

## ReLAB-HS PARTNERS:

Nossal Institute for Global Health,  
University of Melbourne



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**ReLAB-HS**  
Learning, Acting & Building for  
Rehabilitation in Health Systems

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### Our vision

Our vision is for a better future for all through stronger health systems. Our mission is to strengthen the quality, affordability and inclusiveness of health systems in the Asia Pacific region through practical research, learning and cooperation. ReLAB-HS provides new opportunities to deliver on that mission and tackle challenges in rehabilitation and assistive technology (AT) – crucial for health systems to be responsive to changing populations.

### Our work

The productivity, security and resilience of nations, communities and families are founded on good health. Our team of applied researchers and development experts have worked towards overcoming the contemporary challenges of equitable and sustainable health service delivery and health promotion. We work in countries and regions undergoing rapid change, with aging populations, changing lifestyles, issues of social inclusion, and increasing risk. We support regional and global partners committed to transforming our world, working holistically towards relevant, resilient and inclusive health systems and meeting the Sustainable Development Goals.

We generate and communicate knowledge. We advise on health system design, policy and implementation. We educate the next generation of global health professionals and train and support development workers and decision makers. We draw on global expertise in governance and financing, maternal and reproductive health, child health, disability, and the challenges of aging populations. Each year, the Nossal Institute manages around 50 research programs and consultancies. Our staff coordinate the Global Health Stream of the University of Melbourne's Masters of Public Health (MPH), which is the highest ranking MPH in the Southern Hemisphere and consistently in the top 20 globally.

### Our role in ReLAB-HS

Our team will help answer ReLAB-HS's challenging questions about equitably and sustainably integrating rehabilitation into health systems. To do so, our team of researchers and practitioners will draw on its unique mix of applied research experience at the nexus of health systems, rehabilitation and disability inclusive development. Our Director, Professor

Barbara McPake will co-direct the program. The Nossal Institute's team will draw on their experiences in other programs to re-think how rehabilitation and AT services are introduced and sustained, even in the most challenging contexts. The Nossal Institute team will lead work to evaluate, learn from, and scale recent successes to integrate rehabilitation into health systems. The team will collaborate with other stakeholders and use both qualitative and quantitative approaches to understand determinants of access to rehabilitation and AT. Emphasizing questions of 'what works, and under what circumstances?', the Nossal Institute will support applied and collaborative research to characterize current approaches to financing rehabilitation services and to inform both the social and economic cases for their development.

We will also support work to understand important questions about how rehabilitation and AT services can be integrated into existing health systems. We will explore how rehabilitation can best fit within and alongside existing services. This will include understanding challenges and opportunities for the health workforce, finding the most strategic opportunities to strengthen emphasis of rehabilitation in primary health care settings, and how services across levels and types of care can be coordinated most effectively. This work will also consider questions about the quality and appropriateness of rehabilitation services, drawing on experience across governance, financing and quality in health services.

### Contact person and email

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