



**AUSTRALIA  
INDIA  
INSTITUTE**

# SUSTAINING HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

**Australia-India Research Collaboration Framework**

SEPTEMBER 4, 2025

Supported by



Australian Government  
Department of Education

# AUSTRALIA-INDIA RESEARCH COLLABORATION FRAMEWORK

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## Advancing Bilateral Research for Shared Impact

The **Australia-India Research Collaboration (AIRC) Framework** is a strategic initiative designed to support impactful research partnerships between Australia and India. It supports all stakeholders involved in research collaboration, including higher education, industry, government, and community sectors. The Framework revolves around three action areas:

- **Promote:** Encourage the development of new, interdisciplinary research collaborations.
- **Support:** Sustain and strengthen research partnerships over time, ensuring they remain impactful and mutually beneficial.
- **Translate:** Establish pathways to apply research into practical outcomes, with a focus on innovation, commercialisation, and early engagement with delivery partners.

The Framework is designed with a five-year outlook to guide, grow, and scale research collaboration with lasting impact across both countries. It focuses on four key thematic areas of shared importance to both countries:

- Energy Transitions and Climate Change Resilience
- Sustaining Healthy Communities
- Advanced Manufacturing Technologies
- Cybersecurity and Digital Governance

Online workshops on each theme will be hosted between August and September 2025. Each workshop is co-led by Australian and Indian experts and will gather practical insights and recommendations that will directly inform the Framework. The initiative is supported by the Australian Government Department of Education.

## About the Australia India Institute

The **Australia India Institute** is Australia's leading centre dedicated to enhancing Australia-India relations. We aim to increase the policy and public importance of India as a crucial partner in Australia's future, and of Australia as a crucial partner in India's future. Our activities across the academic, political, business and community sectors have helped to shape engagement with India among Australian decision makers, change perceptions about Australia in India, promote trade and investment and activate bilateral networks.

## CO-LEADS



**Associate Professor Emma George** is the Program Director of Occupational Therapy in the School of Allied Health Science and Practice at The University of Adelaide. As an occupational therapist, she is passionate about the role of occupation as a fundamental right for health and well-being. Her research explores the way we address health inequities among marginalised people and communities with a commitment to social and occupational justice.

She has built deep engagement with Indian partners through research, education, and community health initiatives, with support from initiatives such as the Australia India Research Students Fellowship Program and the Unnati Research Collaboration Grants. She has led and collaborated in research on national policy implementation, the health and well-being of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and communities, and the recovery from exploitation and modern slavery in Australia and India.



**Professor Shailaja Tetali** is the Dean of Research and Policy Support at the Indian Institute of Public Health, Hyderabad. She is a medical doctor, trained at Sree Ramachandra Medical College, Chennai, and holds a double Master's degree – an MPH from Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute, Trivandrum, and a Master's in Medical Sciences from Karolinska Institute, Sweden. She earned her PhD in injury epidemiology from the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine (UK) through a Wellcome Trust Fellowship.

Her research interests span non-communicable diseases (NCDs) – with a particular focus on the public health impacts of transportation choices – including injuries, physical activity, and air pollution – as well as One Health, pandemic preparedness, and disaster resilience. She continues to work on safe and sustainable mobility and injury epidemiology, arising from everyday journeys to work, school, and other anthropogenic activities.



# SPEAKERS



**Nathan Grills** is a Professor at the Nossal Institute for Global Health, University of Melbourne. With over 20 years of involvement in global health focussing on India, he works across public health training, research, and advocacy. His research expertise spans non-communicable diseases, disability inclusion, community health evaluation and monitoring, primary health care systems, and the role of faith-based development agencies and programs. He is also the Senior Research Advisor for Health at the Australia India Institute.



**Dr. Shreelata Rao Seshadri** is the Professor and Director of the Ramalingaswami Centre for Equity and Social Determinants of Health at the Public Health Foundation of India, Bengaluru. She has worked in the field of public health in various capacities for almost three decades. Dr. Seshadri's professional interests are largely focused on health policy, programs and systems, on which she has published numerous books and articles. More recently, she has worked on nutrition and its impact on health and well-being of adults and children; and on health sector governance, with a focus on health sector decentralisation at the district-level and below.



**Associate Professor Tamara Mackean** is a Waljen woman, an Aboriginal Public Health Medicine Physician and Associate Professor of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Public Health Research with the College of Medicine and Public Health. She is also the inaugural Research Lead: Indigenous Research Strategy with the Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Research at Flinders University. Tamara conducts a broad range of public health research on health systems and equity, decolonisation in health research, culturally safe quality health care, workforce development and the multiple determinants of Indigenous health and wellbeing. Through a commitment to decolonisation and working at the interface of knowledge systems, A/Prof Mackean brings together her public health knowledge and her cultural standpoint to generate new ways of working and new evidence for best practice and policy.



**Eliza Huppertz** is a Lecturer in the School of Allied Health Science and Practice at the University of Adelaide. Her primary research interests focus on occupational justice, disaster recovery, and sustainability. Her clinical experience includes primary health care, community development and paediatrics.



**Dr Shridhar Murlidhar Rao Kadam** is the Director of the Indian Institute of Public Health, Bhubaneswar. With 24 years of experience in public health, he holds a PhD in Global Health with a focus on Human Resource Management. His research interests include health systems, healthcare financing, human resources, access to healthcare, and equity.

