



GREATER HEALTH

GREATER GREEN TRIANGLE

University Dept. of Rural Health

Primary Health Care Research, Evaluation & Development (PHC RED) Strategy

Greater Green Triangle University Department of Rural Health

RESEARCH CAPACITY BUILDING INITIATIVE – 2006 BUSINESS PLAN

Submitted to the Commonwealth Department of Health and Ageing, November 2005.
Re-submitted to the Commonwealth Department of Health and Ageing, January 2006.



INTRODUCTION

The Greater Green Triangle University Department of Rural Health (GGT UDRH), joint initiative of Flinders and Deakin Universities, receives funding under the Research Capacity Building Initiative of the 2006-2009 Primary Health Care Research, Evaluation & Development Strategy (PHC RED) in order to build research capacity in primary health care.

For each objective, there are several strategies for focusing activity during 2006, many of which began from 2001-2005 under Phase One. Detailed performance indicators and budget requirements are described. This Business Plan reflects progress towards the overall PHC RED Strategy goals and specific RCBI objectives for the Department. The plan builds upon the PHC RED activities that occurred in the GGT during the 2 years of funding in 2004 and 2005. The Business Plan represents a refinement based on the experience of past years.

The following table illustrates:

- a) objectives and strategies against each of the PHC RED Strategy goals
- b) activities planned for 2006
- c) associated performance indicators
- d) linkages with PHC RED Strategic Plan objectives.

OBJECTIVE 1: TO INCREASE THE POOL OF PRIMARY HEALTH CARE RESEARCHERS BY UP-SKILLING EARLY-MID CAREER RESEARCHERS, AND SUPPORTING THE SUSTAINABLE ADVANCEMENT OF RESEARCH CAREERS IN PRIMARY HEALTH CARE (NOTE: THIS IS THE PRIMARY OBJECTIVE FOR RCBI)

This objective meets the first Goal of the PHC RED Strategy - an expanded pool of primary health care researchers

STRATEGIES	ACTIVITIES	INDICATORS
<p>Create research career pathways for early-mid career researchers using specific strategies including mentoring</p>	<p>Engage PHC RED bursary holders and local practitioners in GGT UDRH research projects and in projects funded by National Heart Foundation (NHF), National Health and Medical Research Council (NH&MRC), Beyondblue, RACGP, and VicHealth</p>	<p>Details of Bursary Holder and practitioner involvement in research projects, and minutes from research project meetings</p>
	<p>The PHC RED Coordinator will provide mentoring and support to PHC RED Bursary Holders and to local practitioners interested in or already active in PHC research.</p>	<p>Number and range of early-mid career researchers receiving mentoring and supervision support from: bursary program, RDP placement, pre-Masters, research Masters, PhD, and post doctoral</p>
	<p>The PHC RED Coordinator will also arrange supervision relationships for PHC RED Bursary Holders with Senior GGT UDRH Researchers.</p>	

STRATEGIES	ACTIVITIES	INDICATORS
Create research career pathways for early-mid career researchers using specific strategies including mentoring	Work with the South Australian, Northern Territory, and Greater Green Triangle PHC RED Collaboration to scope the requirements of research education pathways for early-mid career researchers.	NT, SA, GGT PHC RED collaboration working group established, comprised of NT, SA, GGT partners and appropriate recruited agencies
	Work with the SA, NT, GGT PHC RED Collaboration to compile research education pathways, including consideration of accreditation and recognition of prior learning issues	NT, SA, GGT PHC RED collaboration to produce program of range of pathways for PHC researchers
	Work with the SA, NT, GGT PHC RED Collaboration Compile strategies for linking novice researchers to suitable research education pathways	
Improve the research skills of early-mid career researchers through the provision of research training and support	<p>Provide GGT PHC RED Bursary program. This will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Offering a number of bursaries for projects and writing activities, with different monetary values • Department program of training events, eg SPSS, meta-analysis, survey design • Mentoring from PHC RED Coordinator • Supervision from Senior GGT UDRH staff • Fortnightly structured Writing Group, facilitated by senior research staff 	<p>Copies of bursary advertisements, details of places advertised, and applications received</p> <p>Record of bursary funding awarded</p> <p>Details of mentoring and supervision relationships and meetings</p> <p>Progress and End of Project Reports from PHC RED bursary holders and supervisors</p> <p>Department Seminar and Writing Group program timetable</p> <p>Number of attendees to Department Seminars and Writing Groups.</p>

