

List of available Mentors and Advisors

Name	Role(s)	Biography and Research Interests	Further Info
Serene Yoong	Associate Professor <i>Swinburne University</i> Conjoint Senior Lecturer <i>School of Medicine and Public Health, University of Newcastle</i> Deputy Director, Chief Investigator, Executive Sponsor and Stream Lead <i>NCOIS</i>	<p>Background: Dr Serene Yoong is an early career researcher and dietitian with a significant track record in undertaking implementation science in community-based settings including early childhood education and care sectors. She has collaborated with leading health agencies internationally including the World Health Organisation and the Cochrane collaboration. She was a visiting fellow and consultant with the World Health Organisation and is a member of the Cochrane-Global Burden of Disease collaboration that seeks to inform and prioritise the conduct of systematic reviews.</p> <p>Research Interests: Dr Yoong’s research interests to date have focused on developing effective, scalable interventions to reduce preventable risk factors for chronic diseases, including technology based and low intensity, high yield strategies.</p>	Yoong
Luke Wolfenden	Director, Chief Investigator and Executive Sponsor <i>NCOIS</i> Research Fellow <i>NHMRC</i> Professor <i>School of Medicine and Public Health, University of Newcastle</i>	<p>Background Professor Luke Wolfenden is a behavioural and implementation scientist. In 2013 he commenced an NHMRC Career Development Fellowship and in 2016 has been offered both NHMRC Practitioner and NHMRC Career Development and National Heart Foundation Fellowships. He has worked with internationally recognised research institutions such as the UK Cochrane Centre, was an invited visiting Fellow at the World Health Organization (WHO) and is a current Fellow of the Lancet Commission on Obesity.</p> <p>Research Interests Professor Luke Wolfenden research seeks to reduce the burden of chronic disease in the community by trialling interventions to reduce modifiable chronic disease risks, and trialling implementation strategies to increase the adoption of evidence based interventions. Nationally, he was responsible for the evaluation of one of Australia’s largest (\$12 million) child obesity prevention programs (Good for Kids. Good for Life.).</p>	Wolfenden

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Andrew Wilson	<p>Co-director of the Menzies Centre for Health Policy <i>University of Sydney</i></p> <p>Director <i>NHMRC Australian Prevention Centre</i></p> <p>Chief Investigator <i>NCOIS</i></p>	<p>Background: Professor Andrew Wilson is Co-Director of the Menzies Centre for Health Policy at the University of Sydney and Director of the NHMRC Australian Prevention Centre administered by the Sax Institute. The Australian Prevention Centre collaboration involves researchers and practitioners from 15 universities and research institutes and 20 other government and non-government agencies including NHMRC, NSW Ministry of Health, ACT Ministry of Health, Commonwealth Department of Health and HCF (Health and Medical Research Foundation). He also chairs the Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee.</p> <p>Research Interests: Professor Andrew Wilson’s research interests concern the application of epidemiology to informing decision making in clinical medicine, public health, and health service policy and planning. His publications include aspects of prevention and management of chronic disease, evaluation of the effectiveness and responsiveness of health care systems and the impact of social and physical environment on health.</p>	Wilson
John Wiggers	<p>Director <i>University of Newcastle, Priority Research Centre for Health Behaviour</i></p> <p>Co-Director <i>Hunter Institute of Medical Research Public Health Program</i></p> <p>Director <i>Population Health Hunter New England LHD</i></p> <p>Chief Investigator and Executive Sponsor <i>NCOIS</i></p>	<p>Background Professor Wiggers is the Director of the University of Newcastle Priority Research Centre for Health Behaviour, a group of approximately 80 health behaviour researchers, and Co-Director of the Hunter Institute of Medical Research Public Health Program.</p> <p>Concurrent with his academic appointments, Prof Wiggers has held a number of senior government health service delivery and policy positions, including Director of Population Health, Hunter New England Local Health District, and Acting State Director of Population Health, NSW Ministry of Health.</p> <p>Research Interests Prof Wiggers is a population health researcher, practitioner and policy maker with a research focus on the prevention of obesity, smoking and alcohol-related harms, and the promotion of physical activity and healthy nutrition in the community. Prof Wiggers’ innovative research incorporates the use of a systems approach to intervention and practice design, including the use of technology and evidence-based behavioural change strategies.</p>	Wiggers

