



## 2009 BUSINESS PLAN

Submitted to the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing, April 2009

## INTRODUCTION

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 2009, 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 these aims.

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 PHCRED 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:

- a larger number of Departments and individuals to provide the energy and drive needed to develop and implement programs and activities
- a greater diversity in the expertise and interests of both Departments and individuals across the Collaboration
- a larger geographical area which provides greater coverage of and exposure to the needs and experiences of rural health practitioners and consumers
- 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 **\$188,842.50 for 2009. The 2009 Business Plan also includes activities to cover the additional roll over Tri State funds of \$76,512.60.**

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.

To achieve the RCBI objectives, the following state collaborative activities have been planned for 2009:

- Integrate and synthesise the expertise available across the collaboration. Hold an Annual Tri State Conference to engage PHC Researchers as well as stakeholders in PHC policy and practice. The Conference showcases PHC Research, informs the policy and practice focus of the collaboration. It provides opportunities for new researchers to present, network and engage with experienced researchers and previously supported researchers across the collaboration.
- 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 may 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 PHC RIS, on-going collaborative web-site development, mail alerts through networks, linkages to appropriate organisations (AES, RACGP, GP Collaboratives), branding of presentations and papers at suitable conferences.

The associated performance indicators for these activities and how these activities reflect the PHCRED Strategy goals and objectives are outlined in the following table.

To facilitate these activities and the general coordination and communication within the state collaboration, regular state meetings and teleconferences will be held. Four provisional meeting dates have been agreed for 2009:

- i. Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> February (held)
- ii. Friday 1<sup>st</sup> May
- iii. Friday 7<sup>th</sup> August
- iv. Friday 6<sup>th</sup> November

**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

COLLABORATIVE STRATEGIES	ACTIVITIES	INDICATORS
<p><b>1.1</b>  <b>Conduct a Tri State Annual Conference (September 24-25) in Alice Springs providing opportunity for show casing of primary health care research.</b></p>	<p>Feature key speakers in Primary Health Care Research: Professor John Wakerman and Professor Lesley Barklay</p>	<p>Number and range of PHC novice and mid-level researchers attending and presenting. Attendees report capacity building benefits and benefits to their research projects.</p>
	<p>Invite Divisions of General Practice staff and Government policy makers and engage local PHC organizations</p>	<p>Good participation by GP Divisions staff, Government agencies and health care sector. The Conference is attended across policy, practice, and research fields.</p>
	<p>Conduct pre conference work shop on PHC Research Evaluation</p>	<p>Workshop is well attended and evaluation show positive outcomes.</p>
	<p>Presentation of RDP projects, capacity building and collegiate exchange</p>	<p>Number of presentations and quality of discussion of policy and practice themes addressed.</p> <p>Program papers are listed as a resource on the Tri State Web Site</p>
	<p>Conduct an evaluation of the Conference</p>	<p>Participants view contribution to event as beneficial (evaluation questionnaire tracks attendees' satisfaction program content, timing, delivery, venue, quality and usefulness)</p>

COLLABORATIVE STRATEGIES	ACTIVITIES	INDICATORS
<b>1.2</b> <b>Build capacity and skills of primary health care researchers in the Tri State program</b>	Host joint skill building workshops for primary health care researchers based on the identification of where the gaps are. ( Questionnaire carried out in March 09)	Nature of workshops Number of people attending, feed back from the work shop evaluation of quality of content and delivery.
<b>1.3</b> <b>Facilitate PHC researchers to attend National conferences and present at suitable forums</b>	Sponsor 5 RCBI researchers to attend the Australasian Evaluation Society Conference in Canberra in August 2009  Facilitate attendances at other conferences to be determined for example GP& PHC Research Conference 2009	Improved access to skilled evaluators in primary health care
<b>1.4</b> <b>Host International experts to work with the Tri State collaboration</b>	Host a visit by Professor Frank Sullivan Director Scottish School of Primary Care University of Dundee to Adelaide on July 24 2009. Hold a seminar event promoted to key primary health stakeholders and partners in the Tri State collaboration.  Host a workshop series by Professor Barry Weiss from the US .Workshops to be held in NT, SA and the Greater Green Triangle. Focus will be in intensives with PHC researchers	Number of participants and range of stakeholders represented. Advances in learning for PHC researchers.  Increase profile for PHCRED and media
<b>1.5</b> <b>Facilitate and broker the provision of research capacity building activities by Collaboration members to other areas in the Collaboration.</b>	Identify areas of appropriate expertise and specific staff within the collaboration who are available to develop and deliver training and establish a Register on the new Tri State website	Number of PHC Researchers participating in the register and activities organized by the Tri State Program.

COLLABORATIVE STRATEGIES	ACTIVITIES	INDICATORS
<p><b>1.5 Continued....</b>  <b>Facilitate and broker the provision of research capacity building activities by Collaboration members to other areas in the Collaboration.</b></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 collaboration.</p> <p>Develop training program for implementation in 2010</p>	<p>Level of attendance and participation, follow up of identified issues for action.</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 PHCRED Strategy - More research relevant to primary health care policy and practice.

COLLABORATIVE STRATEGIES	ACTIVITIES	INDICATORS
<p><b>2.1</b>  <b>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)</b></p>	<p>Hold a stakeholders networking event for PHC Researchers, State and Federal Government Health Departments and Division of General Practice. Focussing on strategic issues.</p> <p>Support the development of collaborative research projects identified by the PHCRED partners and assist in linking these projects to appropriate policy advisers, consumers, practitioners, administrators and other researchers.</p> <p>Encourage participation in ROAR through promotion</p> <p>Encourage participation in National RDP survey</p>	<p>Number of organizations participating in the networking event. Nature and number of partnerships and initiatives evolving from these activities</p> <p>The support provided to collaborative research projects identified by the PHCRED partners.</p> <p>Increased participation in ROAR by Tri State researchers.</p>

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

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

<b>COLLABORATIVE STRATEGIES</b>	<b>ACTIVITIES</b>	<b>INDICATORS</b>
<p><b>3.1</b>  <b>Develop and implement strategies for promoting, PHCRED and disseminating information about PHCRED activities</b></p>	<p>Implement a significant up date of the Tri State Web Site in 2009</p> <p>Update SA Research Network (SARNet) web-sites and equivalent networks in each State</p> <p>Disseminate collaboration activities and information through contributions to PHC RIS Infonet, presentations, conferences (including GP&amp;PHC Research Conference) workshops and media releases</p>	<p>Nature of improvements made across the website</p> <p>Number of hits recorded on web site and on line surveys.</p> <p>Number of bulletins, communiqués and information materials disseminated by the Tri State network.</p>
<p><b>3.2</b>  <b>Collaborate with PHCRED on a national basis</b></p>	<p>Hold meetings with other State wide co ordinators on a regular basis</p> <p>Share resources and learnings from PHCRED program on a National basis</p>	<p>Number of meetings held during the year</p> <p>Evidence of joint collaboration by State-wide Co ordinators on submissions and activities.</p>

**END**