

# Primary Health Care Research, Evaluation & Development (PHCRED) Strategy



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

## RESEARCH CAPACITY BUILDING INITIATIVE – 2007 BUSINESS PLAN

## INTRODUCTION

The Spencer Gulf Rural Health School combines the university department of rural health and the rural clinical school and Professor Jonathan Newbury is the Head of School. It is jointly administered by the University of Adelaide and the University of SA. Associate Professor Gary Misan is the Head of Research and Associate Professor Dee Whitford is the Head of Teaching and Learning. In 2007 the PHC\_RED will be within the research portfolio and directed by Judy Taylor, a Senior Research Fellow, with Sonia Champion as Coordinator and Christine Franks Indigenous Research Fellow (Primary Health Care). Our geographic area remains constant; west to the WA border north to the NT border the Eyre Peninsula, Yorke Peninsula, and the Mid North of SA. Those who access our program are involved in primary health care and community-health development including:<sup>1</sup>

- General Practitioners and Divisions of General Practice;
- Aboriginal communities, organisations and individuals;
- Nurses, allied health practitioners, health managers, health planners, community-based psychiatrists, and
- Community residents.

We have consolidated relationships with early/mid career researchers and policy makers in our region and look to extend these in 2007. We have also partnerships with the Faculty of Health Sciences Adelaide University, the Division of Health Sciences UniSA, and the Centre for Rural Health and Community Development (CRHaCD). Our 4 year focus has enabled bursary holders to plan for research and research training into 2007 and beyond. 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 2007 we will continue research capacity building, undertaking policy relevant research, and research dissemination. Our bursary scheme will continue with our bursary holders undertaking a second year of research training or research, and work will continue on Indigenous Research Methodologies course in association with the Aboriginal Health Council SA and the Centre for Clinical Research Excellence in Aboriginal health. Our expertise in conducting policy relevant community-based mental health research is acknowledged by Country Health SA and the Rural and Remote Mental Health Service and there are collaborative research opportunities in 2007. We will provide seminars for primary care practitioners and managers providing the evidence on topics that they request. At the end of 2007 the research-based text book *Working with communities in health and human services* will be published by Oxford University Press. This book includes a section on the RCBI

The following table illustrates:

- Objectives and strategies against each of the PHC RED Strategy goals
- Activities planned for 2007
- Associated performance indicators
- Linkages with PHC RED Strategic Plan objectives.

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<sup>1</sup> Community health development is to collaboratively identify health issues and implement strategies to address those issues with communities involving early intervention, primary health care, health promotion, and planning.

**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>2</sup> in PHC<sup>3</sup></b></p>	<p><i>Non-Indigenous RCB<sup>4</sup> cohort activities in 2007</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Offer to extent successful 2006 bursary holders (2)</li> <li>• Advertise bursaries strategically to those GPs, Divisions of GP, psychiatrists, nurses, allied health professionals, managers and consumers in SGRHS region.</li> <li>• Select new participants</li> <li>• Devise RCB (research capacity building) plan for each participant (including required resources)</li> <li>• Build pathways into honours, masters and PhDs where possible</li> <li>• Match participant with formal research skill training</li> <li>• Match participant with research opportunities if appropriate</li> <li>• Provide research career mentoring</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of conference presentations</li> <li>• Number of non-peer reviewed publications</li> <li>• Number of peer reviewed publications</li> <li>• Number enquiries re formal research training</li> <li>• Number enrolled in formal research training</li> <li>• Number active in research</li> <li>• Number of mentoring sessions</li> </ul>