STRATEGIES	ACTIVITIES	INDICATORS
<p>Provide opportunities for early-mid career researchers to gain experience through participation in the research projects of senior researchers.</p>	<p>Support research projects in the UDRH priority research areas: diabetes, cardiovascular disease, chronic disease management, depression, and quality improvement</p>	<p>Summary of PHC RED projects supported and supervision provided</p>
	<p>Facilitate opportunities for practitioners to meet to discuss research interests and project development in local centres (Eg Hamilton Horsham, Warrnambool, Mount Gambier)</p>	<p>Numbers and details of contacts, including supervision meetings, project meetings, and research training events.</p>
	<p>The GGT PHC RED Bursary Program will provide supervision to bursary holders from Senior GGT Academic Research staff.</p>	
<p>Provide mentoring and support for early-mid career researchers to apply for, and undertake, research training through NH&MRC Scholarships and Fellowships.</p>	<p>Advertise and promote other primary health care research funding opportunities such as NH&MRC scholarships and fellowships, and PHC RED Research Development Program. Advertise via SARNet, Division of GP newsletters, GGT UDRH newsletter and website</p> <p>Continue to promote VicNet, SARNet, and Primary Health Care Research Information Service (PHCRIS) websites. Support practitioners, students, and consumers to become SARNet members</p> <p>Support the ongoing development of research and evaluation resources and training opportunities on SARNet website.</p>	<p>Advertisements and details of advertising sites</p> <p>Number of SARNet members in the GGT</p> <p>List of types and description of information and links provided. Also number of E-Alerts delivered</p>

STRATEGIES	ACTIVITIES	INDICATORS
Provide mentoring and support for early-mid career researchers to apply for, and undertake, research training through NH&MRC Scholarships and Fellowships.	In addition to mentoring bursary holders, the PHC RED Coordinator will provide mentoring and support to local practitioners interested in PHC research. Contact with potential supervisors will also be provided as required	Details of mentoring and supervision relationships and meetings
Explore and, where appropriate, develop opportunities for early-mid career researchers to participate in research and research training programs eg GP registrars, clinicians, allied health professionals, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders.	Continue to engage with local Indigenous Health organisations to determine potential for collaboration and to provide or to support research training needs	Details of Indigenous consultations sort for PHC RED projects and activities
	Continue to engage with local Indigenous Health organisations to create opportunities for indigenous initiated PHC RED projects	Details of PHC RED activities related to Indigenous health
	Continue to engage with local health services and practitioners to collaborate on providing and supporting research training	Details of visits to local Indigenous Health organisations
	PHC RED program participation on the Board of GGT GP education training	Details of research training opportunities provided or supported
	PHC RED program participation on the Board of GGT GP education training	Awareness among GP Registrars of PHC RED programs. Reported in brief case studies
	NT, SA, GGT PHC RED Collaboration to promote and help facilitate the development of an Indigenous Researcher course, activities as outlined in the NT, SA, GGT PHC RED Collaborative Business Plan	Appropriately constituted working group established including Aboriginal service providers, Aboriginal researchers and research educators Indigenous Researcher course detailed and supported by Aboriginal Health Council, Indigenous Researchers, and research educators

