

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



**Spencer Gulf Rural Health School (SGRHS)**  
*University of South Australia/ University of Adelaide*

### **RESEARCH CAPACITY BUILDING INITIATIVE – 2006 BUSINESS PLAN**

## INTRODUCTION

The PHC\_RED program at the Spencer Gulf Rural Health School is located in the Research and Enterprise program. Judy Taylor manages Research and Enterprise and will direct the program in 2006 with Sonia Champion as Coordinator and Christine Franks Indigenous Research Fellow (Primary Health Care) The PHC\_RED program covers a geographical area west to the WA border north to the NT border the Eyre Peninsula, Yorke Peninsula, and the Mid North of SA. Our key stakeholders who access our program are:

- General Practitioners and Divisions of General Practice;
- Aboriginal communities, organisations and individuals involved in health development (health development is defined as community-based primary health care, health promotion and primary prevention activities);
- Nurses, allied health practitioners, health managers, health planners, community-based psychiatrists, and
- Community residents involved in health development.

In critically reviewing our progress to date, it is clear that we are well placed for success given the existing close and collaborative relationships with early/mid career researchers and policy makers in our region. We have strong partnerships with the Faculty of Health Sciences Adelaide University, the Division of Health Sciences UniSA, and Judy Taylor and Christine Franks are key researchers with the newly established UniSA Centre for Rural Health and Community Development (CRHaCD). As we enter this new period our activities will be more focused, intensive, and longer term, and target individuals who, with appropriate capacity building, will become competent researchers in primary health care. This approach is justified given that we have identified critical success factors for capacity building.

Our strategies for the period 2006 – 2009 are consistent with the national PHC\_RED objectives aim to increase the pool of researchers, conduct policy relevant research, and pursue research uptake into policy. Our strategies are:

- Up-skill early or mid career researchers to produce high quality primary health care research;
- Support the advancement of sustainable careers in primary health care research;
- Conduct policy and practice relevant research in specific topic areas, and
- Pursue the uptake of research into policy by relevant organisations

In 2006 our activities will be balanced between research capacity building, undertaking policy relevant research, and research dissemination. We will enter into an agreement with up to 15 Indigenous and non-Indigenous early or mid career researchers to build their research skills. This may involve formal and informal research training, supervision of research, collaborative research, supporting research dissemination and, career mentoring. \$1,500 bursary will be available to assist the process. Up-take of formal research training will be emphasised. The indigenous and non-indigenous cohort activities, identified separately in the plan, but they will overlap. Indigenous research capacity building will remain a focus of our activities and we will conduct this in partnership with the Aboriginal Health Council, CRHaCD, CCRE, and Adelaide University Faculty of Health Sciences.

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**

<b>STRATEGIES</b>	<b>ACTIVITIES</b>	<b>INDICATORS</b>
<p><b>Providing learning opportunities and support for a cohort of non-Indigenous and Indigenous early or mid career researchers to conduct high quality research<sup>1</sup> in PHC<sup>2</sup></b></p>	<p><i>Non-Indigenous RCB<sup>3</sup> cohort activities in 2006</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Advertise PHC research capacity building program to GPs, Divisions of GP, psychiatrists, nurses, allied health professionals, health policy officers, and consumers in SGRHS region.</li> <li>• Select participants</li> <li>• Devise RCB (research capacity building) plan for each participant (including required resources)</li> <li>• Build pathways into honours, masters and PhDs</li> <li>• Match participant with formal and informal research skill training in association with Faculty of Health Sciences Adelaide University and Centre for Rural Health and Community Development</li> <li>• Match participant with research opportunities</li> <li>• Provide research career mentoring</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of non-peer reviewed publications</li> <li>• Number of peer reviewed publications</li> <li>• Number enrolled in formal research training</li> <li>• Number active in research</li> <li>• Number of honours enrolments in 07 and 08</li> <li>• Number of PhD enrolments in 07 and 08</li> </ul>

