



2010 BUSINESS PLAN

Submitted to the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing, November 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 **\$122,000 for 2010. The 2010 Business Plan also includes additional activities to cover a roll over Tri State funds of \$45,000** (in addition to the carrier over of \$10,000)

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 2010:

- i. Thurs 18th Feb
- ii. Thurs 6th May
- iii. Thurs 8th July
- iv. Thurs 2nd Nov

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

* Activities donated in blue are additional activities which would be funded from the \$45,000 requested roll over.

COLLABORATIVE STRATEGIES	ACTIVITIES	INDICATORS
<p>1.1 Encourage PHC Research sector development by: building capacity, providing opportunity for professional development and opportunities for exchange with the health sector.</p> <p>Promote career pathways in PHC.</p>	<p>Conference Conduct a 2 day Tri State Annual Conference (September 2010) providing opportunity for showcasing of primary health care research. Feature key speakers in Primary Health Care Research and provide opportunity for RDP's to present capacity building and collegiate exchange.</p> <p><i>RDP Skill building workshop to be held during the Conference</i></p> <p>Visiting experts Program Organization of site visits and workshops by National and International experts in PHC Research. Linking in with APHRI & peak health organizations.</p>	<p>Level of engagement by RDP's, GP networks, agencies, Government policy officers and health care sector.</p> <p>Conference is attended across policy, practice, and research fields.</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>\$35,000</p> <p><i>Workshop is well attended RDP's report on learnings and skills acquired. \$5,000 additional activities</i></p> <p><i>Number of workshops and seminars, attendance at sessions. On going links established with visiting academics.</i></p> <p><i>\$11,000 additional activities</i></p>

COLLABORATIVE STRATEGIES	ACTIVITIES	INDICATORS
<p>1.2 Build capacity and skills of primary health care researchers in the Tri State program</p>	<p>Workshops Host joint skill building workshops for primary health care researchers based on the identification of where the gaps are.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Career Pathways (Feb 10) o Grant writing o Critical analysis <p>Informed by (Questionnaire carried out in March 09)</p>	<p>Number of people attending, feed back from the work shop evaluation on quality of content and delivery.</p> <p>\$3,000 <i>\$5,000 extension of workshop program- additional activity</i></p>
<p>1.3 Increase awareness of PH RED Program and resources amongst PHC Researchers and PHC Community</p>	<p>Communication Production of promotional items: 2010 Calendar, folders for use at workshops and events . Continued development of the Tri State Web Site.</p> <p>Extension of SARNet to include the NT and GGT more effectively</p>	<p>Increases hits on the Tri State Web Site.</p> <p>Increased attendance at Tri State events</p> <p>Improved awareness among PHC researchers, Health practitioners and policy makers about what PHC RED does</p> <p>Increased membership from NT & GGT</p> <p>Increased participation in ROAR by Tri State researchers.</p> <p><i>\$4,000 additional activities</i></p>
<p>1.4 Build resources for PHC Researchers</p>	<p>Resources Develop a multi media resource kit for use by new RDP's (available on line)</p> <p>Maintain Training Register on Tri State Site</p>	<p>Level of up take and use of resources- Feedback from evaluation</p> <p><i>\$15,000 (Writing, production, distribution)additional activities</i></p> <p>Number of referrals and training opportunities delivered</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>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>Research to Practice ‘ Forum Following on the successful Networking Forum held June 2009 (*see evaluation). Hold a ‘<i>Research to Practice</i>’ Forum in May for policy makers, health practitioners and PHC researchers. Focussing on strategic issues.</p> <p>Tri State Planning Day The 5 PHCRED Programs collaborate in a regional Tri State plan.</p>	<p>Outcomes from working groups – projects arising. Nature and number of partnerships with health care services and organizations and initiatives arising for 2010 and beyond</p> <p><i>\$5,000 additional activities</i></p> <p>Level of collaboration and development of an agreed Strategy for Tri State PHCRED Programs</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

COLLABORATIVE STRATEGIES	ACTIVITIES	INDICATORS
<p>3.1 Develop and implement strategies for promoting PHCRED and disseminating information about PHCRED activities</p>	<p>Continue to use the Tri State Web site to promote information about the outcomes from PHCRED programs. Post up to date information, promote discussion sites and work on policy.</p> <p>Update SA Research Network (SARNet) web-site and equivalent networks in each State</p> <p>Disseminate information and promote collaboration through contributions to PHC RIS Bulletins, the Infonet, Conferences (including GP&PHC Research Conference) workshops and media releases</p>	<p>Increased awareness of what PHCRED programs have achieved Number of hits recorded on web site and on line surveys.</p> <p>Level of interaction and debate</p> <p>Increased level of collaboration evidenced in place</p> <p>Number of bulletins, communiqués and information materials disseminated by the Tri State network.</p> <p>\$ IT Costs only- part of Admin budget</p>
<p>3.2 Collaborate with PHCRED on a national basis</p>	<p>Participate and contribute to collaboration between SWC's .</p> <p>Share resources and learning's from PHCRED program on a National basis</p>	<p>Number of meetings held during the year, teleconference and in person</p> <p>Attendance and promotion of Tri State at other State wide conferences and events where possible</p> <p>Evidence of work on joint Submissions and activities.</p>

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