



Primary Health Care Research Evaluation & Development (PHCRED)

**PHCRED Collaboration
South Australia, Northern Territory & Greater Green Triangle**

Business Plan 2007

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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:

- n a larger number of Departments and individuals to provide the energy and drive needed to develop and implement programs and activities
- n to a greater diversity in the expertise and interests of both Departments and individuals across the Collaboration
- n a larger geographical area which provides greater coverage of and exposure to the needs and experiences of rural health practitioners and consumers
- n 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 the budget allocation of \$111,500 for 2007.

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 from health, education, government and NGOs.

2. Main Collaborative Activities for 2007

The main state collaborative events/activities for 2007 will be...

- Integrate and synthesise the expertise available across the collaboration, in order to develop, coordinate and deliver a comprehensive introductory short research methods course in PHC for RDP fellows, primary health post-graduate students, GP registrars, and RCBI bursary holders across the collaboration (March/April 2007).
- Promote, facilitate broker and deliver capacity building workshops/programs for Divisions of General Practice staff, primary and allied health professionals, health policy officers, consumers and Indigenous and non-Indigenous primary health researchers across the jurisdiction of the Collaboration. This will include targeting 'in-house' training to practices and appropriate NGOs.
- Identify and establish internet linkages to appropriate research and evaluation modules/courses across the collaboration and elsewhere for potential uptake by RDP fellows, primary health post-graduate students, GP registrars, and RCBI bursary holders across the collaboration.
- Develop and implement strategies for promoting PHCRED and disseminating information about PHCRED activities: e.g. Stronger linkages to PHCRIS, on-going collaborative web-site development, mail alerts through networks, media release, linkages to appropriate organizations (AES, RACGP, GP Collaboratives), branding of presentations and papers at suitable conferences.
- 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 forum event which engages PHC policy and practice stakeholders, showcases and informs the policy and practice focussed research of the collaboration, provides opportunities for new researchers to present, network and engage with experienced researchers and past supported researchers across the collaboration.

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 2007:

- i. Tuesday January 23rd
- ii. Tuesday March 20th
- iii. Tuesday June 26th
- iv. Tuesday September 25th

In addition a State-Wide Coordination Committee will be established consisting of PHCRED directors and the State-Wide Coordinator to oversee collaborative activities across the partnership. The first meeting of this group will be in January 2007.

3. Collaboration Plan...

<p>1. To increase the pool of researchers in primary Health Care and support the sustainable advancement of research careers</p>	<p>1.1 Integrate and synthesise the expertise available across the collaboration, in order to develop, coordinate and deliver a relevant introductory short research methods in PHC course targeting RDP fellows, primary health post-graduate students, GP registrars, and RCBI bursary holders across the collaboration</p>	<p>Identify areas of appropriate expertise and specific staff within the collaboration who are available to develop and deliver training</p> <p>Compile an inclusive and comprehensive short course program in research methods for primary health care (including Indigenous health research) which meet identified needs across the jurisdiction of the collaboration and specifies contributions to delivery from across the partnership.</p> <p>Deliver a timely short course to RCBI clients and RDP fellows from across the partnership and other PHC identified practitioners/researchers where appropriate (March/April 2007)</p> <p>Conduct a formative evaluation of the course for on-going improvement and an impact evaluation for reporting purposes</p>	<p>Compilation of comprehensive and inclusive short course program of capacity building training activities covering research methods and issues in PHC</p> <p>RDP fellows, bursary holders and other attendees acquire greater research capacity pertinent to their specific research projects which are subsequently enhanced.</p>	<p>Production of short course program; methods covered and modes of delivery employed</p> <p>Number and range of PHC novice and mid-level researchers attending</p> <p>Attendees report capacity building benefits and benefits to their research projects</p>	<p>Document Review</p> <p>Self-Completion evaluation questionnaires</p>
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Objective	Collaborative Strategies	Activities	Outcomes	Outcome indicators	Data Source
	<p>1.2 Promote, facilitate broker and deliver capacity building workshops/programs for Divisions of General Practice staff, primary and allied health professionals, health policy officers, consumers and Indigenous and non-Indigenous primary health researchers across the jurisdiction of the Collaboration. This will include targeting ‘in-house’ training to practices and appropriate NGOs.</p>	<p>Facilitate and broker the provision of research capacity building activities by Collaboration members to other areas in the Collaboration</p> <p>Liaise with divisions of general practice appropriate NGOs and allied health agencies to identify education and training needs and gaps across the sector which might be addressed through the collaboration</p> <p>Compile a series of workshops which could be delivered through collaboration partners to divisions and allied health agencies and organisations if requested</p> <p>Promote workshops through networks and media channels</p> <p>Apply standardised evaluation instrument to workshops; data to be analysed centrally and presented as part of reporting to the Commonwealth</p>	<p>Series of workshop activities is compiled and delivered which meet needs identified across the collaboration constituency</p> <p>PHC and allied health practitioners acquire greater research capacity and plan to apply this in professional practice</p>	<p>Scope of activities and areas covered</p> <p>Number/nature of attendees accessing workshop training (profession/ Indigenous / organisation)</p> <p>Attendees report capacity building benefits of attending and plan to incorporate learning in research activities</p>	<p>Document Review</p> <p>Self-Completion evaluation questionnaires</p>

