SDG 3 Good Health and Well-being

Overview

UQ is making significant contributions to SDG 3, delivering outcomes locally, regionally, nationally and globally.

UQ delivers world-class research that improves health outcomes across all life stages. The new Faculty of Heath, Medicine and Behavioural Sciences (HMBS) was established in January 2025, comprising 9 schools and several institutes to offer world-class opportunities for learning, discovery and impact across the medical and allied-health disciplines. In addition, other UQ initiatives such as the Queensland Alliance for Environmental Health Sciences, the Australian Cancer Research Foundation Centre of Excellence in Melanoma Imaging and Diagnosis and the Health Research Accelerator continue to address challenges and topics as diverse as understanding the effects of microplastics in health, advancing best practice in melanoma screening and fostering partnerships for regional and remote health and disability support.

UQ's commitment to strong and mutually beneficial partnerships with government, industry and communities, including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, is key to its progress in strengthening health and healthcare systems across Australia, the Pacific and internationally.

UQ also supports the well-being of its own community through a wide range of health and mental health services for staff and students, including counselling, well-being programs and the Mental Health Champions Network.

Progress made in 2025 towards SDG 3 is reported here with reference to the following domains and enablers from UQ's Strategic Plan 2022-2025:

- learning and student experience
- research and innovation
- enriching our communities
- our global profile
- our people.

Related SDGs

- SDG 1 No poverty
- SDG 2 Zero hunger.

Learning and student experience

As articulated in the Health, Safety and Wellness Strategy 2022-2026, UQ aims to cultivate an environment that encourages physical and psychological well-being and supports individuals to develop and thrive. This is especially important in the context of the student experience, where UQ offers a range of physical and psychological healthcare services, well-being programs and wellness initiatives. UQ also delivers a wide array of health-related degrees through a variety of partnerships with health institutions. These partnerships are critical to addressing state priorities, such as building the health workforce and ensuring that all Queenslanders, especially those in regional, rural and remote communities, have access to the highest-quality health services.

Health and well-being services for students

UQ provides a range of comprehensive health and well-being services for students, including through UQ Wellbeing, a health promotion program. In 2025, the program achieved 9,291 student engagements through its health promotion activities and initiatives, events, training and social media, including:

- the UQ Well-being Health Promotion project, which aims to improve the health outcomes of students from culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) backgrounds.
- Student Health Month from 4 to 29 August 2025, which engaged 1,650 students with 11 external and 20 internal stakeholders for workshops on nutrition, art for well-being, traditional Chinese medicine, pelvic pain and free skin screenings.
- Uni Mental Health Day activities, which promote mental health and support services available at UQ and in the wider community.
- Eat, Breathe, Stretch: Mindful Reset at UQ Central Library, which provided students with well-being skills to practice during exams.
- recruiting and training 12 student peer educators for the ‘No taboo, there is support for you’ campaign, which aimed to increase timely access to reproductive health information and services for CALD students at UQ.
- other well-being programs involving preventative activities for students, such as Mindfulness Inside and Out, Sharper Minds, Art for Wellbeing, Bye Social Anxiety and Freedom From Your Cage

In addition, UQ provided the following services in 2025:

- counselling services, such as UQ Counsellor Connect, which offers a free service delivered by final year Master of Counselling students, as well as the high-quality, no-cost, short-term UQ with You service.
- campus clinics at St Lucia, Gatton and Meadowbrook, which provide comprehensive health services to UQ students, covering general health care and mental health to travel advice and vaccinations, drug and alcohol related issues, immunisation, men’s and women’s health, referrals, sexual health checks, skin checks, medications, quitting smoking, stress, contraception, pap smears, pregnancy testing and more.
- sexual health testing delivered by the UQ Union in partnership with RAPID, which provide free testing for HIV and other sexually transmitted infections for students.

- resources on sexual and reproductive health.
- mental wellness tools such as Toolkit for Better Sleep.
- an influenza vaccination program which provided 5,394 vaccinations to staff, students and affiliates in 2025.

Courses and units relating to good health and well-being

UQ's health programs are designed to meet the challenges of SDG 3 by preparing students to become skilled, compassionate and innovative health professionals.

Alongside the Doctor of Medicine (MD), UQ continued to offer a wide range of bachelor's level programs across health and allied health disciplines in 2025, all of which integrate evidence-based practice, cultural competence and community engagement. The programs include:

- biomedical science
- health sciences
- clinical exercise physiology
- exercise and sport sciences
- human movement and nutrition
- dental science
- midwifery and nursing
- psychological science
- occupational therapy
- pharmacy
- speech pathology.