STRATEGIES	ACTIVITIES	INDICATORS
Explore and, where appropriate, develop opportunities for early-mid career researchers to participate in research and research training programs eg GP registrars, clinicians, allied health professionals, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders.	<p>Advertise and promote the Researcher Development Program (RDP) position with the aim of recruiting early-mid career researcher(s) from the RDP target group</p> <p>Monitor RDP researcher(s) development and progress</p>	<p>Advertisement and details of advertising sites</p> <p>Appropriate person(s) recruited and appointed to the position(s)</p> <p>Progress and end of project reports from RDP researcher(s) which will include brief case study reports</p>
Encourage effective models of research participation across disciplines and geographic areas.	Research and evaluation skills training and development events will include opportunities for sharing existing and new projects and opportunities for networking	List of types and number of events where these opportunities provided. Attendance details of these events.
	Promote SARNet membership and use of SARNet discussion forum to enhance opportunities for inter- and intra-disciplinary networking and seeking out potential areas for collaboration	Numbers and profile details of GGT SARNet members
Develop and/or implement course work aimed at providing research education and training to early-mid career researchers (eg graduate diploma in primary health care research, masters (by research) in primary health care)	<p>Provide GGT PHC RED Bursary program. This will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Offering a number of bursaries for projects and writing activities, with different monetary values • Department program of training events, eg SPSS, meta-analysis, survey design • Mentoring from PHC RED Coordinator • Supervision from Senior GGT UDRH staff • Fortnightly structured Writing Group, facilitated by senior research staff 	<p>Copies of bursary advertisements, details of places advertised, and applications received</p> <p>Record of bursary funding awarded</p> <p>Details of mentoring and supervision relationships and meetings</p> <p>Progress and End of Project Reports from PHC RED bursary holders and supervisors</p> <p>Department Seminar and Writing Group program timetable and numbers of attendees</p>

STRATEGIES	ACTIVITIES	INDICATORS
Develop and/or implement course work aimed at providing research education and training to early-mid career researchers (eg graduate diploma in primary health care research, masters (by research) in primary health care)	<p>Work with the SA, NT, GGT PHC RED Collaboration to scope the requirements of research education pathways for early-mid career researchers.</p> <p>Work with the SA, NT, GGT PHC RED Collaboration to compile research education pathways, including consideration of accreditation and recognition of prior learning issues</p> <p>Work with the SA, NT, GGT PHC RED Collaboration Compile strategies for linking novice researchers to suitable research education pathways</p>	Same indicators as reported above on page 4 against the same activities
	Engage PHC RED bursary holders and local practitioners in GGT UDRH research projects and in projects funded by NHF, NHMRC, Beyondblue, RACGP, and VicHealth	Details of Bursary Holder involvement in research projects, and minutes from research project meetings
Develop and implement a local communication strategy to promote RCBI, including strategies for identifying and involving early-mid career researchers in RCBI activities.	Continue to feature PHC RED program activities and case studies of 'practitioner researchers' in each edition of the GGT UDRH Newsletter	Copies of GGT UDRH Newsletter GGT UDRH PHC RED Newsletter mailing list
	Develop a PHC RED program section on the new GGT UDRH website	GGT UDRH PHC RED website pages
	Distribute information advertising the Writing Group program and its progress and milestones to a targeted audience of PHC research active and interested practitioners, consumers, and academics in the GGT	GGT UDRH PHC RED contacts mailing list, targeted to Writing Group participants and observers

STRATEGIES	ACTIVITIES	INDICATORS
<p>Develop and implement a local communication strategy to promote RCBI, including strategies for identifying and involving early-mid career researchers in RCBI activities.</p>	<p>Department program of training events. Including training in SPSS, meta-analysis, survey design. The program of training events will also include annual seminars from visiting international and national researchers</p>	<p>As listed above; Department Seminar and Writing Group program timetable</p> <p>Details and copies of training event advertisements and communications</p> <p>As listed above; Number of attendees to Department Seminars and Writing Groups, including details of early-mid career researchers involved in these RCBI activities</p>

OBJECTIVE 2: TO SUPPORT EARLY-MID 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.

This objective meets the second Goal of the PHC RED Strategy - More research relevant to primary health care policy and practice.