<sup>1</sup> Research refers to research evaluation and research

<sup>2</sup> PHC = Primary Health Care

<sup>3</sup> RCB = Research Capacity Building

	<p><i>Indigenous RCB cohort activities in 2006</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Advertise PHC research program to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in SGRHS region.</li> <li>• Select participants</li> <li>• Devise RCB plan for each participant (including resources required)</li> <li>• Build pathways into honours, masters and PhDs</li> <li>• Match participant with formal or informal research skill training</li> <li>• Match participant with research opportunities</li> <li>• Provide career mentoring</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of non-peer reviewed publications</li> <li>• Number of peer reviewed publications</li> <li>• Number enrolled in formal research training</li> <li>• Number active in research</li> <li>• Number of honours enrolments and PhD enrolments 07-08</li> </ul>
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<b>STRATEGIES</b>	<b>ACTIVITIES</b>	<b>INDICATORS</b>
<b>Support the SA/NT/GGT Collaboration</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Host the collaboration Coordinator</li> <li>• Attend Collaboration meetings</li> <li>• Facilitate Collaboration events</li> <li>• Contribute to Collaboration training</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Minutes of 4 Collaboration meetings noting SGRHS contribution</li> </ul>
<b>Support the sustainable advancement of PHC research careers</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide 1 Research Development Placement</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Uptake of formal research training 06 - 07</li> <li>• One peer reviewed publication</li> <li>• Three of conference presentations/posters</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In collaboration with JCU, the Aboriginal Health Council of SA and the CCRE in Aboriginal Health, develop and trial a nationally accredited (VET) course – Indigenous Research</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of indigenous research students enrolled</li> <li>• Number of SGRHS student enrolments</li> <li>• SGRHS student supervision hours</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In collaboration with other PHC_RED programs nationally, contribute to a feasibility study for a PHC research course</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Feasibility study complete</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In collaboration with JCU, CSIRO, CDU, MICRRH, Whyalla Campus provide an accredited on-line course 'Characteristics and Methodologies of Desert Research' for social, health and biophysical researchers</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of students undertaking components of course nationally 06-07</li> <li>Number of times course components used by SGRHS</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide training workshops in research methodologies with the State Collaboration</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of workshops</li> <li>Number of attendees</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide training workshops in partnership with the Centre for Rural Health and Community Development, the State Collaboration, the Aboriginal Health Council, and the Centre for Clinical Research Excellence in Aboriginal Health in writing for publication, using visual techniques for research translation, and presentation skills</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of workshops</li> <li>Number of attendees at training workshops</li> </ul>

## MEASURES

**Table 1: Number and range of early-mid career non-indigenous research cohort supported under RCBI**

Name	Qualifications (existing)	Research level (1-5 see below)	INPUT from RCBI: funding 1=all (100%); 2=most (≥50%) 3= some (<50%)	Other funding	INPUT from RCBI: supervision (formal, informal, ad-hoc) <sup>4</sup>	FTE	Explanatory text (aim of support) eg grant writing, applying for higher degree, etc

<sup>4</sup> Formal includes formal mentoring, student supervision and line management

Informal includes informal mentoring on career and study options

Ad hoc includes assistance addressing a particular and immediate research problem

					Supervision, formal informal training	0.5	Applying for higher degree, grant writing, career mentoring,
		1	3		Collaborative research		Collaborative research, mentoring, publishing, ARC Linkage grant application
		1	3			0.5	
		1	3				
		2					

1= pre Masters 2=Masters 3=PhD 4=post doctoral 5=other (including research project meetings, tutorials and seminars where researchers learn by watching and contributing to research in action)

## MEASURES

**Table 2: Number and range of early-mid career indigenous research cohort supported under RCBI**

Name	Qualifications (existing)	Research level (1-5 see below)	INPUT from RCBI: funding 1=all (100%); 2=most (≥50%) 3= some (<50%)	Other funding	INPUT from RCBI: supervision (formal, informal, ad-hoc) <sup>5</sup>	FTE	Explanatory text (aim of support) eg grant writing, applying for higher degree, etc
		1	1		Supervision, formal informal training		

1= pre Masters 2=Masters 3=PhD 4=post doctoral 5=other (including research project meetings, tutorials and seminars where researchers learn by watching and contributing to research in action)

Type of activity eg workshop, writing group, mentoring, on-line training, network management	# and type of participants (GPs, Allied Health, Divisions staff etc)	Total # participant hours	Contribution from RCBI (financial or in-kind): 1=all (100%); 2=most (≥50%) 3= some (<50%)  List other contributions where appropriate (organisation, amount/type)	Explanatory text (aim of support) eg grant writing, applying for higher degree, etc

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**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.**