In 2025, UQ approved a new dual-degree program, the Bachelor of Human Movement and Nutrition Sciences / Diploma of Languages. UQ also restructured its Bachelor of Biomedical Science, and its dual degrees Bachelor of Biomedical Science/ Bachelor of Science, as well as Bachelor of Human Movement and Nutrition Sciences/ Bachelor of Information Technology.

UQ offered an array of master's level programs related to SDG 3 including:

- audiology studies
- clinical neuropsychology
- clinical psychology
- organisational psychology
- counselling and mental health
- clinical pharmacy
- epidemiology

- nursing studies
- occupational therapy
- pharmaceutical industry practice
- physiotherapy
- public health
- speech pathology
- sports medicine.

Specific courses within the above programs provide foundational knowledge for students, including Health Systems and Policy (PUBH1103), which introduces students to issues relating to the Australian health care system and the diverse communities it serves, and Frameworks for Practice (NURS1201), which develops knowledge about the healthcare system and the frameworks and discourse that underpin delivery of safe, high quality healthcare locally and globally. These courses are complemented by advanced clinical training and interprofessional learning experiences that reflect real-world healthcare environments.

UQ's HMBS continued collaborations with Queensland Health and other partners to provide students with placements in hospitals rural clinics, and community health settings throughout 2025. These experiences are vital in developing the practical skills and ethical awareness needed to improve health outcomes across diverse populations.

In 2025, UQ continued its focus on mental health and well-being through teaching and learning initiatives in digital health, Indigenous health and health promotion, ensuring graduates are equipped to address both current and emerging health challenges.

UQ also took part in the Boggo Road Innovation Precinct Council and Working Group to support the strategic growth of the precinct, building on the establishment of UQ Dutton Park, UQ's 4th campus. The campus is the primary teaching and research location for the School of Pharmacy and also houses the Queensland Alliance for Environmental Health Sciences and the Cornwall Street Medical Centre.

The Faculty of Science, through the School of Veterinary Science, delivers undergraduate education in One Health across the St Lucia and Gatton campuses, partnering with the HMBS and other UQ organisational units through course VETS1030 to equip future veterinary and medical professionals with collaborative public health solutions.

Health training partnerships

UQ's research and close collaborations with leading health institutions power its teaching and training in medicine and allied health. These partnerships ensure that students receive a world-class, evidence-based education, enriched by access to state-of-the-art facilities, clinical placements and mentoring by leading health professionals and researchers.

In addition to continuing collaborations with major clinic training hubs such as the Mater and the Princess Alexandra Southside Clinical Unit, 2025 saw UQ strengthen other local partnerships such as those within the Herston Health Precinct to accelerate medical research and prepare future medical professionals. UQ also continued its collaborations with Darling Downs Health and South West Hospital and Health Service as part of the

Southern Queensland Rural Health (SQRH) Chinchilla Education and Training Centre. Each year the Centre supports 1,500 students completing placements in nursing, dietetics, occupational therapy, exercise physiology, psychology and social work.

In partnership with Goondir Health Services and supported by the Commonwealth-funded Rural Health Multidisciplinary Training (RHMT) program, the School of Dentistry operates student-led satellite clinics in Dalby and St George to provide high-quality dental care to the Western Downs region. Located within Goondir facilities but fully outfitted by the University, these teaching clinics allow supervised, fifth-year Bachelor of Dental Science (Honours) students to deliver a range of dental treatments and limited emergency appointments. Because the clinics function as a training environment to encourage rural health employment, all bookings and patient intake are directly structured around student learning requirements and can be arranged by contacting clinic reception.

Nationally, UQ leads the Australian Cancer Research Foundation Centre of Excellence in Melanoma Imaging and Diagnosis, which contributes to the development of the next generation of melanoma and skin cancer researchers, including PhD and MPhil students, across health facility sites throughout Queensland, New South Wales and Victoria. Further afield, UQ continued its partnership with USA-based Ochsner Health under a commitment to deliver the joint Doctor of Medicine (MD) program until at least 2030. The collaboration offers a transnational medical education, producing graduates equipped to address global health challenges. The UQ-Ochsner MD Program Class of 2025 achieved a match rate of 95 per cent, which stands as a testament to the quality of students entering the program as well as the curriculum taught by faculty in both Brisbane and New Orleans.