STRATEGIES	ACTIVITIES	INDICATORS
Undertake dialogues with policy advisors, practitioners and other key stakeholders at local and national levels to inform, and maximise the relevance of, local programs.	To use the report: <i>Proposal for a Community development approach to Health Services Research in the Greater Green Triangle</i> , to continue to action findings that are relevant to the PHC RED program. Also to continue to utilise strategies identified within this report to achieve the PHC RED phase 2 objectives. The health service research (HSR) activities arising from recommendations made within this report have the potential to complement the GGT PHC RED program by helping UDRH staff to develop required skills and knowledge and by helping build interdisciplinary networks of practitioners interested in furthering their research and evaluation skills. However, PHC RED will operate across a wider spectrum of research skills and methodologies. The intended outcomes of the HSR initiatives are focussed on intersectoral research which aims to improve the nature and quality of health services generally, whereas the outcomes of the PHC RED program are focussed upon capacity-building in primary care.	List of PHC RED program activities or a progress report about PHC RED activities relevant to the findings and strategy identified in the <i>Proposal for a Community development approach to Health Services Research in the Greater Green Triangle</i> report

STRATEGIES	ACTIVITIES	INDICATORS
<p>Undertake dialogues with policy advisors, practitioners and other key stakeholders at local and national levels to inform, and maximise the relevance of, local programs.</p>	<p>Local Clinicians Advisory Group (LCAG) to continue in its role as a community advisory board to GGT UDRH PHC RED program. LCAG to ideally include a representative from a Division of General Practice and/or the State Based Organisation (SBO) (Soriya Suong, Primary Health Unit), a minimum of two non-medical primary health care professionals drawn from two separate disciplines, a representative of the State Office of the Department of Health and Ageing, and a minimum of one representative of a relevant consumer organisation.</p> <p>Maintain activity and influence of the Local Clinicians Advisory Group (LCAG) in identifying opportunities for primary health care research</p>	<p>Minutes of all LCAG meetings</p> <p>Involvement of LCAG members on collaborative projects</p>
	<p>Tri-Statewide Advisory Committee (SA, NT, GGT) to function as advisory group to GGT UDRH PHC RED program.</p>	<p>Participation in and Minutes of Tri-Statewide Committee</p>

STRATEGIES	ACTIVITIES	INDICATORS
Undertake dialogues with policy advisors, practitioners and other key stakeholders at local and national levels to inform, and maximise the relevance of, local programs.	Maintain and support existing GGT UDRH relationships with: Divisions of General Practice (Otway, Limestone, West Victoria), Hospitals, (Hamilton, Horsham, Warrnambool, Mount Gambier), Indigenous Health Centre in Portland (Dhauwurrd-Wurrung, Flinders and Deakin Universities, MERHP (Multi-Disciplinary Education for Rural Health Practitioners, PAUDRH Pharmacy Academic network for UDRH, University of Melbourne, GGT CVD prevention partnership	<p>PHC RED contacts list</p> <p>Written formal agreements, such as memorandums of understanding, covering partnerships to support PHC RED activities</p> <p>Description of joint projects, activities, and minutes from relevant meetings</p>
	Maintain ongoing collaboration with other PHC RED programs. In particular to maintain the formal collaboration with the South Australian and Northern Territory PHC RED programs	<p>Indicators as detailed in the South Australian, Northern Territory, and Greater Green Triangle PHC RED 2006 Business Plan and Annual Report</p> <p>Minutes of collaboration meetings</p>
	Maintain collaboration with Victorian PHC RED program	<p>Details of collaboration with Victorian PHC RED program, including minutes of meetings participated in.</p>