Objective	Collaborative Strategies	Activities	Outcomes	Outcome indicators	Data Source
	<p>1.3 Identify and establish internet linkages to appropriate research and evaluation modules/courses across the collaboration and elsewhere for potential uptake by RDP fellows, primary health post-graduate students, GP registrars, and RCBI bursary holders across the collaboration.</p> <p>1.4 Link novice and mid-career researchers with collaborative research activities (see below).</p>	<p>On-going scoping of web based courses/modules</p> <p>Liaise with PHCRIS, PHCRED partners and inter-state collaborations to further identify suitable modules and avoid duplication</p> <p>Maintain and up-date collaboration web-site with information about linked modules and courses</p> <p>Produce hard copy of available modules and courses to be given to bursary holders / RDP fellows on taking up support.</p> <p>Monitor uptake of web-based courses/modules</p> <p>Partners to identify appropriate researchers to be linked into collaborative research team(s) – see below:</p>	<p>A range of appropriate web based modules and courses is identified and linked to the PHCRED collaboration web-site</p> <p>A list of suitable courses is compiled and distributed to bursary holders and RDP fellows through PHCRED coordinators across the collaboration</p> <p>RDP fellows and bursary holders access web-based courses and benefit from their use</p> <p>Novice and mid-career researchers participate in research teams and benefit from engagement in broad PHC research activities</p>	<p>Number of courses/modules identified and linked to PHCRED collaboration web-site; range of areas addressed</p> <p>Extent of distribution of program of available web-base resources</p> <p>Extent to which courses are accessed, utilised and benefits acquired</p> <p>Number of novice and mid career researchers engaged in broader research activities</p>	<p>Document Review</p> <p>PHCRED Coordinator feedback</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>2.1 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 (e.g. Chronic Illness, Aboriginal Health, Heart Disease)</p>	<p>Building on 2006, explore common research interests and complimenting expertise to identify potential collaborative research project themes</p> <p>Engage range of suitable agents (e.g. policy advisers, consumers, practitioners, Aboriginal services, administrators and other researchers) in a Collaborative Working Group(s)</p> <p>Coordinate Collaborative Working Group research team(s) around chosen area(s) to develop research proposals and implement research activity</p> <p>Conduct collaborative research project(s) of optimal relevance to practice and policy which engage novice/mid career researchers</p> <p>Disseminate findings which promote PHCRED (see 3.2)</p>	<p>Research themes agreed and endorsed throughout partnership.</p> <p>Range of stakeholders engaged in collaborative research activity</p> <p>Range of stakeholders identified and engaged in Working Group research team(s) which develop and submit policy and practice relevant research proposals</p> <p>Research activity across partnership is agreed and conducted</p> <p>Reports / presentations publications / other media produced</p>	<p>At least one inclusive Research Working Group established</p> <p>Range of stakeholders engaged with PHCRED partnership to inform development of appropriate research proposals</p> <p>At least one successful collaborative Research grant secured</p> <p>Number of research projects being conducted / completed</p> <p>Number of peer reviewed / and other publications / presentations produced</p>	<p>Document review detailing:</p> <p>Stakeholder agencies and research proposal</p> <p>Details of tender(s) submitted and funding secured</p> <p>Details of research conducted and reports produced</p>
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Objective	Collaborative Strategies	Activities	Outcomes	Outcome indicators	Data Source
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3. To Disseminate and Facilitate the uptake of Evidence in Policy and Practice	3.1 Hold a PHCRED forum event which: i. engages PHC policy and practice stakeholders, ii. showcases and informs the policy and practice focussed research of the collaboration, iii. provides opportunities for new researchers to present, network and engage with experienced researchers and past supported researchers across the collaboration.	Working with appropriate policy and practice organisations and through the PHCRED Tri State-wide Committee, plan and facilitate a two-day PHCRED collaboration forum to be held in the last quarter of 2006 Forum to focus on policy, practice and evidence to facilitate dissemination of research findings (including those from collaborative research teams) and promote forum discussions with policy makers Forum to provide opportunities for novice PHC researchers to present and network with experienced PHC researchers	Forum is comprehensive and inclusive of broad contributions across the collaboration (including Indigenous researchers) Forum employs a broad variety of activities, presentations and opportunities for networking Forum is attended across policy, practice, research fields; attendees' satisfaction with program content, timing, delivery, venue, quality and usefulness	Evidence of policy and practice themes and areas addressed through forum program Range of approaches used Details of activities, papers presented and attendance documented Participants view contribution to event as beneficial. Attendees value and have benefited from attending.	Document review
					Evaluation questionnaire
					Document