Research and innovation

UQ contributed to SDG 3 through a broad range of research activities across all faculties and institutes that translated into real-world innovations and fostered enduring partnerships to drive equitable advances in health outcomes.

Major highlights include maintaining strong performance across key funding programs, securing A$101.6 million from the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) and A$41.7 million from the Medical Research Future Fund (MRFF). A major highlight of 2025 was the finalisation of Sanofi's acquisition of Vicebio, the company established to develop UQ's Molecular Clamp vaccine technology. This record-breaking commercialisation deal for an Australian university represents a landmark moment for UQ's research translation ecosystem. Another key moment was the announcement that UQ will host a A$238 million industry-led research centre to accelerate the manufacturing of regenerative therapies for illnesses including heart disease, cancer, arthritis and dementia. Known as the Solutions for Manufacturing Advanced Regenerative Therapies Cooperative Research Centre (SMART CRC), the Centre aims to develop innovative new therapies while bolstering Australia's sovereign manufacturing capabilities.

UQ's world-leading work in Indigenous health and strategic health partnerships also contributed to improving health and well-being outcomes locally, nationally and abroad.

Indigenous health

UQ plays a leading role in health equity for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples through impactful, community-led research guided by respect, reciprocity and reconciliation.

In 2025, UQ continued its important multidisciplinary program of work that addresses health issues affecting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities through the Poche Centre for Indigenous Health, as part of the national Poche Indigenous Health Network. 2025 also saw further development through the A$43.3 million pioneering Indigenous-led and UQ-headquartered research initiative, the Australian Research Council Centre of Excellence for Indigenous Futures (ARC-IFC). Recognising that health and well-being is fundamental to changing the persistence of Indigenous inequity, the Centre focuses one of its three themes on new approaches that will be co-designed with Indigenous-led health service providers and Indigenous communities. Projects within this theme include 'Indigenising Health Policy', 'Creating Culturally Responsive and Empowering Health Institutions' and 'Empowering Indigenous Health Communities of Practice'. ARC-IFC is collaborating with over 20 local and international partners, including government, regional non-government organisations (NGOs) and research institutions, to tackle SDG 3 by reviewing comparative approaches and developing international best practice and policy interventions to achieve better health outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities. Their 2025 annual report is available here.

Research and innovation partnerships

At the heart of UQ's research into advancing sustainable health and well-being outcomes are wide-ranging collaborations with NGOs, government bodies and research institutions that enable cross-sectoral dialogue, data sharing and the development of best practice.

UQ's ongoing partnerships with the Minderoo Foundation and Sydney Brain Bank as part of the Minderoo Centre - Plastics and Human Health continued to advance understandings of the health effects of micro and nano-plastics. The Plastic Measurement Brains Trust continued its international collaborations, including through several working groups on particles and chemicals/additives. A foundation meeting was held for the chemicals/additives working group on 11 to 12 February 2025 at the Queensland Alliance for Environmental Health Sciences (QAEHS) to explore the current state of play for measurement of emerging plastic chemicals/additives of concern, expansion of plastic additives that are commonly measured, and a road map for future development of research. Another 2-day working group meeting was held at Imperial College London from 25 to 26 March 2025 to start developing a comprehensive reporting checklist for manuscript submission. This checklist aims to provide clear reporting guidelines for studies measuring plastic particles in human biological samples. In working towards the checklist, the participants discussed biological plausibility, the challenge of background contamination, confidence criteria for detection and measurement, open access data sharing and how this can be achieved as part of the working group's program.

Other projects saw the QAEHS working closely with government and industry partners throughout 2025. The Australian Research Council (ARC) funded 'SewAus Census' project delivered its final national wastewater sampling campaign, demonstrating the power of partnerships between universities, water utilities, government agencies, water research organisations and environmental regulators across Australia. Through

collaboration with around 150 participating sites, the project has generated new knowledge such as insight into chemical and biological hazards, which is invaluable to managing collective responsibilities to safeguard human and environmental health, optimise wastewater treatment processes, regulate chemicals and prevent crime.

