



Primary Health Care Research Evaluation & Development (PHCRED)

PHCRED Collaboration

South Australia, Northern Territory & Greater Green Triangle

Business Plan 2006

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1. Background

The Primary Health Care Research, Evaluation & Development (PHCRED) program, funded by the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing, aims to increase the pool of PHC researchers, conduct policy relevant PHC research and pursue the uptake of research into policy. During 2006 the Departments of General Practice at the University of Adelaide, Flinders University, the Spencer Gulf Rural Health School in South Australia, the Centre for Rural and Remote Health in Alice Springs (including PHCRED in Darwin) and the Greater Green Triangle University Department of Rural Health in Warrnambool will work collaboratively on aspects of the PHCRED program.

The Collaboration's main role is the local implementation of the objectives of the RCBI. For 2006-09, the RCBI objectives, which are linked to the PHC RED goals, are:

PHC RED Goal	RCBI Objective
1. To increase the pool of researchers in primary Health Care and support the sustainable advancement of research careers	To increase the pool of primary health care researchers by up-skilling early career researchers, and supporting the advancement of their research careers
2. To Conduct Policy and Practice Relevant Research	To support early career researchers to undertake more high quality primary health care research and ensure its relevance to policy and practice by aligning it with identified needs and priorities
3. To Disseminate and Facilitate the uptake of Evidence in Policy and Practice	To disseminate and facilitate the uptake of evidence in policy and practice

To facilitate this collaboration, the coordination facility aims to:

- extend capacity building activities in primary health care research and evaluation by working with partner universities, Divisions of General Practice and the relevant state and Federal Departments of Health
- continue to build on current promotion and dissemination strategies, including capacity building resources
- continue to develop collaborative research projects

The evaluation of Phase 1 of the Strategy (2000-2004) identified a number of areas for improvement, particularly in relation to the dissemination and uptake of research findings into practice and policy. During Phase 2 of the Strategy, there will need to be a greater focus on maximising the impact of the Strategy, and this will necessitate attention to elements such as collaboration, linkages, partnerships, engagement and transfer of knowledge and research findings.

The expanded Collaboration provides a number of exciting opportunities for the development and implementation of research capacity building activities, including:

- a larger number of Departments and individuals to provide the energy and drive needed to develop and implement programs and activities
- to a greater diversity in the expertise and interests of both Departments and individuals across the Collaboration
- a larger geographical area which provides greater coverage of and exposure to the needs and experiences of rural health practitioners and consumers
- a stronger connection with the needs of Indigenous health.

The Collaboration is now well-placed therefore to take advantage of opportunities to develop collective and co-ordinated approaches to identifying, developing and implementing effective and relevant programs to support the research capacity needs of primary health care practitioners. However, the larger, expanded size and scale of the Collaboration is not without its challenges. The time and cost implications of this, particularly in relation to travel, are not insignificant and will need to be managed within a budget which has been reduced from \$133,086 in 2005 to \$111,502 for 2006.

The Collaboration now covers a large and diverse geographical and socio-demographic area, and is broader than a state-wide collaboration. As such, it faces the challenge of developing a co-ordinated approach across a large number of Departments with diverse interests and local needs, without

impeding the capacity of Collaboration members to respond to local needs and issues. This collaboration therefore seeks to extend the inclusive and participatory nature of the partnership, embracing the value added skills brought to the collaboration by the State-wide Coordinator (notably through contributions to capacity building and research activity) and new partners in the education, policy and research fields.

2. Main Collaborative Activities for 2006

The main state collaborative events/activities for 2006 will be...

- Building on the 'Road Show' activities from 2005, and further integrating and synthesising the expertise available across the collaboration, (including that of the State-wide Coordinator), develop, coordinate and deliver a comprehensive program of capacity building workshops for participating Divisions of General Practice staff, psychiatrists, nurses, allied health professionals, health policy officers, consumers and Indigenous and non-Indigenous primary health researchers across the jurisdiction of the Collaboration. This will include facilitating and brokering the provision of education programs by Collaboration members to other areas of the Collaboration.
- Forging new partnerships with appropriate agencies to promote and facilitate the development of research education pathways at a range of levels including introductory, advanced, Certificate IV, undergraduate bridging programs and registrar programs.
- Forging new partnerships with appropriate agencies to promote and help facilitate the development and trial of an Indigenous Researcher Course
- Building on work conducted in 2005, inclusively develop collaborative research methods / evaluation models, which explore ways of blending established techniques and approaches with Aboriginal community knowledge in order to develop approaches which are culturally congruent and appropriate for research and evaluation conducted with Indigenous communities.
- Engage the collaboration with policy advisers, consumers, practitioners, administrators and other researchers in order to inform the development and implementation of collaborative research projects of optimal relevance to practice and policy.