<sup>2</sup> Research refers to research evaluation and research

<sup>3</sup> PHC = Primary Health Care

<sup>4</sup> RCB = Research Capacity Building

	<p><i>Indigenous RCB cohort activities in 2006</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Offer to extend successful 2006 bursary holders (4).</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 research career mentoring</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of conference presentations.</li> <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 of enquires about formal research training</li> <li>• Number active in research</li> <li>• Number of mentoring sessions</li> </ul>
<b>Support the SA/NT/GGT Collaboration</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Attend Collaboration meetings</li> <li>• Help facilitate Collaboration events</li> <li>• Contribute to Collaboration training in case study design and Participatory Action Research</li> <li>• Contribute to the TriState Collaborative event</li> <li>• Collaborate in 1 research submission</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Minutes of 4 Collaboration meetings noting SGRHS contribution</li> <li>• 1 Collaborative research grant submitted</li> <li>• Number of research presentations at the collaborative event from SGRHS</li> <li>• Number of SGRHS research training sessions</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 07-08</li> <li>• One peer reviewed publication submitted</li> <li>• One conference presentation/poster delivered</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 planning sessions</li> <li>• Course content complete</li> <li>• SGRHS student supervision hours</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In collaboration with JCU, CSIRO, CDU, MICRRH, Whyalla Campus market and run components of '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 07-08</li> <li>Number of times course components used by SGRHS</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 Indigenous research methodologies case study design, and PAR</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>5</sup>	FTE	Explanatory text (aim of support) eg grant writing, applying for higher degree, etc
					Supervision, formal informal training		Applying for higher degree, grant writing, career mentoring,
					Collaborative research		Collaborative research, mentoring, publishing, ARC Linkage grant application

**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**

<sup>5</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

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>6</sup>	FTE	Explanatory text (aim of support) eg grant writing, applying for higher degree, etc
					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

**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 community health development	<p>Undertake 2 projects in community health development (mental health and community participation focus) with interested cohort members, and partners including Faculty of Health Sciences Adelaide University, Centre for Rural Health and Community Development (CRHaCD) SA State Health, SADI, James Cook University PHC_RED program</p> <p>Submit ARC linkage grant application in May 2007 on community participation with Country Health SA</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1 ARC Linkage Grant application submitted</li> <li>• Number of conference presentations</li> <li>• Number of peer reviewed publications</li> <li>• Number of non- peer reviewed publications</li> <li>• Number of other funding applications</li> </ul>
Conduct high quality and policy relevant collaborative research in primary health care birthing	Participate in a NHMRC funded project 2007-2009 to investigate the views and experiences of Aboriginal women using mainstream maternity services in collaboration with Latrobe University.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Indigenous researcher employed</li> <li>• Number of conference presentations</li> <li>• Number of peer reviewed publications</li> <li>• Number of non- peer reviewed publications</li> </ul>
Conduct high quality and policy relevant collaborative research in Indigenous health	<p>Undertake 1 project in partnership with Tri-State Collaboration. A systematic review of integrated health care approaches for Aboriginal health – policy orientated research (funding dependent)</p> <p>Contribute to a project with Menzies School of Health – chronic illness and depression</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Grant application submitted</li> <li>• Funding achieved</li> <li>• 1 peer reviewed publication</li> <li>• 1 conference presentation</li> <li>• Number of research meetings re research design</li> </ul>

**MEASURES**

**Table 3: Number and range of grant applications for research# 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# 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.**

<b>STRATEGIES</b>	<b>ACTIVITIES</b>	<b>INDICATORS</b>
<p>Pursue the uptake of research into policy regionally and nationally and help to inform health care practice and service delivery regionally</p>	<p>Provide 3 seminars by video-conference in 2007</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What is EBP</li> <li>• 2 topics requested by health managers/practitioners regional health organisations regarding application of evidence to practice</li> </ul> <p>Provide policy advice based on evidence to regional health services and national organisations regarding primary health care through presentations, publications, networking, and working parties</p> <p>Present at regional, national, and international conferences in our topic areas</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>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of presentations to health policy personnel</li> <li>• Number of attendees</li>   <li>• Number of papers published with explicit implications for health policy</li> <li>• Number of research collaborators from health services</li> <li>• Number of working parties to implement changed practices/policies</li> <li>• Number of collaborations with regional health service personnel with a focus on uptake of evidence</li>   <li>• Number of regional, national and international conference presentations</li>   <li>• Number of research forums</li> </ul>