In addition, QAEHS had significant policy impact during 2025, influencing decision-making across multiple levels of policy and practice. Citations include high relevance policy outputs such as government regulatory guidance, official risk assessments, surveillance frameworks and standards produced by organisations including the World Health Organisation (WHO), the Australian Criminal Intelligence Commission (ACIC), the Washington State Department of Ecology, California Office of Environmental Health Hazard (OEHH) and the Netherlands' National Institute for Public Health and the Environment (RIVM). QAEHS research also contributes to evidence reviews and advisory reports prepared by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development OECD), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the World Bank and European agencies, while supporting broader public debate through reports published by organisations such as Greenpeace, Natural Resources Defence Council, Earthjustice and THE International Union for Conservation of Nature.

The Australian Centre of Excellence in Melanoma Imaging and Diagnosis (ACEMID) continued to foster cross-sectoral dialogue among academia, the community and government, through its robust relationships with community organisations such as the Australian Cancer Research Foundation, SunSmart and Cancer Council Queensland, and major healthcare providers and hospitals such as the Princess Alexandra Hospital, Cairns Hospital, Sunshine Coast University Hospital and Westmead Hospital. With 15 sites now operating across Queensland, New South Wales and Victoria, and new capabilities deployed in regional communities, ACEMID enabled inclusive engagement in melanoma risk research and translated international best practice into national screening infrastructure.

In 2025, UQ'S Health Research Accelerator (HERA) program strengthened and expanded its collaborative network, with 204 established and emerging partnerships across higher education institutions, industry, government, not-for-profit organisations and international research institutes. Through a collaborative model supported by workshops, events and seed funding initiatives such as HERA Collaborate and the Regional and Remote Health and Disability program, HERA advanced UQ's transdisciplinary research agenda and fostered meaningful community engagement. More than 15 new collaborative project teams have been formed in priority research areas aligned to major funding opportunities, including the MRFF Reducing Health Inequities Mission. HERA's flagship 'Through Our Eyes' event engaged over 170 participants per day, including 43 external partners, showcasing the value of mission-driven partnerships and community-informed research.

In 2025, the Adapted Sports Training and Research Team (A-START) secured industry investment to support its expansion to regional Queensland. The program provides anyone with a disability the opportunity to participate in physical activity.

Enriching our communities

UQ contributes to the health and well-being of the broader community directly through the provision of a range of client-focussed medical and allied health services, outreach activities and research programs, projects and events.

Health services provided to the community

Throughout 2025, UQ offered a wide range of health services and initiatives to the wider community, including those provided by supervised UQ student-clinicians as part of their training:

- UQ Health Care, the dedicated team of GPs, nurses, allied health professionals and specialists provide care across a number of medical clinics in South-East Queensland. The clinics include:
  - Cornwall Street Medical Centre (Woolloongabba)
  - UQ Gatton Medical Centre
  - Bremer Medical Centre (Ipswich)
  - Meadowbrook Medical Centre (Meadowbrook)
  - UQ St Lucia Medical Centre
  - Logan Healthy Living (Meadowbrook)
  - South Brisbane Medicare Urgent Care Clinic (Woolloongabba)
  - Services for those experiencing homelessness or hardship (South Brisbane).
- UQ Healthy Living (Toowong), where services are provided by students under the supervision of leading practitioners across dietetics, exercise and sports science, clinical exercise physiology, nursing, pharmacy, physiotherapy and psychology, in addition to a range of individual and small group activities designed to promote healthy outcomes.
- UQ's Oral Health Alliance with Metro North Hospital and Health Service.
- UQ Health and Rehabilitation Clinics, which provide audiology, occupational therapy, physiotherapy, speech pathology and telerehabilitation.
- UQ Psychology Clinic, which is staffed by provisional psychologists and counselling students currently undertaking advanced postgraduate studies in psychology and counselling
- community services provided by the School of Human Movement and Nutrition Sciences, such as exercise clinics for people with type 2 diabetes, nutrition and dietetics clinics, personal training programs, musculoskeletal exercise clinics and the UQ Centre for Healthy Brain Ageing.
- UQ with You, a high quality, free counselling service provided by final year postgraduate counselling students and provisional psychologists.

UQ is committed to supporting the healthy living and well-being of the community through campus grounds and sports facilities including:

- free and accessible outdoor exercise equipment, playgrounds for all abilities, barbeque areas and a community garden at St Lucia campus.
- the John Oxley River Walk, a free walking, jogging and cycling track that loops the St Lucia campus grounds and runs alongside the Brisbane River.