- Hold a PHCRED Annual Conference event which focuses on a policy theme, engages a range of PHC policy and practice stakeholders, showcases and informs the policy and practice focussed research of the collaboration and provides opportunities for new researchers to present.
- Coordinate and disseminate relevant resources, information and research outcomes through closer linkages with PHCRIS and SARnet, and updating and maintaining the Collaboration's PHCRED web-site. In addition, stakeholders will be informed about our activities on a national level through regular contributions to the newsletter GPinfonet as well as through presentations at national events, such as the GP&PHC conference.

To facilitate coordination and communication within the state collaboration, regular state meetings and teleconferences will be held. Four provisional meeting dates have been agreed for 2006:

- i. Tuesday February 7th
- ii. Tuesday March 7th
- iii. Wednesday July 5th
- iv. Tuesday November 7th

3. Collaboration Plan...

Objective	Collaborative Strategies	Activities	Outcomes	Outcome indicators	Data Source
1. To increase the pool of researchers in primary Health Care and support the sustainable advancement of research careers	1.1 Develop a co-ordinated approach to the provision of research capacity building workshops to a broad range of PHC workers and consumers across the jurisdiction of the collaboration	<p>Identify areas of expertise and specific staff within the collaboration</p> <p>Identifying education and training needs and gaps across the collaboration and PHC sector</p> <p>Compile a program of workshop activities which meet identified needs across the jurisdiction of the collaboration</p> <p>Coordinating and promoting the offering of education programs across the Collaboration</p> <p>Facilitating and brokering the provision of research capacity building programs by Collaboration members to other areas in the Collaboration</p> <p>State-wide coordinator to continue to host SARNet web discussion forum topics on evaluation and focus groups</p>	<p>Compilation of comprehensive and inclusive program of capacity building training activities</p> <p>Program promoted through a range of outlets/media to a variety of PHC workers and consumers across the jurisdiction of the collaboration</p> <p>Training activities are provided across the Collaboration jurisdiction to a range of PHC workers and consumers</p> <p>Coordinator to advise PHC novice researchers concerning applied issues in evaluation and focus groups</p>	<p>Extent of Training available</p> <p>Number of training events conducted</p> <p>Range of PHC workers and consumers attending</p> <p>Attendees report capacity building benefits</p> <p>Capacity building has sustained impact</p> <p>Range of advice provided</p>	<p>document Review</p> <p>standardised workshop evaluation; standardised 'follow-up' Survey (3 months after workshop).</p> <p>document review</p>
	1.2 Promote and facilitate the development of research education pathways at a range of levels	<p>Scope the requirements of the pathway</p> <p>Forge new partnerships with appropriate agencies including TAFE, professional colleges, SADI</p> <p>Compile pathways including consideration of accreditation and recognition of prior learning issues</p> <p>Compile strategies for linking novice researchers to suitable pathways</p> <p>Link partners into a feasibility study for a collaborative PHC Research Course</p>	<p>Establish Working Group comprised of partners and appropriate recruited Agencies.</p> <p>Production of program of range of pathways for variety of PHC researchers</p> <p>Production of strategic plan for linking researchers to pathways</p> <p>Feasibility study completed</p>	<p>Appropriate partnerships established through active Working Group</p> <p>Program of pathways produced with established procedures for linking researchers to pathways</p> <p>Recommendations made regarding feasibility of PHC Research course</p>	<p>document review</p> <p>document review</p> <p>document review</p>

Objective	Collaborative Strategies	Activities	Outcomes	Outcome indicators	Data Source
	<p>1.3 Promote and help facilitate the development of an Indigenous Researcher Course</p>	<p>Establish a working group to scope, review and adapt existing indigenous researcher courses</p> <p>Promote collaboration with AHCSA CCRE and the national research agenda</p> <p>Inclusively develop research methods / evaluation models for work with Aboriginal communities</p> <p>Develop a suitable and appropriate Indigenous Researcher course</p> <p>Design a comprehensive trial for the course (2007)</p>	<p>Appropriately constituted working group established including Aboriginal service providers, Aboriginal researchers and research educators</p> <p>Indigenous Researcher course detailed and supported by Aboriginal Health Council, Indigenous Researchers, and research educators</p>	<p>Constitution of working group</p> <p>Production of agreed research course program</p>	<p>document review</p> <p>document review</p>
	<p>1.4 Link novice / mid career researchers with collaborative research activities across the partnership</p>	<p>Partners to identify appropriate researchers to be linked into collaborative research teams (see below)</p>	<p>Number of researchers engaged in collaborative research teams</p>	<p>Number of proposals/ publications / presentations submitted with researchers resulting from engagement with research teams</p>	<p>document review</p>