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James Thomas	<p>Professor <i>Social Research and Policy in Department of Childhood, Families and Health</i> <i>Institute of Education, University College</i></p> <p>Associate Investigator <i>NCOIS</i></p>	<p>Background: Professor James Thomas is a Professor of Social Research and Policy in the Department of Childhood, Families, and Health at the Institute of Education. He is also the Director of the Evidence for Policy and Practice Information and Co-ordinating Centres (EPPI-Centre) Reviews Facility for the Department of Health, England. EPPI-Centre is a specialist centre focused on the development of methods and conduct of systematic reviews, as well as investigating how research is used to inform policy, practice and personal decisions.</p> <p>Research interests: Prof Thomas's expertise is in developing methods and innovative technologies for research synthesis including machine learning, and text mining, and crowd sourcing.</p>	Thomas
Rachel Sutherland	<p>Postdoctoral Researcher and MRFF Investigator Fellow <i>School of Medicine and Public Health</i> <i>University of Newcastle</i></p> <p>Stream Lead <i>NCOIS</i></p>	<p>Background: Dr Rachel Sutherland is an NHMRC Research Fellow with the University of Newcastle's School of Medicine and Public Health (Nutrition and Dietetics). Dr Sutherland is also an experienced Public Health Nutritionist, Health Promotion Practitioner and Program Manager. As an early career researcher, Dr Sutherland has held lead roles on a number of research projects and trials focused on childhood obesity prevention across the research translation spectrum, including feasibility studies, efficacy trials, hybrid implementation trials and the scale-up of a program known as SWAP IT, which supported parents of primary school children to swap nutrition-poor lunchbox foods for healthier food options.</p> <p>Research Interests: An influential translational researcher, Dr Sutherland's work is focused on the development and evaluation of implementation research interventions to scale up population health services.</p>	Sutherland

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Chris Rissel	<p>Senior Research Fellow, College of Medicine and Public Health <i>Flinders University</i></p> <p>Chief Investigator <i>NCOIS</i></p>	<p>Background: Professor Chris Rissel is an expert health promotion academic and practitioner, with a PhD in Behavioural Epidemiology. He holds an academic position as a Senior Research Fellow for the College of Medicine and Public Health at Flinders University. He worked as Director of the NSW Office of Preventive Health where he was responsible for supporting the implementation and evaluation of priority state-wide preventive health programs (including obesity).</p> <p>Research interests: Prof Rissel's work has included epidemiological and intervention trials examining the impact of risky behaviours on population health and efforts to reduce such behaviour. He has a particular interest in the translation of research into practice and relationships between evaluation and policy.</p>	Rissel
Penny Reeves	<p>Conjoint Associate Professor <i>University of Newcastle</i></p> <p><i>Acting Associate Director Health Research Economics Hunter Medical Research Institute</i></p> <p>Stream Lead <i>NCOIS</i></p>	<p>Background: Dr Penny Reeves has over 25 years' experience in the field of applied health economics. She holds a PhD in Health Economics and a Bachelor of Economics (honours) from the University of Newcastle and a graduate diploma in Health Economics from the University of Tromso, Norway. She has worked at the Hunter Medical Research Institute for the past 7 years and between 2018-2020 concurrently held a NSW Health Prevention Research Support Program (PRSP) funded research fellowship. Prior roles have included senior economist positions in industry and in government in both Australia and the UK.</p> <p>Research Interests: Penny is a research leader in the field of applied economic evaluation to implementation initiatives as well as the measurement and promotion of research translation and impact assessment.</p>	Reeves