- the UQ Sport and Recreation Precinct, which provides sports facilities to the local community, including schools and the general public. This includes an athletics centre with track and field facilities, an aquatic centre with 3 heated pools, all-weather natural and synthetic playing fields, indoor and outdoor courts for basketball, volleyball and netball, and a gymnasium.

Springfield community health centre

In 2025, the Centre for Community Health and Wellbeing at Springfield continued to establish Springfield as a leading place-based living laboratory for community health and well-being. Working in partnership with residents, health services, government, industry and community organisations, the Centre co-designs, implements and evaluates research in real-world settings to generate evidence that is immediately relevant to local communities while informing broader policy and practice. By integrating research, community development and public policy, the Centre supports sustainable improvements in health and well-being that are grounded in local priorities and strengthened through long-term partnerships.

The Centre's impact continued to grow throughout 2025, with more than 2,000 community members engaging in research, education and community activities. Residents played an active role in surveys, interviews, workshops and co-design processes, while multidisciplinary teams of researchers and students worked alongside community partners to address locally identified priorities. This collaborative approach has enabled the Centre to develop trusted relationships, strengthen community research capability and embed research within everyday community life.

The Centre's research is organised across 3 interconnected themes: ‘Healthy Living Together’, ‘People and their Place’ and ‘Life's Transitions’. Through these themes, the Centre advanced several collaborative initiatives, including:

- Food4TheBrain Springfield, a community-informed culinary nutrition program to support adolescent psychosocial well-being.
- Springfield Green Hearts, a Nature Prescribing initiative supporting health professionals to incorporate nature-based activities into cardiovascular disease prevention and greener healthcare.
- LinkMeToHealth, a community-owned digital platform designed to improve navigation of local health and well-being services and strengthen community connectedness.

Throughout 2025, the Centre also expanded its flagship collaborative research program, Springfield Healthy Hearts, which continues to position Springfield as a nationally significant living laboratory for health research. Major achievements include:

- establishment of the Springfield Healthy Hearts Alliance and Research-to-Impact governance structures
- further development of the city's integrated research and data infrastructure
- progression of the Springfield Healthy Hearts feasibility cohort study
- expansion of collaborative partnerships across healthcare, local government, education and community organisations.

Together, these activities are strengthening Springfield's capacity to generate, translate and apply research that improves community health and well-being both locally and beyond.

Southern Queensland Rural Health

Southern Queensland Rural Health (SQRH) is a University Department of Rural Health established to increase education and training opportunities for nursing, midwifery and allied health students, as well as practicing professionals. Funded by the Commonwealth Department of Health and Aged Care under the Rural Health Multidisciplinary Training (RHMT) Program, SQRH is delivered through a strategic collaboration between UQ, University of Southern Queensland, Darling Downs Health and South West Hospital and Health Service.

However, SQRH has functioned as far more than just a student placement coordinator. By leveraging student learning to deliver essential clinical care, it provides vital allied health services to regional, rural and remote communities that would otherwise lack these critical resources. In 2025, SQRH marked several major milestones across its key locations in Toowoomba, Chinchilla, St George and Charleville. These achievements included:

- expanding specialised UniSQ student placements into the Chinchilla Aged Care initiative and the St George Allied Health clinic
- delivering the Aspire2Health program to actively engage and inspire the next generation of rural health workers
- wining the prestigious Community Engagement Award at the *Australian Financial Review* Higher Education Awards for the collaborative Charleville Nursing Program.

Queensland Brain Injury Collaborative Roadshows

UQ's research-led initiative, the Queensland Brain Injury Collaborative (QBIC), conducted a series of regional roadshows across Queensland to enhance care for individuals with acquired brain injuries. In partnership with the National Injury Insurance Scheme Queensland (NIISQ), the Queensland Trauma Clinical Network (QTCN), the Queensland Trauma Data Collection team and the Gold Coast Hospital and Health Service (GCHHS), these events aimed to build networks among researchers, healthcare professionals, community members and individuals with lived experience to improve brain injury care.

Featuring sessions for health practitioners and community members, the inaugural Gold Coast clinician Roadshow took place in May 2025 and featured focused talks from local experts, interactive discussions and real-world case studies on brain injury care, from acute treatment to community reintegration. The free public event was attended by over 80 community members, support workers and consumer advocates, providing much-needed opportunities for community members to connect. The event showcased local support services through information sessions and exhibitor stalls, as well as a lineup of guest speakers who shared their unique lived experiences. Further Roadshows followed in the second half of 2025.

