

STRATEGIC PLAN 2014-2017

Background

eviDent seeks to enhance the clinical outcomes of dental practice and improve patient care by providing the means for dental practice based research and a platform for dissemination of evidence based clinical knowledge.

eviDent is generously supported by the Australian Dental Association Victorian Branch Inc and the Oral Health Cooperative Research Centre (located at the Melbourne Dental School), who are committed to the pursuit of better community oral health.

This strategic plan is the first for eviDent and seeks to define our goals and objectives, as well as outline our key actions over the next four years. This will inform our operational plan going forward.

To achieve our vision, our plan is built on four strategic goals:

1. Continuous improvement
2. Communication
3. Sustainability
4. Excellence.

This is an exciting period in our history. We look forward to implementing the following strategy, which will be overseen by the eviDent Foundation Board.

STRATEGIC PLAN 2014-2017

Vision	Facilitating dental practice based research for better oral health			
Mission	eviDent spearheads Australia's leading dental practice based research network in improving the oral health of our community through engagement of dental practitioners and their patients.			
Strategic Goals	Continuous Improvement: Realise the potential of eviDent	Communication: Strengthen the eviDent team	Sustainability: Enhance the community and stakeholder support	Excellence: Deliver excellent education, development and training
Objectives	Grow the research network in a sustainable manner	Create a network of practitioners and academics that facilitates learning, encourages self reflection and accelerates change	Plan for financial sustainability	Pursue highest level research protocols and standards
	Improve patient outcomes by translating and disseminating research findings to clinical practice	Disseminate information to educate current and future dental care providers and the wider community	Nurture relationships with stakeholders to improve oral health care	Provide oral health care innovation
	Facilitate research in practices and support practitioners involved in research	Establish infrastructure to facilitate continuing project dialogue	Develop and implement a succession plan to ensure Board and committee membership reflects the partnerships between practitioners and academics, as well as general membership in the network and the profession at large	Improve oral health outcomes for the community by translating research into clinical practice and informing policy
	Develop leaders and foster leadership opportunities	Plan for additional administrative support	Raise the profile of the network	Disseminate information both within the broader dental profession and other health professions

STRATEGIC PLAN 2014-2017

Values	Education Expand the evidence base for oral health care by increasing the capacity to conduct practice relevant research	Collaboration Fostering cooperation and interdependence between oral health care providers, research partners and stakeholders	Service Drawing on the clinical expertise of our members to contribute to the community by improving oral health and encouraging changes to health policy and patient care	Integrity Conducting high quality research ensuring respect for participants and confidentiality of data
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Action Plan

Strategic Goals	Objectives	Key Actions
Continuous Improvement	Grow the research network in a sustainable manner	Increase membership of the eviDent network
		Build upon relationships with key stakeholders
		Develop relationships to facilitate national expansion of the eviDent network
		Foster relationships with other Practice Based Research Networks (PBRNs), particularly those with aligned aims and objectives
		Share resources, protocols and findings with these peer bodies
		Strengthen our research agenda
	Improve patient outcomes by translating and disseminating research findings to clinical practice	Identify and target research topics that are relevant to practitioners, patients and policy makers
		Advocate to influence health policy using evidence based research findings
		Develop annual meetings to include an interactive component and offer presenter training for practitioner members
	Facilitate research in practices and support practitioners involved in research	Develop research infrastructure to generate relevant, practical and timely research findings
		Encourage and support Continuing Professional Development (CPD) activities
		Where appropriate, embrace digital technology for rapid dissemination of information