Objective	Collaborative Strategies	Activities	Outcomes	Outcome indicators	Data Source
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<p>2. To Conduct Policy and Practice Relevant Research</p>	<p>Develop new collaborative research project(s) across the partnership</p>	<p>Building on 2005, explore common research interests and complimenting expertise to identify potential collaborative research project themes across the partnership: [e.g. mental health, Indigenous health, PHC birthing, community capacity building, and chronic illness].</p> <p>Engage policy advisers, consumers, practitioners, administrators and other researchers in a Collaborative Advisory Committee in order to inform the development and implementation of proposals for collaborative research projects of optimal relevance to practice and policy</p> <p>Coordinate collaborative research teams around chosen areas to develop research proposals</p> <p>Coordinate, support and inform the development of research project plans and proposals</p> <p>Coordinate research teams to undertake research and research evaluation in identified policy and practice relevant areas</p> <p>Engage with range of policy and practice stakeholders through staging an Annual conference with a policy theme (see below)</p>	<p>Research themes agreed and endorsed throughout partnership.</p> <p>Range of stakeholders engaged in collaborative research planning activities through established Advisory committee</p> <p>Identified partners engaged in research teams to produce research proposals</p> <p>Policy and practice relevant research proposals / designs are produced across a range of themes</p> <p>research/evaluation activity across partnership is agreed and conducted</p> <p>reports / publications produced</p>	<p>Range of stakeholders engaged with PHCRED partnership to inform development of appropriate research proposals</p> <p>Number of research teams and research projects identified</p> <p>MOUs established between collaborating partners</p> <p>Number of grant applications submitted / accepted</p> <p>Number of research projects being conducted / completed</p> <p>Number of peer reviewed / and other publications / presentations produced</p>	<p>document review</p>
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Objective	Collaborative Strategies	Activities	Outcomes	Outcome indicators	Data Source
3. To Disseminate and Facilitate the uptake of Evidence in Policy and Practice	3.1 Hold a PHCRED Annual Conference event which focuses on a policy theme	<p>Working with appropriate policy and practice organisations and through the organising committee, plan and conduct the PHCRED collaboration conference to be held in the last quarter of 2006.</p> <p>Conference to focus on policy, practice and evidence to facilitate dissemination of research findings (including those from collaborative research teams) and promote forum discussion</p> <p>Conference to provide opportunities for novice PHC researchers to present and to include capacity building workshops</p>	<p>Conference conducted over two days, is comprehensive and inclusive of broad contributions across the collaboration (including Indigenous researcher development activities)</p> <p>Conference employs variety of forums, presentations, posters and workshop activities</p> <p>Conference is well attended across policy, practice, research fields; attendees' satisfaction with program content, timing, delivery, venue, workshop quality and usefulness</p>	<p>Evidence in policy and practice themes and areas addressed through conference program</p> <p>Range of approaches used</p> <p>Details of activities, papers presented and attendance documented</p> <p>Participants view contribution to event as beneficial. Attendees value and have benefited from attending.</p>	<p>document review</p> <p>evaluation questionnaire</p>
	3.2 Disseminate collaboration information, activities and outcomes along with other relevant and useful material	<p>Update and modify State-wide Collaboration PHCRED web-site</p> <p>Promote Annual conference through networks (including SADI, Aboriginal Health bodies), other relevant channels (including PHCRIS, SARnet) and the collaboration website</p> <p>Disseminate collaboration and other relevant activities and resources, information and research outcomes through networks, channels and the collaboration web-site</p> <p>Disseminate collaboration activities and information through contributions to GP Infonet, presentations, conferences (including GP&PHC Conference) and workshops</p>	<p>website regularly updated with relevant information and resources</p> <p>regular flyers and information re the PHCRED annual conference, other relevant activities and resources, information and research outcomes are provided through networks, channels, GPInfonet and website</p>	<p>Nature of improvements made across the website</p> <p>site utilisation record</p> <p>number and range of information disseminated</p>	<p>document review</p>