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Nicole Nathan	Investigator fellow <i>University of Newcastle</i> Clinical Research Fellow <i>Hunter New England LHD</i> Health Promotion Program manager <i>Hunter New England LHD</i> Associate Investigator and Stream Lead <i>NCOIS</i>	<p>Background: Dr Nicole Nathan is a NHMRC MRFF Investigator with The University of Newcastle School of Medicine and Public Health, and the Director of the Priority Research Centre for Health Behaviour. Dr Nathan is also a Health Service Manager and a qualified Health and Physical Education teacher with 20yrs experience leading the implementation and evaluation of one of Australia’s largest population-wide child obesity prevention services and research trials in community settings, in particular within the school setting (Good for Kids. Good for Life).</p> <p>Research Interests: Dr Nathan is leading research in the field of sustainability. Dr Nathan’s current area of interest is investigating the long-term sustainability of evidence based programs in clinical and community settings once implementation support has ceased.</p>	Nathan
Andrew Milat	Director of Evidence and Evaluation <i>NSW Ministry of Health</i> Associate Investigator <i>NCOIS</i>	<p>Background: Dr Andrew Milat is Director of Evidence and Evaluation at the NSW Ministry of Health, and is an adjunct Associate Professor within the Sydney Medical School at the University of Sydney. A/Prof Milat has over 20 years’ experience in the design, implementation and evaluation of health policies and programs at a national and international level.</p> <p>Research Interests: Dr Milat is a research leader in the field of scaling up health interventions and assessing research impact, and has extensive experience undertaking quantitative and qualitative research and research prioritisation processes.</p>	Milat

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<p>Cara Lewis</p>	<p>Associate Investigator <i>Kaiser Permanente Washington Health Research Institute</i></p> <p>Assistant Professor <i>Department of Psychiatry and Behavioural Sciences, University of Washington</i></p> <p>Assistant Professor <i>Indiana University</i></p> <p>President <i>Society for Implementation Research</i></p> <p>Associate Investigator <i>NCOIS</i></p>	<p>Background: Cara Lewis, PhD, HSPP, is an Associate Investigator at Kaiser Permanente Washington Health Research Institute Affiliate and an Assistant Professor at the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences in the School of Medicine at the University of Washington. She is also an Assistant Professor at Indiana University where she leads the Training Research and Implementation in Psychology (TRIP) lab.</p> <p>Research Interests: Dr Lewis' research is funded by the National Institute of Mental Health and focuses on evaluating cognitive behavioural therapy for depression and comorbid disorders, solving measurement issues in implementation science, and studying the implementation of evidence-based practices into community settings.</p>	<p>Lewis</p>

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<p>Sarah (Sallie) Lamb</p>	<p>Associate Dean for Research and Mireille Gillings Professor of Health Innovation <i>College of Medicine and Health, University of Exeter</i></p> <p>Director <i>Centre for Statistics in Medicine, University of Oxford</i></p> <p>Associate Investigator <i>NCOIS</i></p>	<p>Background: Professor Sarah (Sallie) Lamb is the Director of the Centre for Statistics in Medicine within the Medical Sciences Division at the University of Oxford; a theme lead for the Oxford Centre for Applied Health Care Research and Leadership.</p> <p>Research Interests: Her research interests include: mechanistic evaluations, as well as medical statistic and clinical trial design in identifying and implementing effective and cost effective interventions to improve physical activity. She has extensive research networks and has significant experience in guideline development and has served on NICE guideline panels.</p>	<p>Lamb</p>
<p>Nicole Kajons (Evans)</p>	<p>Director of Health Promotion and Population Health Improvement <i>Central Coast LHD</i></p> <p>Associate Investigator <i>NCOIS</i></p>	<p>Background: Nicole Kajons (Evans) is the District Director of Health Promotion and Population Health Improvement for Central Coast Local Health District. Ms Evans is responsible for overseeing the delivery of health promotion programs for chronic disease prevention throughout the Central Coast community.</p>	

