

# Integrating Health Care Planning for Health and Prosperity in North Queensland

## Project Update

### February 2022

#### Project Summary

The Integrating Health Care Planning for Health and Prosperity in North Queensland Project commenced on 15<sup>th</sup> April 2021, and will conclude on the 14<sup>th</sup> April 2024. JCU has received funding for the project from the Cooperative Research Centre for Developing Northern Australia Ltd (CRCNA), with a financial contribution from the Tropical Australian Academic Health Centre (TAAHC), and in-kind contributions from project partners. It aims to improve the responsiveness of health services to the health needs of communities in the North Queensland region.

#### Current Activities

The research team is continuing with the collation, manipulation and mapping of indicators from a multitude of datasets to visually display health data, services available and workforce information.

The interactive map will be publicly available for use by project partners and other stakeholders. An example of how the mapping tool can be utilised is depicted in Figure 1. The tool will allow the selection of various indicators which can be overlayed to visualise where there may be unmet need or gaps in services or workforce.

In parallel, work is continuing on the development of a gap analysis for the NQ region. Through the development of an index of unmet need, this analysis aims to rank and identify Local Government Areas (LGAs) of high need.

The mapping process and index development, may assist in identifying communities who may then be interested in participating in place-based planning processes to improve health service efficiencies in the second phase of the project.

#### Challenges

As mentioned in the previous update the different geographical units (e.g. SAs, or LGAs) in which data are available creates challenges for comparisons and analyses. Whilst the maps can be overlayed, we are not able to geographically match some of the indicators due to variances in the datasets.

The research team is carefully monitoring the impact Covid 19 is having on the health workforce and service delivery in Northern Queensland and will take this into consideration when planning the future project activities.

#### Future Activities

It is anticipated that the draft interactive map will be available to stakeholders for feedback before mid-March. At this time we also plan to have a draft of the gap analysis document. Ultimately the interactive map will be publicly available as a resource.

Consultation aims to obtain feedback on the maps and gap analysis, identify questions for which stakeholders would like to see mapped data, and begin discussions to identify four priority communities.

Consultation will resume in March with the following key stakeholder groups:

- Technical Reference Group
- TAAHC Board
- TAAHC Clinical Leadership Group
- Better Health NQ HNA/LANA working group

Further consultation with key stakeholders in the proposed four communities will be undertaken in April/May regarding their potential participation in place-based planning processes in Phase 2 which will commence in June/July 2022.

#### Research Fellows Contact Details:

Dr Deb Smith  
Project Manager  
[deb.smith@jcu.edu.au](mailto:deb.smith@jcu.edu.au)  
Tel: 07 4781 6861

Dr Karen Johnston  
Data Manager  
[karen.johnston@jcu.edu.au](mailto:karen.johnston@jcu.edu.au)  
Tel: 07 4781 5835



Figure 1. Mapping example: Estimated proportion of females of reproductive age 2020 (SA2) by cervical screening participation rates 2018-2019 (SA3) and location of private general practices.

