

THE PARENT INFANT RESEARCH INSTITUTE (PIRI) INC



PIRI's Vision

Investing in the earliest years to build a brighter future

Mission 1

To ensure all PIRI activities are informed by the early evidence-base and research.

Mission 2

To create and provide excellent early years services, accessible to all, supported by suitably trained health professionals.

Mission 3

To provide a unique contribution to early intervention in Australia in the Child and Family health sectors and become the pre-eminent body conducting research into parent-infant difficulties.

Purpose

PIRI is committed to supporting all parents and their babies (prenatal to 2 years), including those with vulnerabilities, to have the best possible start to life by creating a Centre of Excellence whose activities are designed to improve emotional wellbeing and optimize development.

PIRI sees that the roots of this future lie in valuing and protecting every early parent-infant relationship, understanding barriers to optimal infant brain development, improving parent mental health and intervening early.

Objectives

Conducting and Disseminating Basic and Applied Research

Translating Knowledge to Practice

Education and Training of professionals



Activities/Strategies

Research

- To build and deepen knowledge and understanding of parent and infant mental health in the perinatal period, parenting and the central importance of parent-infant relationships through a vigorous, innovative and quality program of scientific enquiry .
- To continue to conduct leading international research in the specialist areas of prematurity, ante and postnatal depression and interventions to optimize child development potential and family well-being, from pregnancy until 2 years.

Practice

- To continue to **roll out research based parenting-infant interventions** and work towards a systematic delivery of evaluated treatments in Australia.
- To ensure dissemination and equal and reliable access to high quality early intervention services including provision of a **model treatment center** (Infant Clinic).
- To continue to provide **public health initiatives** to ensure maximum reach of initiatives relevant for universal application and vulnerable populations.

Training

- To provide the highest quality training to suitably trained professionals in order for parents to have access to high quality early intervention services informed by research.

Dissemination

- To raise awareness, promote and disseminate research relating to the importance of parent and infant emotional health to the international and national scientific community and government through publications, journal articles, conference presentations and to the media and the public.
- To advocate for the translation of research knowledge into a concrete National Early Years Policy and influence government policy.
- To promote PIRI's activities.

Staffing

In order to achieve our objectives we will:

- Attract talented researchers and clinicians to PIRI, and nurture existing staff.
- Continue to provide a unique team of academics and clinicians (creating a 'hot-house' of expertise) with support from Board members and Austin Life Sciences.
- Collaborate with a range of leading researchers, academics and relevant agencies both nationally and internationally to provide the highest quality research and initiatives.