

**Primary Health Care Research,
Evaluation & Development
Strategy**



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RESEARCH CAPACITY BUILDING INITIATIVE – 2007 BUSINESS PLAN
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INTRODUCTION

The Department of General Practice, Flinders University, receives funding under the Research Capacity Building Initiative of the 2006-2009 Primary Health Care Research, Evaluation & Development Strategy (PHCRED) in order to build research capacity in primary health care.

The 2007 PHCRED Business Plan reflects the achievements of our program since 2000. The RDP will continue to be a major focus of PHCRED activities in the Department of General Practice, Flinders University as will the educational and research activities that we can provide. In addition, as recommended for Phase 2 of the program, we are focusing on developing an **expanded pool of primary care researchers**.

A key strategy for achieving this objective is through the creation of a position (0.7FTE) specifically for the purpose of developing research grants and funding proposals for PHC research. This will enable PHCRED sponsored early-mid career researchers to be included in a larger number of grant proposals and research projects (which will be targeted to the National Health Priority Areas) and also to receive assistance towards writing their own grant proposals. The results from this activity should become apparent in 2008 and provide opportunities for early-mid career researchers to gain experience through participation in research projects with senior researchers.

We have defined our PHCRED research plan in the following business plan. For each objective, there are several strategies for focusing activity during 2007. Detailed performance indicators and budget requirements are described. This Business Plan reflects progress towards the overall PHCRED Strategy goals and specific RCBI objectives for the Department. The plan builds upon activities of earlier years by continuing to further develop our SARnet research network, enhancing existing partnerships and collaborations with key clinical stakeholders and by providing continued access to research training courses developed by us through the University.

The following table illustrates:

- a) objectives and strategies against each of the PHCRED Strategy goals
- b) activities planned for 2007
- c) associated performance indicators
- d) linkages with PHCRED 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 PHCRED Strategy - an expanded pool of primary health care researchers

| STRATEGIES | ACTIVITIES | INDICATORS |
|---|---|--|
| Create opportunities for early-mid career researchers to undertake a program of research training and mentored research | Provide two 0.5 FTE Research Development Program (RDP) placements. Each placement will receive high levels of support (supervision and mentoring) and access to the infrastructure (computers etc) to complete their research | Appointment of and successful completion of two PHCRED RDP placements |
| Improve the research skills of early-mid career researchers through the provision of research training and support | Offer 2 writing grants at \$1,000 each | Completion of piece of writing to publication standard |
| | Provide mentoring opportunities for early mid career researchers to established researchers with strong methodological skills | Number of PHCRED researchers mentored and the qualifications and experience of staff providing the mentoring |
| | Provide selected early-mid career researchers access to the Flinders on-line clinical research course (MMED 8901 Clinical Research Methods) | Number of PHCRED researchers completing research courses |
| | Provide weekly departmental research seminars | List attendances and presentations at weekly research meetings |
| | Further develop and improve the department's PHCRED website | Upgrade to department's PHCRED website completed |

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 PHCRED Strategy - More research relevant to primary health care policy and practice.

| STRATEGIES | ACTIVITIES | INDICATORS |
|--|---|--|
| Foster new research in areas relevant to PHC | <p>Award two scholarships (\$10,000 each) to PHC practitioners or PHC organisations with the aim of developing their research capacity and experience</p> <p>Include PHCRED sponsored early-mid career researchers in grant proposals and unfunded research projects targeted to the National Health Priority Areas initiated in the department</p> <p>Encourage and mentor early-mid career researcher(s) in writing own grant proposal (targeted to the National Health Priority Areas) if this individual is ready to undertake this task.</p> | <p>Completion of pilot research projects. Conference presentations and peer reviewed research papers.</p> <p>Number of PHCRED sponsored researchers included in grant proposals</p> <p>Number of grant proposals written by PHCRED researchers</p> |
| Research bursaries | Award two bursaries at \$5,000 each | Reports on activities. Conference presentations and peer reviewed research papers |

