with a similar size population to Adelaide. South West Sydney communities are amongst the world's most culturally diverse, over half speak a language other than English and a high proportion are born overseas. The population of South Western Sydney includes a high prevalence of diabetes, obesity, cardio-vascular disease, cancer, mental health and many other chronic illnesses. These factors and many others add to the complexity of delivering healthcare.

The Ingham Institute for Applied Medical Research and SWSLHD have had a close partnership since the launch of the Institute. Working closely with SWSLHD and its academic partners (UNSW and WSU), the Institute has combined their unique strengths, capabilities, and aligned goals, to translate research in order to address the health issues of the South Western Sydney community and beyond. By doing this, the vision of our founder Mr Bob Ingham AO is being fulfilled.

Since its launch in 2012, the Ingham Institute has become a respected and acknowledged research centre and home to 360 researchers in 42 groups, working across 5 clinical academic streams (cancer, population health, injury and rehabilitation, mental health and clinical sciences).

The Importance of Community involvement in Research Co-Design

The Institute's research has been aligned to the research and clinical strategies of SWSLHD. There has been and continues to be, strong input into research design from our community representatives.

SWSLHD Unique Contribution to Research

SWSLHD has always recognised the value of research and has provided significant resource and funding support to research aligned to its research and service provision strategies. It has done so by establishing new clinical academic units and encouraging and supporting existing academic units.

Clinical Academic Units - a significant and perhaps unique investment by SWSLHD has been the establishment of clinical academic units specifically designed to address clinical areas in need of evidence-based research. These Units are:

- South Western Sydney Academic Mental Health Program
- Stroke and Neurology Research Unit
- The Diabetes, Obesity, and Metabolism Translational Research Unit
- Women's Health Initiative Translational Unit
- The Liver Cancer and Disease Centre
- Best START-SW (System Transformation and Research Translation – South West Sydney): Children, Young People and Families Health Research Translation Unit
- South West Institute for Limb Preservation and Wound Care
- Gut and Microbiome: Role in Health and Disease

- Respiratory, Sleep and Environmental Health Research Group
- South Western Sydney Academic Radiation Oncology

Examples of Ingham Institute Translational Research which is aligned to SWSLHD Strategies

Oral health - assisting mothers to improve oral health for their children, **Breast cancer** – assisting women from CALD and non-CALD communities to understand mastectomy and breast reconstruction, **Brain Injury** – using technology to enable people with traumatic brain injury to live at home, **Strong start for at risk Aboriginal Children** – home visits to support at risk Aboriginal children, **At risk children** - home nurse visits for vulnerable and at-risk children in CALD and non-CALD communities, **Community building** – strengthening families and communities through volunteering, **Community** - using sport to enable social change, **CALD populations** – developing health communication tools to address their needs, **Psycho-Oncology Cancer care** – using eHealth to deliver psycho-oncology cancer care, **Healthy cities** – how to create or transform cities for a healthier lifestyle, **Obesity** - evaluating physical activity interventions, **Diabetes** – weight loss to move type 2 diabetes into remission, **Watch me grow** – early childhood diagnosis to identify autism, speech delay and other conditions, **Refugee population** - understanding the impact of conflict and violence on families and child development.

COVID-19

The COVID-19 pandemic has required a significant and agile repositioning of healthcare. Australia has responded swiftly to these changes and has embraced new technologies and adapted them to the rapidly changing health ecosystem.

The Ingham Institute has established the *Centre for Robotics and Applied Medical Technologies* (RAMeT). RAMeT is involved in developing robotics, remote interventional procedures, remote imaging and sensing, telehealth, machine learning, virtual and on-line learning, artificial intelligence and virtual skills acquisition. Together with our partners at the Liverpool Innovation Precinct, RAMeT will enable rapid development, evaluation and commercialisation of advanced medical technologies.

Establishing new platforms and expanding existing capacity

Clinical Trials – there has been a significant co-investment by SWSLHD and the Ingham Institute to expand clinical trials capacity and to establish a clinical trials business unit. This has significantly enabled translational research and has facilitated the conduct of clinical trials. In November 2018, SWSLHD launched the Phase 1 Clinical Trials Centre at Liverpool Hospital, one of four in the State.

Commercialisation - working closely with the Liverpool Innovation Precinct (which was established by SWSLHD) a great emphasis has been place on commercialisation of research and innovation.

Industry Partnerships – several partnerships have now been established with industry. These included include Samsung, Hitachi and GE Healthcare. These partnerships and others create connections, bring investment and support and more rapid development of new healthcare solutions.

Ingham Institute and SWSLHD Engagement with our Communities

Community Engagement and Education – Multicultural NSW has sponsored joint SWSLHD and Ingham Institute programs for CALD communities, to provide education in areas such as child nutrition, oral health, speech development and maternal health. Community members are engaged in panels to give input into research projects, research strategy and clinical trials.

Establishing a Schools Space and Curriculum at the Institute

The Institute has had a long and productive relationship with local schools and encouraged regular visits to the Institute by school students.

SWSLHD in collaboration with the Institute has launched a schools program (The integrated health schools and health research and practice position paper) which will give students a more structured and cohesive learning program. This will be one of the first of its kind in Australasia and further demonstrates the cooperation between the LHD and the Institute. This initiative speaks to the vision which the LHD and the Institute has for creating an interest in health and science careers and jobs.

Current and future development of research in South West Sydney: A Vision Shared between Ingham Institute, SWSLHD and its Partners. 'One Medical Research Institute: Three Research Centres'

The shared vision between SWSLHD, the Ingham Institute and its Academic partners which is now being implemented is to establish one institute with three integrated research centres across SWSLHD.

This model has now been agreed upon and plans are underway to build Ingham Institute Stage 2 adjacent to Liverpool Hospital, a research centre on the site of Campbelltown Hospital and in the longer term, a research centre on the site of the new Bankstown Hospital.

This research network will provide efficiencies and drive translational research across the LHD.

Summary comments

- SWSLHD and its staff provide a consistent level of high and valued service in the face of a rapid population growth and significant challenges
- SWSLHD continues to invest significantly in clinical and academic research aimed at prevention, early diagnosis, translating evidence-based knowledge into clinical practice and to embed clinical research into practice.
- Resource allocation is critical for the continuation and expansion of this work.

Terry Goldacare
Ingham Institute Chairman

Professor Les Bokey
Ingham Institute Director

Darryl Harkness
CEO

Reference

1. ABS 2016 Census of Population and Housing