# AGENDA

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| <p><b>10:00–10:05 IST</b><br/><b>14:30–14:35 AEST</b></p> | <p><b>Welcome &amp; Overview</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>A/Prof. Emma George</b>, Program Director of Occupational Therapy, School of Allied Health Science and Practice, The University of Adelaide</li> <li>• <b>Prof. Shailaja Tetali</b>, Dean (Research and Policy Support), Indian Institute of Public Health, Hyderabad</li> </ul>  |
| <p><b>10:05–10:10 IST</b><br/><b>14:35–14:40 AEST</b></p> | <p><b>Overview of the AIRC Framework</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>A/Prof. Haripriya Rangan</b>, Principal Consultant Government Projects, Australia India Institute</li> </ul>  |
| <p><b>10:10–10:50 IST</b><br/><b>14:40–15:20 AEST</b></p> | <p><b>Expert Presentations</b></p> <p>Presentations providing Indian and Australian perspectives on sustaining healthy communities and addressing health inequities. The session will conclude with strategic insights on opportunities for partnership and collaboration from the workshop co-leads.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Dr. Shreelata Rao Seshadri</b>, Professor and Director, Ramalingaswami Centre for Equity and Social Determinants, Public Health Foundation of India, Bengaluru</li> <li>• <b>A/Prof Tamara Mackean</b>, Associate Professor of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Public Health Research, College of Medicine and Public Health, Flinders University</li> </ul>   |
| <p><b>10:50–11:00 IST</b><br/><b>15:20–15:30 AEST</b></p> | <p><b>Break</b></p>  |
| <p><b>11:00–11:30 IST</b><br/><b>15:30–16:00 AEST</b></p> | <p><b>Breakout Session 1: Promote</b></p> <p>This session focuses on the ‘Promote’ pillar of the AIRC Framework: Strategies to encourage interdisciplinary research, highlight shared priorities, and foster collaboration.</p> <p><b>Group 1:</b> Climate stress and disaster response</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Speaker: <b>Ms Eliza Huppatz</b>, Lecturer, School of Allied Health Science and Practice, The University of Adelaide</li> </ul> <p><b>Group 2:</b> Health-related infrastructure and environments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Speaker: <b>Dr Shridhar Murlidhar Rao Kadam</b>, Director of the Indian Institute of Public Health, Bhubaneswar</li> </ul> <p><b>Discussion questions:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What are the key features that we can promote to sustain healthy communities?</li> <li>• What strategies will promote interdisciplinary research?</li> <li>• What are the opportunities for future collaboration?</li> </ul> |

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| <p><b>11:30–11:45 IST</b><br/><b>16:00–16:15 AEST</b></p> | <p><b>Breakout Session 2: Support</b></p> <p>This session focuses on the ‘Support’ pillar of the AIRC Framework: Recommendations to sustain and strengthen ongoing research partnerships, ensuring they remain impactful and mutually beneficial.</p> <p><b>Discussion questions:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What are the existing research networks or aims and how are they aligned to sustaining healthy communities?</li> <li>• What strategies support engagement and help to foster long-term engagement?</li> <li>• How could early-career researchers be better supported in this research?</li> </ul> <p>Note: Participants remain in the same breakout groups as in Session 1.</p>   |
| <p><b>11:45–12:00 IST</b><br/><b>16:15–16:30 AEST</b></p> | <p><b>Breakout Session 3: Translate</b></p> <p>This session focuses on the ‘Translate’ pillar of the AIRC Framework: Establishing pathways to apply research into practical outcomes, with a focus on innovation, commercialisation, and early engagement with delivery partners.</p> <p><b>Discussion questions:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How can research on sustaining healthy communities influence policy and policy implementation?</li> <li>• What must we consider if we are to champion health equity and sustain healthy communities?</li> </ul> <p>Note: Participants remain in the same breakout groups as in Session 1.</p>   |
| <p><b>12:00–12:20 IST</b><br/><b>16:30–16:50 AEST</b></p> | <p><b>Critical Reflections from Panellists</b></p> <p>Panellists share closing reflections as “critical friends,” highlighting the most important insights from the day and offering advice to guide the development of the AIRC Framework.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Dr. Shreelata Rao Seshadri</b>, Professor and Director, Ramalingaswami Centre for Equity and Social Determinants, Public Health Foundation of India, Bengaluru</li> <li>• <b>A/Prof. Tamara Mackean</b>, Associate Professor of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Public Health Research, College of Medicine and Public Health, Flinders University</li> <li>• <b>Prof. Nathan Grills</b>, Professor, Nossal Institute for Global Health, University of Melbourne (<b>Facilitator</b>)</li> </ul> |
| <p><b>12:20–12:30 IST</b><br/><b>16:50–17:00 AEST</b></p> | <p><b>Closing Remarks &amp; Next Steps</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>A/Prof. Emma George</b>, Program Director of Occupational Therapy, School of Allied Health Science and Practice, The University of Adelaide</li> <li>• <b>Prof. Shailaja Tetali</b>, Dean (Research and Policy Support), Indian Institute of Public Health, Hyderabad</li> </ul>  |

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