



National Institute of Clinical Studies

OVERVIEW OF NICS

The National Institute of Clinical Studies (NICS) is part of the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC). NICS' role within the NHMRC is to improve health care by getting the best available evidence from health and medical research into everyday practice.

Our goals are to lead and support clinicians in finding and applying evidence to close gaps; develop the knowledge base for the science and practice of implementation; and advocate for systemic change to improve the use of evidence in clinical practice.

We do this by:

- working in partnership with clinical groups and health care organisations to help improve evidence uptake in areas where there are important evidence-practice gaps
- providing access to resources and evidence for health professionals, managers, researchers and policy makers
- providing opportunities for health professionals to increase knowledge and skills in improving evidence uptake.

GETTING EVIDENCE INTO PRACTICE

NICS comprises a unique group of staff with expertise in the science of evidence implementation who undertake projects in a small number of priority clinical areas that span a range of settings, issues, disciplines and challenges for evidence uptake.

These areas include:

- prevention of venous thromboembolism
- emergency care
- guideline research and implementation
- influenza vaccination
- heart failure
- organ donation.

The work undertaken in these areas enables us to identify processes and produce tools that can be successfully transferred to other areas of clinical practice where there are similar barriers to better use of evidence.

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DEVELOPING AUSTRALIA'S FUTURE HEALTH CARE LEADERS

NICS has established an international reputation for excellence in evidence implementation. As part of our commitment to share this knowledge, we bring many international leaders in this field to Australia for national lectures and workshops which are well received by policy makers and health care professionals.

Our NICS Fellowships attract the support of an increasing number of organisations who share our commitment to improving Australia's health. Together, we provide support and training to talented early-to mid-career professionals from across the health care spectrum who have identified an important evidence-practice gap and who have developed an implementation project to bridge this gap. NICS Fellows also benefit from the expertise of mentors, who are acknowledged leaders in their field, and who support and advise these future leaders in health care.

PROVIDING ACCESS TO INTERNATIONAL RESOURCES

The Cochrane Library is an online resource containing systematic reviews of health and medical research evidence produced by the Cochrane Collaboration, an internationally-renowned collaboration of health professionals, researchers and consumers.

NICS has ensured the expertise within the Cochrane Collaboration serves the wider Australian community with the establishment of a new satellite of the Cochrane Effective Practice and Organisation of Care (EPOC) Group, which is based at NICS and funded by the Australian Government.

EPOC produces systematic reviews of educational, behavioural, financial, regulatory and organisational interventions designed to improve health professional practice and the organisation of health care services, potentially spanning any clinical area. The Australian satellite also identifies and helps produce priority EPOC reviews relevant to Australia and the surrounding region.

For more information about NICS, visit www.nhmrc.gov.au/nics

NHMRC is Australia's leading funding body for health and medical research. It also provides the government, health professionals and the community with expert and independent advice on a range of issues that directly affect the health and well being of all people in Australia.