STRATEGIES	ACTIVITIES	INDICATORS
Encourage early-mid career researchers to determine their research topics with reference to national priority areas eg National Health Priorities, National Chronic Disease Strategy, Australian Primary Health Care Research Institute priorities, etc.	Review national priorities for research and seek comments from stakeholders (including service planners, clinicians, and consumers). Provide support to PHC RED projects which are relevant to the national priorities for research.	<p>Details of meetings with stakeholders where input was obtained, including LCAG minutes</p> <p>List of PHC RED projects supported that are relevant to identified national research priorities.</p>
	RDP research project work to be determined in reference to the national priorities for research	Details of RDP research project work in relation to the national priorities for research
Increase the amount of relevant research undertaken under RCBI by early-mid career researchers, eg RDP placements, bursaries, NHMRC training awards, participation as junior researchers on major research projects.	<p>Support research projects funded by NHF, NHMRC, Beyondblue, RACGP, VicHealth.</p> <p>Engage PHC RED bursary holders and local practitioners in GGT UDRH research projects and in projects funded by NHF, NHMRC, Beyondblue, RACGP, and VicHealth</p>	<p>Details of policy- and priority- related research and evaluation projects, grants, and tenders supported or initiated by the GGT UDRH's PHC RED program</p> <p>Minutes from research project meetings</p> <p>Details of Bursary Holder, RDP, and practitioner involvement in research projects, and minutes from research project meetings</p>
	<p>RDP research project work to be determined in reference to the national priorities for research</p> <p>To engage RDP researcher(s) in research projects related to the GGT UDRH priority areas: diabetes, cardiovascular disease, chronic disease management, depression, and quality improvement</p>	Summary and brief details of the research projects that the RDP researcher(s) becomes involved with

OBJECTIVE 3: To disseminate and facilitate the uptake of evidence in policy and practice.

This objective meets the third Goal of the PHC RED Strategy - In consultation with other relevant organisations, contribute to well informed primary health care practice and policy (focus is dissemination and use).

STRATEGIES	ACTIVITIES	INDICATORS
Engage with peak bodies/policy makers throughout the planning, implementation and dissemination of RCBI-supported research.	<p>Build linkages with APHCRI, the National Institute of Clinical Studies, and Cochrane to facilitate the dissemination of primary health care research findings to practitioners</p> <p>Production of writing pieces to submit to Journals for peer-review</p>	<p>Brief case studies regarding the effectiveness of research in influencing practice and policy</p> <p>List of work submitted for publication to peer-reviewed journals, in particular to journals that are supported and funded by PHC RED</p>
	Hold a biennial PHC RED research showcase event	Showcase program, number and list of attendees, and attendee evaluation results
	Continue to work with Divisions of General Practice, relevant professional bodies, the Primary Health Care Research and Information Service (PHCRIS) and other relevant organisations to generate, identify and promote opportunities for broader Strategy programs to support dissemination and uptake of evidence	Brief case studies regarding the effectiveness of research in influencing practice and policy

STRATEGIES	ACTIVITIES	INDICATORS
Use multi-faceted, targeted dissemination strategies tailored to the needs of stakeholders.	Support GGT PHC RED bursary holders, GGT UDRH Staff, and research active GGT practitioners to produce material for publication and presentation, for example at the General Practice and Primary Health Care (GP&PHC) conference.	<p>Writing Group program for 2006</p> <p>Details of Writing group attendance for 2006</p> <p>Details of writing pieces prepared and audience obtained</p> <p>Details of writing pieces prepared for submission for journal publication</p> <p>Details of presentations prepared and audience obtained</p> <p>Details of presentations accepted for conferences. For example GP&PHC conference</p>
Participate in the development and implementation of broader Strategy programs supporting dissemination and uptake of evidence.	Continue to engage with local area health services (Hamilton, Horsham, Warrnambool, Mount Gambier), and Divisions of General Practice (Otway, Limestone, West Victoria) throughout the planning, implementation and dissemination of Research Capacity Building Initiative (RCBI)-supported research.	<p>Number and effect of linkages established with local area health services and divisions of general practice</p> <p>Relevant meeting notes or minutes, and outcomes</p>