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Rebecca Hodder	<p>NHMRC Early Career Fellow <i>University of Newcastle</i></p> <p>Program manager <i>Hunter New England LHD</i></p> <p>Stream Lead <i>NCOIS</i></p>	<p>Background: Dr Rebecca Hodder is a NHMRC Early Career Research Fellow at the School of Medicine and Public Health at the University of Newcastle, and a Program Manager at Hunter New England Population Health. Dr Hodder has over 10 years' experience in the implementation and evaluation of large-scale health promotion programs addressing key risk factors for non-communicable chronic diseases in community settings, such as schools and hospitals. She was Research and Evaluation Manager on Australia's largest childhood obesity trial, Good for Kids. Good for Life which has been awarded multiple awards including the National Preventive Health Agency Research Translation Awards and is the basis of current NSW child obesity policy. Dr Hodder has extensive expertise in systematic reviews (28 of her publications relate to systematic reviews) and is an international leader in the generation of living evidence and leads the first Cochrane living systematic review which utilises Cochrane Collaboration 'next generation' evidence systems.</p> <p>Research Interests: Dr Hodder is currently investigating the international and national evidence-practice gaps in schools-based chronic disease prevention targeting healthy eating, physical activity, tobacco and alcohol use.</p>	Hodder
Jeremy Grimshaw	<p>Senior Scientist in the Clinical Epidemiology Program <i>Ottawa Health Research Institute</i></p> <p>Professor in Department of Medicine <i>University of Ottawa</i></p> <p>Chief Investigator and Executive Sponsor <i>NCOIS</i></p>	<p>Background: Professor Jeremy Grimshaw is a Senior Scientist in the Clinical Epidemiology Program, Ottawa Health Research Institute and a Full Professor in the Department of Medicine, University of Ottawa. He is also a Tier 1 Canada Research Chair in Health Knowledge Transfer and Uptake and the President of the Board of the Campbell Collaboration (since 2015).</p> <p>Research Interests: His research focuses on the evaluation of Knowledge Translation and Implementation (KTI) strategies, targeting healthcare professionals (HCPs) and health systems. His research often involves interdisciplinary groups of program experts, including independent researchers, knowledge users and trainees, based locally, nationally and internationally (Canada, Australia, Europe, United Kingdom). He has published over 600 peer reviewed journals.</p>	Grimshaw

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Julian Elliot	<p>Head of Clinical Research <i>Dept of Infectious Diseases, Alfred Hospital and Monash University</i></p> <p>Chief Investigator and Executive Sponsor <i>NCOIS</i></p>	<p>Background: Associate Professor Julian Elliott is Head of Clinical Research in the Department of Infectious Diseases, Alfred Hospital and Monash University. He is also Senior Research Fellow at Cochrane Australia and Lead for Evidence Systems for Cochrane globally. He was awarded the 2017 recipient of the Commonwealth Health Minister’s Award for Excellence in Health and Medical Research.</p> <p>Research Interests: Associate Professor Julian Elliott’s research is focused on the use of new technology and systems to improve research translation and the use of evidence for health decision making. He leads Cochrane’s development of new evidence systems, including co-leading Project Transform, a major Cochrane project that is developing new software systems, artificial intelligence and citizen science to improve the production of systematic reviews.</p>	Elliot
Chris Doran	<p>Professor of Health Economics in the School of Health, Medicine and Applied Sciences, <i>Central Queensland University</i></p> <p>Chief Investigator and Executive Sponsor <i>NCOIS</i></p>	<p>Background: Professor Christopher Doran is Professor of Health Economics in the School of Health, Medical and Applied Sciences, Central Queensland University (CQU). He holds adjunct Professorial appointments at the University of Newcastle and Edith Cowan University.</p> <p>Research Interests: Key area of research is mental health with a particular focus on substance use and suicide prevention. He collaborates extensively with academics, clinicians and policy makers in building capacity in the knowledge, use and translation of health economics. Prof Doran’s research has contributed to the field of health economics and strengthened the evidence base for effective policy action. In recent years, his focus on priority setting has been complemented with the development of tools and frameworks to facilitate translational research. His translational research has contributed to the development, implementation and evaluation of national and international substance abuse and mental health policies.</p>	Doran

