

**Deakin University WHO Collaborating Centre for Obesity Prevention:  
Colin Bell**

**Structure of the Centre**

The World Health Organization Collaborating Centre (WHOCC) at Deakin University in Victoria, Australia has two Co-directors (Prof Steven Allender /Prof Boyd Swinburn) and over 40 staff and students. The centre is organized into six streams supported by multiple partnerships and grants: (1) NCD monitoring; (2) Knowledge translation; (3) Systems based approaches to Community-based interventions; (4) Food environments; (5) Pacific NCD Research and; (6) Economics of obesity.

**Current projects and activities**

1. NCD Monitoring
  - a. Heartstats – compiling a compendium of heart disease statistics for Australia
  - b. Monitoring obesity in early years - extracting and analysing anthropometric and socio-demographic data from Maternal and Child Health databases
2. Knowledge translation
  - a. CO-OPs (Australia wide Collaboration of Community-based Obesity prevention initiatives) – linking research, policy and practice to ensure best practice obesity prevention
3. Systems based approaches to Community based obesity prevention – supporting the implementation and evaluation of obesity prevention initiatives
  - a. Intervention with schools in ACT (Canberra)
  - b. Intervention with communities in Victoria (Portland)
  - c. Evaluation of a statewide obesity prevention initiative (Healthy Together Victoria)
4. Food environments
  - a. Informas (International network for food and obesity/NCD research, monitoring and action support)
  - b. Supermarkets – Intervention to improve the accessibility of foods with high rather than low nutrition quality
5. Pacific NCD research
  - a. Salt reduction in the Pacific
  - b. Evaluating the implementation and effectiveness of food-related policy in Pacific countries
6. Economics of Obesity
  - a. Numerous projects exploring the cost effectiveness of various obesity prevention interventions

**Collaborative activities with APACPH**

Planning is underway for an obesity prevention policy and practice workshop at the 47<sup>th</sup> APACPH conference in 2015.

**Further information**

Further information about the WHOCC, including information on staff, publications, networks and collaborations is available here: <http://www.deakin.edu.au/health/who-obesity/>