STRATEGIC PLAN 2014-2017

Strategic Goals	Objectives	Key Actions
		Review and expand upon existing policies and procedures
	Develop leaders and foster leadership opportunities	Develop and implement systems for succession planning
		Ensure Board and committee membership reflects the partnerships between practitioners and academics
		Facilitate director development including skill building in areas of development and excellence in governance
		Put in place a diversity strategy to ensure views of key stakeholders are adequately represented
Communication	Create a network of practitioners and academics that facilitates learning encourages self reflection and accelerates change	Disseminate research findings to members, the dental profession, policy makers and the public
		Encourage practitioner/ academic researcher relationships and dialogue with a view to building research capacity to produce and use evidence in a timely manner
	Disseminate information to educate current and future dental care providers and the wider community	Establish partnerships to facilitate collaborative research and knowledge transfer
		Develop evidence based clinical practice guidelines for use by practitioners, funding agencies, patients and others
		Work with dental educational institutions to foster a culture of research in students and to encourage an interest in research post graduation
		Plan for future increased involvement in CPD sector as research findings become available
	Enhance infrastructure to facilitate continuing project dialogue	Encourage and facilitate member input and interaction
		Foster and facilitate a culture of collaboration, communication and teamwork/collegiality within the network
	Plan for additional administrative support	Engage with staff, members and stakeholders to establish demand for additional administrative support
		Ensure adequate funds are allocated to develop a sustainable administrative team

STRATEGIC PLAN 2014-2017

Strategic Goals	Objectives	Key Actions
Sustainability	Plan for financial sustainability	<p>Identify and utilise in-kind support where possible</p> <p>Review accurate, meaningful and timely financial reports</p> <p>Implement the fundraising strategy</p> <p>Identify research grants that align with our research agenda</p> <p>Advocate for increased government funding for health research to reflect the economic burden of oral diseases</p> <p>Use resources responsibly and strategically</p>
	Nurture relationships with stakeholders to improve oral health care	<p>Foster member, corporate, industry and community support</p> <p>Engage volunteers effectively and sustainably</p> <p>Encourage practitioners to identify research topics of relevance to their practice</p> <p>Recognise and encourage interdisciplinary projects and engage affiliated societies</p> <p>Strengthen and enhance relationships with key stakeholders</p> <p>Foster relationships with other health care providers and their related professional organisations</p>
	Develop and implement a succession plan to ensure board and committee membership reflects the partnerships between practitioners and academics, as well as general membership in the network and the profession at large	<p>Evaluate and monitor the strategic plan and research productivity</p>
	Raise the profile of the network	<p>Identify new opportunities for partnering, particularly interdisciplinary projects with affiliates to help address the connection between oral and general health</p>

STRATEGIC PLAN 2014-2017

Strategic Goals	Objectives	Key Actions
		<p>Work collaboratively with all stakeholders</p> <p>Enhance the networks' reputation for delivering evidence based research with nationally and internationally recognised research findings</p>
Excellence	Pursue highest level research protocols and standards	<p>Continue to ensure excellence in research governance</p> <p>Work collaboratively with all stakeholders to ensure internationally benchmarked research is achieved</p> <p>Critically assess projects throughout data collection and assessment phases and following research findings to improve processes</p> <p>Create an environment that fosters reflective practice</p>
	Provide oral health care innovation	<p>Expand the evidence base for clinical decision making and the development of public health policy</p> <p>Respond to practitioner and patient needs by approving relevant projects that are easily implemented within dental practices or by eviDent members</p> <p>Consider new technologies</p>
	Improve oral health outcomes for the community by translating research into clinical practice and informing policy	<p>Gather information regarding prevalence and incidence of oral and dental diseases</p> <p>Test and evaluate the effectiveness of strategies for the prevention and management of oral disease and conditions</p>
	Disseminate information both within the broader dental profession and other health professions	<p>Develop an approach to facilitate knowledge management and transfer into clinical practice in partnership with stakeholders</p> <p>Establish a publication plan for each project</p> <p>Advocate to influence health policy using evidence based research findings</p> <p>Develop evidence based clinical practice guidelines for use by practitioners, funding agencies, patients and others</p>



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Our logo

The eviDent logo reflects the unique opportunity with a dental practitioner's mouth mirror examining the mouths of so many patients each year. The collegiate and unified approach to data collection and analysis from multiple practices to combine and produce evidence based research findings presents a powerful tool to support and encourage reflective practice and improve oral health and dental practice for patients and the practitioners who treat them.