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David Chambers	<p>Deputy Director <i>Implementation Science Division of Cancer Control and Population Sciences, National Cancer Institute</i></p> <p>Associate Investigator <i>NCOIS</i></p>	<p>Background: Dr David Chambers is Deputy Director for Implementation Science in the Division of Cancer Control and Population Sciences at the National Cancer Institute in the United States. Dr Chambers' current role involves coordinating implementation of scientific evidence across the entire cancer control continuum; overseeing the development, maintenance and evolution of multiple platforms that bridge research and policy; and development of initiatives to progress dissemination and implementation.</p> <p>Research Interests: Dr Chambers is a leader in implementation science, having extensive experience in studying the implementation of evidence into practice. He currently holds a portfolio of grants focused on studying the integration of scientific findings and effective clinical practices in mental health services. From 2006 to 2014 he served as the Associate Director for Dissemination and Implementation Research at the National Institute of Health, where he was responsible for coordinating the implementation of research into health, organising annual scientific conferences and coordinating a summer training institute.</p>	Chambers
Adrian Bauman	<p>Sesquicentenary Professor of Public Health and Director of the Prevention Research Collaboration <i>University of Sydney</i></p> <p>Chief Investigator and Executive Sponsor <i>NCOIS</i></p>	<p>Background: Professor Adrian Bauman is the Sesquicentenary Professor of Public Health and Director of the Prevention Research Collaboration at the University of Sydney. He co-directs the World Health Organisation (WHO) Collaborating Centre on Physical Activity, Nutrition and Obesity. He is widely published in the peer reviewed scientific literature and has obtained recent research grants in physical activity, sedentary behaviour, and translational public health.</p> <p>Research Interests: Professor Adrian Bauman has research interests in chronic disease prevention, with a longstanding focus on physical activity and public health. Recent interests include the epidemiology of inactivity and sitting time, and in translation and up-scaling of physical activity and chronic disease prevention programs to the population level. Prof Bauman's major research contributions have been leadership in physical activity and public health research. He has extended this work into new areas of sedentary behaviour research and epidemiology.</p>	Bauman

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Andrew Bailey	Director Research and Knowledge Translation <i>Mid North Coast LHD</i> Associate Investigator <i>NCOIS</i>	<p>Background: Dr Andrew Bailey is the Director of Research and Knowledge Translation with the Mid North Coast Local Health District. Andrew's role involves supporting and overseeing research and knowledge translation activity across the LHD. Andrew's previous roles have included District Manager of Health Promotion, MNCLHD and Senior Clinical Psychologist, HNELHD. Andrew holds a BA (Psychology) (Hons) and a Doctorate in Psychology (Clinical) and is a registered psychologist (non-practicing).</p> <p>Research Interests: Dr Bailey is currently an Associate Investigator on a number of population health research programs with extensive experience in developing stakeholder partnerships.</p>	Bailey
John Attia	Director of Clinical Research Design, IT and Statistical Support <i>HMRI</i> Associate Investigator <i>NCOIS</i>	<p>Background: Professor John Attia is the Director of the Clinical Research Design, IT and Statistical Support Unit (CReditSS) at the Hunter Medical Research Institute (HMRI). Prof Attia is also a clinician and research epidemiologist with expertise in research methods related to population and health service research. Prof Attia has been successful in obtaining more than \$20 million in funding.</p> <p>Research Interest: Prof Attia has particular expertise in mechanistic evaluation, and RCTs, and has been co-leading a series on statistical methods for the Medical Journal of Australia.</p>	Attia

