



Benchmarking sex and gender inclusion in Victorian research policy and university curricula – March 2025

FACTS:

- Sex and gender impact health outcomes but their influence is inadequately considered.
- Mandating the inclusion of sex and gender considerations in health and medical education and research is a vital step toward advancing a sound knowledge base to underpin best practice healthcare.

PROJECT CYCLE:

2024 – 2025

PARTNERS:

The George Institute for Global Health,

The Centre for Sex and Gender Equity in Health and Medicine,

UNSW Sydney, Australia

University of Sydney, Australia

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SUPPORTERS:

The George Institute for Global Health

Victorian Department of Health

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR:

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BACKGROUND:

- Sex and gender impact our health yet there is a remarkable lack of understanding on this topic.
- For the sake of health equity, it is essential that everyone is adequately included in research and the development of health and medical advances.
- Proper training, guidelines and implementation are required to direct researchers and health care professionals to include sex and gender considerations.
- At stake is medical best practice and the delivery of optimal healthcare.

AIM:

- This 17-month project aims to assess how well sex and gender inclusion is integrated into Victorian university curricula for medicine, dentistry and nursing, and 27 allied health professions recognised by the Victorian Department of Health and Human Services (VicDoH). It will also review policies of health and medical research organisations.
- The study aims to identify gaps and propose a set of recommendations to the VicDoH for improvement. The findings will also be publicly disseminated through publication.

METHODS:

- Ethics-approved questionnaires are being circulated to assess the inclusion of sex and gender in university curricula and in policies of Victorian medical research organisations.
- A complementary approach involves the generation of an AI data mining tool to evaluate the inclusion of sex and gender in available university course information.

IMPACT

- This research will provide a primary benchmark and define gaps regarding the status of sex and gender inclusion in university education and in medical research policies in Victoria.
- The defined baseline will enable measurement of future interventions such as steps to implement the AAMRI (2023) and NHMRC (2024) statements that encourage sex and gender inclusion in health and medical research.
- Our two-pronged approach compares survey-based insights with AI-driven data analysis, helping to assess both the depth of information each method provides and the cost-effectiveness of AI.

CONTACT:

To find out more about this project, its investigators or The George Institute please contact Tina Wall +61 410 411 983 OR twall@georgeinstitute.org.au

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