Community connection

In 2025, a joint research project 'Neighbour Day Campaign Evaluation' by UQ's School of Economics, the UQ Centre for the Business and Economics of Health and the ANU School of Medicine evaluated the impact of Australia's Neighbour Day which operates as a year-round community development campaign with a focus on inclusion and building respectful relationships. This study estimated the pre-pandemic effect of the campaign on social isolation by comparing survey respondents to a nationally representative sample from the Household, Income and Labour Dynamics in Australia survey. The evaluation demonstrated a crucial 8.6 per cent reduction in loneliness prevalence which could translate into more than 2 million fewer lonely Australians, providing vital empirical evidence to understand the causal pathways underlying neighbourhood connection and loneliness.

Our global profile

UQ is committed to enhancing health and well-being outcomes globally by addressing the world's most pressing health challenges through research and capacity building.

Vaccines and infectious diseases

UQ is internationally renowned for its pioneering research into disease mechanisms backed by state-of-the-art infrastructure and the development of transformative therapeutics, treatments and vaccines, including the human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine Gardasil. In 2025, UQ continued to play a role as a global leader in health innovation through vaccine research and development.

A major milestone was the expansion of UQ's partnerships with Emory University in Georgia, USA, resulting in a joint investment to establish the A$32 million Queensland Emory Vaccine Centre. Located at the St Lucia campus, this centre is designed to accelerate vaccine development for clinical trials, with a strong focus on emerging diseases, pandemic preparedness and infectious diseases across the Indo-Pacific region.

Complementing this initiative was pivotal achievement for UQ's Molecular Clamp technology, which streamlines vaccine development across different viral families. After licensing the technology to UniQuest startup Vicebio to progress clinical trials and commercialisation, the biopharmaceutical company Sanofi entered into an agreement to acquire Vicebio for a total upfront payment of US$1.15 billion, resulting in the largest deal involving a company that is commercialising IP from an Australian university. The acquisition represents an opportunity to accelerate this development through the final stages of translation into a vaccine to address global health challenges. UQ will also continue to use the technology for future applications.

Based at UQ, the Australian Personalised mRNA Immunotherapy Hub is building Australia's capability in mRNA cancer vaccines. The Hub is dedicated to creating impact by advancing personalised mRNA science and making a difference for patients. In 2025, a full pipeline for vaccine target identification, vaccine design, manufacture and testing was established by the team of immunologists, cancer biologists, manufacture specialists and physicians. To support researchers across the country working in mRNA cancer vaccine development, the Hub designs, manufactures and evaluates personalised mRNA vaccines in physiologically relevant cancer models. A new facility under construction at the

Translational Research Institute in Brisbane will provide the critical bridge to clinical-grade manufacture, enabling future trials and patient access. The Hub is already translating research into the clinic through PaedNEO-VAX, a world-first clinical trial of personalised mRNA cancer vaccines for children with relapsed or treatment-resistant brain tumours, led by Professor Brandon Wainwright. Brain cancers cause more child deaths than any other disease in Australia and this trial aims to give hope to those with this devastating condition.

International development

UQ partnered with the Task Force for Global Health and the Regional Coalition for Operational Research on Neglected Tropical Diseases (COR-NTD) to host 'Voices and Visions: Pacific Action to End Neglected Tropical Diseases', held in Brisbane from 8 to 10 July 2025. Co-hosted the Australasian College of Tropical Medicine, the regional meeting brought together Pacific stakeholders to strengthen collaboration and accelerate action towards the elimination of neglected tropical diseases, including lymphatic filariasis, scabies, trachoma and leprosy. The meeting focused on practical priorities for the Pacific region, including stronger community engagement, integrated health systems, operational research, post-validation surveillance, earlier intervention for lymphoedema, improved diagnostics and digital training approaches.

In 2025, UQ received funding as part of the Queensland-Bavaria Collaborative Research program for the project 'Red Blood Cell Manufacturing Employing Three-dimensional Hydrogel Microenvironments'. This project aims to create a cost-effective method for manufacturing lab-grown red blood cells by mimicking the bone marrow environment using biomaterials like fibrin and spider silk hydrogels. It seeks to reduce reliance on expensive growth factors, addressing global blood supply shortages, particularly for neonates and patients with rare blood types.