Objective	Collaborative Strategies	Activities	Outcomes	Outcome indicators	Data Source
	3.2 Develop and implement strategies for promoting PHCRED and disseminating information about PHCRED activities:	<p>Update and modify State-wide Collaboration PHCRED website</p> <p>Promote forum event and collaborative activities through networks (including SADI, Aboriginal Health bodies), other relevant channels (including PHCRIS, SARnet) and the collaboration website</p> <p>Promote collaboration activities, information and resources through linkages to appropriate organizations (AES, RACGP, GP Collaboratives, NGOs)</p> <p>Disseminate collaboration activities and information through contributions to GP Infonet, presentations, conferences (including GP&PHC Conference) workshops and media releases</p>	<p>Website regularly updated with relevant information and resources</p> <p>Collaborative activities and forum are promoted and published on the Collaboration web-site and reported on through established networks and media channels</p> <p>Linkages are made to appropriate bodies through membership of established committees to promote PHCRED and through recruitment to Tri State-wide Committee</p> <p>Messages promulgated through existing channels</p>	<p>Nature of improvements made across the website</p> <p>Networks and channels employed to disseminate PHCRED information and messages</p> <p>Number and nature of linkages established to appropriate agencies and organisations</p> <p>Extent of membership of Collaboration Committee; agencies represented across the sector</p> <p>Number and nature of media releases, presentations, publications</p>	review

Budget¹

Item	Commitment
State-wide Coordinator Position: - Lecturer level B – step 6 (Including 30% on-costs)	\$100,350
Staff Development	\$1,000
Conference/Seminar Travel, Accom & Reg	\$2,000
Travel other	\$1,000
Catering	\$1,000
Consumables / Stationery	\$1,000
Telecommunication	\$1,150
Venue Hire	\$2,000
Desk top publishing	\$2,000
Total	\$111,500

¹ Breakdown of cost items follow the guidelines provided by the Department of Health and Ageing