<b>STRATEGIES</b>	<b>ACTIVITIES</b>	<b>INDICATORS</b>
Conduct high quality and policy relevant collaborative research in mental health primary care	Undertake 2 partnership projects in mental health with interested cohort members, and partners including Faculty of Health Sciences Adelaide University, Centre for Rural Health and Community Development (CRHaCD). Identify research questions, devise methodologies, apply for funding, undertake research and research evaluation. One project is identified: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improving relationships between Indigenous socio-emotional wellbeing teams and mental health providers in regional health services</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of grant applications submitted</li> <li>• Number of successful applications</li> <li>• Number of peer reviewed publications</li> <li>• Number of non- peer reviewed publications</li> </ul>

<p>Conduct high quality and policy relevant collaborative research in primary health care birthing</p>	<p>Undertake 2 partnership projects in primary health care birthing related issues with interested cohort members and partners including Faculty of Health Sciences Adelaide University and CRHaCD. Identify research questions, devise methodologies, apply for funding, and undertake research and research evaluation. One project is identified</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Evaluation of the regional family birthing program (Anangu Bibi) in Whyalla and Port Augusta</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of grant applications submitted</li> <li>• Number of successful applications</li> <li>• Number of peer reviewed publications</li> <li>• Number of non- peer reviewed publications</li> </ul>
<p>Conduct high quality and policy relevant collaborative research in community capacity building</p>	<p>Undertake 2 partnership projects with interested cohort members and partners including Faculty of Health Sciences Adelaide University and CRHaCD. Identify research questions, devise methodologies apply for funding and undertake research and research evaluation. One project is identified (funding dependent NHMRC EOI);</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What are the community capacities required for health development in Indigenous and non-Indigenous rural communities (health development is defined as primary health care, health promotion and primary prevention)?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of grant applications submitted</li> <li>• Number of successful applications</li> <li>• Number of peer reviewed publications</li> <li>• Number of non- peer reviewed publications</li> </ul>
<p>Conduct high quality and policy relevant collaborative research in chronic illness</p>	<p>Undertake 1 collaborative project in chronic illness with interested cohort members, RDP and partners including Faculty of Health Sciences Adelaide University and CRHaCD. Identify research questions, devise methodologies, apply for funding, and undertake research and research evaluation. One project is identified associated with the Centre for Metabolic Fitness (ATN funded).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of grant applications submitted</li> <li>• Number of successful applications</li> <li>• Number of peer reviewed publications</li> <li>• Number of non- peer reviewed publications</li> </ul>

## MEASURES

**Table 3: Number and range of grant applications for research<sup>#</sup> projects undertaken by early-mid career researchers supported under RCBI**

Full Project Title	RCBI activity level*	Funding body	Funding Amount	Project length in months	RCBI-supported researcher	Collaborators (RCBI staff and associates)	Collaborators (non-RCBI, include professions and/or organisations)	In kind support from health provider/service	Status(completed, successful, in process, short listed but failed, failed)

**Table 4: Number and type of research collaborations<sup>#</sup> involving early-mid level career researchers supported under RCBI**

Collaborators	Description of joint projects/activities/publications

## OBJECTIVE 3: TO DISSEMINATE AND FACILITATE THE UPTAKE OF EVIDENCE IN POLICY AND PRACTICE.

STRATEGIES	ACTIVITIES	INDICATORS
Pursue the uptake of research into policy regionally and nationally and help to inform health care practice and service delivery regionally	<p>Undertake research with the CRC Desert Knowledge to influence policy regarding community sustainability</p> <p>Provide policy advice based on evidence to regional health services and national organisations regarding community capacity building for health development</p> <p>Provide policy advice based on evidence to Aboriginal Health Council regarding indigenous capacity building</p>	<p>Number of presentations to health policy personnel</p> <p>Number of collaborations with regional health service personnel with a focus on uptake of evidence</p> <p>Number of working parties to implement changed practices/policies</p> <p>Number of papers published with explicit implications for health policy</p> <p>Number of regional, national and international conference presentations</p>

	<p>Provide policy advice based on evidence to regional health services and national organisations regarding primary mental health care</p> <p>Provide research forums in collaboration with the Centre for Rural Health and Community Development, the State Collaboration, the Aboriginal Health Council, and the Centre for Clinical Research Excellence in Aboriginal Health</p> <p>Present at regional, national, and international conferences in our topic areas</p> <p>Undertake research with collaborators who will use the findings in practice or policy.</p>	<p>Number of research collaborators from health services</p>
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