Through the Australian Government's New Colombo Plan, UQ students from the School of Public Health participated in an immersive study tour to Vietnam that strengthened international partnerships and transformed student understanding of climate change and global health. Delivered through a strategic collaboration between UQ and Hanoi Medical University, the program combined academic learning, field visits and cultural exchange to provide firsthand insights into healthcare delivery, public health advocacy and climate resilience. Field visits were conducted across the different levels of the Vietnamese system including trips to the National Lung Hospital, Bat Trang pottery village and the Thach That Commune Health Centre. Students gained firsthand insights into the diverse challenges that climate change presents and the activities taking place to build climate-resilient healthcare in Vietnam.

The 'E-DENGUE' project is transforming dengue prevention in Vietnam through strengthened international partnerships and innovative public health solutions. In 2025, UQ formalised collaborations with 3 leading institutions under Vietnam's Ministry of Health, creating a strong foundation for the nationwide implementation of an early-warning system that predicts dengue outbreaks months in advance. Through high-level engagement, field assessments and knowledge exchange, researchers worked closely with government, health system and community partners to translate research into practice. By combining advanced data science, climate and disease surveillance data with local expertise, E-DENGUE is building sustainable capacity, enabling earlier interventions and supporting long-term strategies to reduce the health and economic burden of dengue across Vietnam.

UQ's Population Oral Health experts are leading Vietnam's National Oral Health Survey 2025-2026 across 14 provinces and 96 communes to drive systemic, evidence-based dental reform. Backed by the Borrow Foundation, this collaborative initiative combines clinical oral exams with social surveys to assess disease burden, behavioural risks and access to care. The project addresses high rates of dental caries and tooth loss, generating the evidence needed to establish national guidelines on fluoride use, national oral health messages and a National Oral Health Roadmap aligned with the WHO Global Oral Health Action Plan 2030.

The UQ School of Veterinary Science leads the PREZODE One Health Action in the Pacific (OHANA) program in Oceania, funded by the French Embassy in Australia through the Pacific Fund. Conducted in partnership with 7 Pacific Nations and the Pacific Community, this initiative facilitates the co-construction of a regional One Health Impact Framework tailored to local needs and priorities. This initiative bridges science and policy to mitigate zoonotic disease emergence, strengthen biosecurity surveillance and safeguard interconnected human, animal and ecosystem health across the Pacific. UQ advanced the initiative through key milestones in 2025:

- launching initial stakeholder engagement in October to establish regional cooperation across seven Pacific Nations.
- presenting the project's implementation plan to PHOVAPS member state representatives in November 2025 at the Pacific Community headquarters in New Caledonia.

Our people

As reflected in the UQ Sustainability Strategy 2021-2025, the vitality and personal well-being of UQ's people underpin its success. UQ actively supports healthy living and the physical and mental well-being of staff and students through wellness initiatives, healthcare programs and sports facilities. In 2025, these included:

- UQ Health Care Clinics, which offer general practitioner, nursing, and allied health services at clinics across various campuses, including in Woolloongabba, Toowong, Meadowbrook, St Lucia, Ipswich and Gatton.
- mental health and well-being support, including services provided through UQ's The Employee Assistance Program, with free counselling, coaching, and welfare calls for UQ staff, run by PeopleSense.
- counselling services, including free services such as UQ With You and UQ Counsellor Connect, and those offered at discounted rates through the UQ Psychology Clinic.
- Mental Health Champion's network and UQ Wellness Ambassadors Network.
- an influenza vaccination program which provided 5,394 vaccinations to staff, students and affiliates in 2025.
- UQ Wellness Behaviour Change Programs for UQ staff, with significant mental well-being components. For example, the Mood Food program that enhances gut, brain and mental health, the Mind Set program that focuses on increasing mental fitness and the Stress Busters program that focuses on mental fitness.

- UQ's wellness framework for staff, the Wheel of Wellbeing, which acknowledges the many different influences on a sense of well-being.
- the UQ Sport and Recreation Precinct which offers a comprehensive range of sports facilities including an athletics centre, aquatic centre, all-weather natural and synthetic playing fields, indoor and outdoor courts for basketball, volleyball and netball and a gymnasium.
- free and accessible outdoor exercise equipment, playgrounds for all abilities, barbeque areas, a community garden and the free John Oxley Walk, which is a free walking, jogging and cycling track that loops the St Lucia campus grounds and runs alongside the Brisbane River.
- affordable access to more than 200 pools and fitness facilities across South East Queensland for all UQ staff and their immediate families via the UQ Fitness Passport, addressing both physical and mental well-being.