BACKGROUND

Promoting population health and wellbeing is one of the most significant challenges facing Australia and is recognised as a research priority by the Australian Government.

Health researchers have a major interest in how clinical data can be used to monitor population health and health care in rural and regional Australia through analysing a broad range of factors shown to impact the health of different populations. This Population Health data collection provides students, managers, clinicians and researchers the opportunity to use clinical data in the study of population health, including the analysis of health risk factors, disease trends and health care utilisation and outcomes. La Trobe University is committed to solving global problems and improving the health and welfare of all Australians.

BUILDING HEALTHY COMMUNITIES RFA

Building Healthy Communities (BHC) is one of the five Research Focus Areas at La Trobe University.

We know that building healthy communities hinges on translating scientific findings and access to research data into real improvements in community services, healthcare delivery, and educational outcomes. The researchers in BHC are working to better improve health outcomes by understanding the underlying causes, interconnections and impacts the burden of diseases has on the community and health services. This project has successfully piloted the ethical use of health services data to provide researchers with open access to publically funded health data.

LA TROBE UNIVERSITY LIBRARY

The La Trobe University Library is responsible for the support of research data management at La Trobe University.

The Library has a strong service culture connecting and partnering with researchers at all stages throughout the research lifecycle, particularly in the grant process and the publication of research outputs. The Library is leading the approach towards research data management across the university, ensuring compliance with strategic agendas and the requirements of funding agencies to ensure the research data sets that underpin research outputs are made publically available for re-use and repurposing.

Building and sustaining healthy communities means all Australians have the support they need to make decisions that promote their health and wellbeing.

DESCRIPTION

‘Open Data’ and ‘clinical health service utilisation data’ are terms rarely seen in the same sentence. However, the La Trobe Major Open Data Collection demonstrates ethical treatment of health services data can successfully lead to open access. This data collection contains de-identified clinical health service utilisation data from Bendigo Health and the General Practitioners Practices associated with the Loddon Mallee Murray Medicare Local. The collection also incorporates associated population health data from the ABS, AIHW and the Municipal Health Plans.

KEYWORDS

Public Health and Health Services; Population Trends and Policies; Health informatics; Epidemiology; Heart disease; Circulatory system disease; Health data analysis.

COLLABORATIONS

La Trobe already has an international reputation for research promoting health and wellbeing, with one of the largest health sciences colleges in Australia.

We have a wide range of local, state-based, national and international partnerships that exist for improving health systems and services. The successful partnership with Bendigo Health and Loddon Mallee Murray Medicare Local extends existing collaborations and contributes further to research understandings that focus on optimising the effective delivery of health care and related systems and services to improve the health and wellbeing of Australians.

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