

## DEPARTMENT OF PREVENTIVE AND SOCIAL MEDICINE

### Strategic Plan 2010 – 2015

#### Preamble

This strategic plan for the Department of Preventive and Social Medicine has been developed in the context of University, Division, and School strategic plans, and aims to provide a general direction and framework for decision-making and priority setting within the department.

The Department of Preventive and Social Medicine is large and diverse, encompassing different disciplines and a number of research and service units, many of which have their own strategic plans that are not replicated here.

It is intended that this strategic plan will be reviewed in 2015 at the latest.

#### Mission statement

To improve and protect public health, locally and globally, through excellence in teaching, research and service.

#### Values

Collegiality and respect

Academic excellence

Partnership with users of research and teaching

Commitment to giving effect to the Treaty of Waitangi and to Māori health development

High ethical standards

Academic independence

Social justice

Environmental sustainability

#### Goals

1. Maintain a strong collegial culture in the department.
2. Develop and maintain excellence in public health research.
3. Foster and promote broad engagement with the community in order to assist health development.
4. Advance the goals of the University's Māori Strategic Framework.
5. Advance the goals of the University's Pacific Strategic Framework.
6. Promote, encourage and support excellence in undergraduate teaching and postgraduate teaching in public health.
7. Attract and nurture high quality postgraduate research students in public health.
8. Achieve a productive balance between teaching and research.
9. Provide leadership internationally and nationally on matters relevant to public health.

## Objectives

### 1. Maintain a strong collegial culture in the department

- 1.1 Provide a physical space for the department that meets the office, teaching, research, meeting, and social needs of the department.
- 1.2 Improve linkages between academic staff and research unit staff.
- 1.3 Improve and develop administrative processes to increase transparency and efficiency.

### 2. Develop and maintain excellence in public health research

- 2.1 Develop and maintain expertise in a diverse range of methods and disciplines that are current and relevant in public health and preventive medicine.
- 2.2 Encourage research collaborations within the department and with external researchers / organisations.
- 2.3 Adopt explicit departmental expectations for staff research outputs.
- 2.4 Adopt explicit departmental expectations for staff supervision of departmental research students.
- 2.5 Increase the amount of external grant funding raised by the department.
- 2.6 Provide adequate biostatistical support to meet departmental research and service provision needs.
- 2.7 Recruit and retain excellent researchers.

### 3. Foster and promote broad engagement with communities in order to assist health development

- 3.1 Increase engagement with the general public and specific population groups.
- 3.2 Increase engagement with local agencies, e.g. Public Health South, Southern DHB, local government.
- 3.3 Promote the application of research findings, including explaining research undertaken by the department.

### 4. Advance the goals of the University's Māori Strategic Framework

- 4.1 Have a plan for Māori health development within the department, aligned with the University's Māori Strategic Framework.
- 4.2 Increase staff understanding of and skill in Te Reo and Kaupapa Māori.

## **5. Advance the goals of the University's Pacific People's Strategic Framework**

- 5.1 Have a plan for Pacific people's health development within the department, aligned with the University's Pacific Strategic Framework.

## **6. Promote, encourage and support excellence in undergraduate and postgraduate teaching in public health**

- 6.1 Recruit and retain excellent teachers.
- 6.2 Support teaching staff to achieve and maintain high quality teaching.
- 6.3 Attract high quality students.
- 6.4 Develop a 'minor' in health studies (with view to a Health Science degree).
- 6.5 Offer courses that teach a diverse range of methods that are current and relevant in public health and preventive medicine.

## **7. Attract and nurture high quality postgraduate research students in public health**

- 7.1 Promote the MPH to high quality DPH and Certificate students.
- 7.2 Recruit high quality MPH students to stay in the Department.
- 7.3 Increase the involvement of departmental postgraduate research students in the department.
- 7.4 Increase the department's external profile as a good place to be a PG student.
- 7.5 Ensure that the experience of being a PG research student in the department is positive and fulfilling.

## **8. Achieve a productive balance between teaching and research**

- 8.1 Develop departmental policies to support the research activity of academic staff with teaching appointments.
- 8.2 Facilitate the contribution of the whole department to teaching.

## **9. Provide leadership internationally and nationally on matters relevant to public health**

- 9.1 Increase engagement with the wider health sector, national and international agencies.
- 9.2 Provide expert advice on public health issues.
- 9.3 Advocate for evidence-based policy relevant to public health.
- 9.4 Contribute to the professional development of the Public Health workforce.