STRATEGIES	ACTIVITIES	INDICATORS
Participate in the development and implementation of broader Strategy programs supporting dissemination and uptake of evidence.	Work with the SA, NT, GGT PHC RED collaboration to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update and modify Statewide Collaboration PHC RED web-site • Promote and contribute to the annual conference through networks, other relevant channels (including PHCRIS, SARNet) and the collaboration website • Disseminate collaboration and other relevant activities and resources, information and research outcomes through networks, channels and the collaboration web-site • Disseminate collaboration activities and information through contributions to GP Infonet, presentations, conferences (including GP&PHC Conference) and workshops 	Website regularly updated with relevant information and resources Regular flyers and information regarding the PHC RED annual conference, other relevant activities and resources, information and research outcomes are provided through networks, channels, GPinfonet and website
	As part of the SA, NT, GGT PHC RED collaboration to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with the appropriate policy and practice organisations and through the organising committee, to plan and conduct the PHC RED collaboration conference to be held in the last quarter of 2006 • Organise the PHC RED Collaboration conference to focus on policy, practice and evidence to facilitate dissemination of research findings (including those from collaborative research teams) and promote forum discussion • Plan the PHC RED collaboration conference to include opportunities for novice PHC researchers to present and to include capacity building workshops 	As per the SA, NT, GGT collaborative business plan: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PHC RED collaboration conference conducted over two days, is comprehensive and inclusive of broad contributions across the collaboration (including Indigenous researcher development activities) • Conference employs variety of forums, presentations, posters and workshop activities • Conference is well attended across policy, practice, research fields; attendee's satisfaction with program content, timing, delivery, venue, workshop quality and usefulness

GLOSSARY

Working definition of early-mid career PHC researcher:

For the purposes of RCBI, early-mid career researchers range from individuals with little or no direct research experience/skills, through to individuals whose research skills are developed to the point where they are able to undertake a higher degree or contribute as an associate investigator on a major research project. Researchers who have already-developed a research track record would not normally receive support under RCBI (eg individuals who have already competed successfully for NHMRC and/or ARC project grants).

Research skills could be defined as the ability to:

- *formulate a research question,*
- *conduct a review of the published and 'grey' literature,*
- *critically appraise published literature,*
- *select an appropriate method to investigate a research question,*
- *demonstrate knowledge of qualitative and quantitative research methodologies,*
- *obtain ethics approval for a research project,*
- *prepare a grant application for research funding,*
- *collect, analyse and interpret research data,*
- *disseminate research results in written, visual and oral forms.*

'research training' as formal and informal.

Research training is defined as:

- *Informal – mentorship or 'apprenticeship' model of one to one or small group support with an experienced researcher.*
- *Informal - Non-accredited short-courses and certificate courses that focus on research.*

and

- *Formal research coursework which is accredited by a University at the Graduate Certificate, Diploma, Masters or Doctoral level.*
- *Formal research higher degree at masters or doctoral level*

'support' as:

Support to improve research skills of early-mid career researchers can be defined as: the provision of face to face, email, telephone, web-based or written exchange between early career researchers and an experienced researcher/s that is directed towards research skills training.

"Peer-reviewed Article"

For the purposes of RCBI, the DEST Higher Education Data Collection definition is used.

An acceptable peer review process is one that involves an independent, expert review.

The peer review process must involve assessment of the publication:

- in its entirety – not merely an abstract or extract
- before publication
- by appropriately independent, qualified experts. Independent in this context means independent of the author.

For journal articles, any of the following are acceptable as evidence:

- the journal is listed in one of the Institute for Scientific Information indexes (www.isinet.com/journals)
- the journal is classified as 'refereed' in Ulrich's International Periodicals Directory (Volume 5 - Refereed Serials) or via Ulrich's web site www.ulrichsweb.com
- the journal is included in the department's Register of Refereed Journals (see 11.10)
- there is a statement in the journal which shows that contributions are peer reviewed
- there is a statement or acknowledgement from the journal editor which shows that contributions are peer reviewed
- a copy of a reviewer's assessment relating to the article.

Note:

- a statement from an author that a publication was peer reviewed will not be accepted
- the existence of a national or international advisory board is not sufficient evidence that all relevant publications are assessed by members of it.