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<p>Julie-Anne McWhinnie</p>	<p>Chief Project Officer-Public Health Nutrition Health Promotion Branch <i>Wellbeing SA</i></p> <p><i>Affiliated with NCOIS partner organisation</i></p>	<p>Background:</p> <p>Julie-Anne has worked as a public health professional with over 29 years’ experience in public health nutrition (Wellbeing SA, SA Health and Heart Foundation-Victoria) and community nutrition roles (SA Health). She has expertise in strategic engagement to foster collaborative partnerships in the delivery of joint public health initiatives, strategic policy advice on state and national public health nutrition matters (ranging from voluntary, regulatory and national health/nutrition strategies and initiatives), policy development, strategic planning and evaluation, complex project and program management, and advocacy across state-wide, national and regional health mandates in the government and non-government sectors.</p> <p>Julie-Anne has led Wellbeing SA’s portfolio of nutrition initiatives to improve healthy food environments in South Australian public sector settings and non-government organisations such as public health care facilities, schools, prisons and emergency food relief organisations. These initiatives take a co-design and systems approach to improving food provision through healthy food and drink policies/guidelines in collaboration with key stakeholders, and the development of a state-wide support service to assist policy implementation and monitoring. She has also contributed advice to the Reformulation Working Group under the Commonwealth Healthy Food Partnership to set food industry targets to reduce saturated fat, sugar and salt in the food supply; and to the development, implementation and evaluation of the national Health Star Rating System for processed food products.</p> <p>Other career highlights include managing the Victorian Government funded ‘Go for your life’ Fruit and Vegetable Coordinating Hub project; co-authoring of the resource “Food Sensitive Planning and Urban Design: a conceptual framework for achieving a sustainable and healthy food system” - a collaboration between Heart Foundation, Victorian Eco Innovation Lab and VicHealth; undertaking the National Senior Project Officer role for NATSINSAP (National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Nutrition Strategy and Action Plan); and state wide roll out of Start Right-Eat Right childcare nutrition award scheme in SA following a successful pilot in southern Adelaide.</p> <p>Research Interest/Expertise:</p> <p>Julie-Anne has an interest (and professional development) in maximising impact from research - policy partnerships. She has expertise in implementing multi-strategy approaches at the state-wide and national level; research translation into policy and practice; and forming sustainable and effective partnerships to achieve outcomes.</p>	<p>Julie-Anne McWhinnie</p>

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Natasha Schranz	<p>Manager, Early Years, Children and Young People, Health Promotion Branch <i>Wellbeing SA</i></p> <p>Adjunct Research Fellow: <i>University of South Australia</i></p> <p><i>Affiliated with NCOIS partner organisation</i></p>	<p>Background:</p> <p>As an early-career researcher Dr Schranz co-founded and led the national Active Healthy Kids Australia collaboration and worked across sectors to increase awareness regarding the importance of physical activity participation for the health and wellbeing of children and young people. Tasha then moved on to work at the Heart Foundation where she worked closely with the cardiovascular research community in South Australia and developed a community-based pilot program to increase the awareness of the risk factors for heart disease in regional communities. Tasha joined Wellbeing SA in 2020 as their first Principal Physical Activity Officer, leading their state-wide physical activity portfolio. In August 2021 Tasha commenced as the Manager, Early Years, Children and Young People. In this role Tasha collaborates and works in partnership across government, using Health in All Policies and Health Promoting approaches, to achieve positive health and wellbeing outcomes for South Australian children, young people and their families.</p> <p>Research Interest/Expertise:</p> <p>Dr Schranz has expertise in implementing health promotion approaches at the population level; research translation; and forming sustainable and effective partnerships to achieve outcomes. During her academic career Tasha undertook mostly quantitative research methodologies and analyses.</p>	Natasha Schranz
Alyson Crozier	<p>Principal Project Officer: Physical Activity <i>Wellbeing SA</i></p> <p>Adjunct Senior Lecturer: Exercise and Sport Psychology <i>University of South Australia</i></p> <p><i>Affiliated with NCOIS partner organisation</i></p>	<p>Background:</p> <p>Dr Alyson Crozier is currently the Principal Physical Activity Project Officer with Wellbeing SA. Using an evidence-based approach, she advises on, plans and implements, and evaluates state-wide initiatives to get South Australians more active. The current priority is on projects to encourage people to start walking. She also boasts six years academic experience at the University of South Australia, winning over \$150,000 in funding as principal investigator to deliver and investigate the impact of community-based health programs, and has Honours, Master's and PhD research supervision experience.</p> <p>Research Interest:</p> <p>Dr Crozier has expertise in physical activity promotion, specifically around social influence and how the people around you can influence your own health behaviour engagement. She has experience with both qualitative and quantitative research methodologies and analyses.</p>	Alyson Crozier