

**Greater Green Triangle  
University Department of Rural Health  
(Greater Health)  
*Primary Health Care  
Research Evaluation & Development  
(PHC RED)  
Program  
2004-2006***

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# Delivering a PHCRED program in a rural and regional area across two states

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# Presentation Overview

- Pre GGT PHCRED Program
- GGT PHC RED Program Overview
  - Engaging practitioners and consumers to build research capacity by undertaking research
  - Supporting practitioners and consumers to build research capacity by undertaking research
  - Building individual and team research capacity through participation in the large scale projects of Senior researchers
  - Fostering a PHC research culture

# Greater Green Triangle



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# Greater Green Triangle

- “Accessible” to “moderately accessible” — Accessibility Remoteness Index of Australia Classifications.
- Increasing coastal population\*
- Decreasing inland population\*
- Population is largely anglo-celtic, Australian-born. There is a small, but growing, overseas-born population\*
- Trend is for families and retirees to move to the region, and for young adults to leave\*
- Warrnambool: fastest growing Victorian regional centre (2004)\*

*\*Source: 2004 - ABS Cat. No.3235.4.55.001*

# Hospitals and health services GGT Victoria



# Hospitals and health services GGT South Australia



# Pre GGT PHCRED Program

- 2004 Report:

*“Proposal for a community development approach to Health Services Research in the Greater Green Triangle”*

Associate Professor Liz Farmer & Dr Karin Ried

## Identified:

- Research interested organisations and individuals
- Potential for collaborations and associations between broader HSR initiatives and PHC research capacity building
- Enabling factors to support PHCRED program
- Infrastructure to support PHCRED program

- PHCRED funding received July 2004

# GGT PHC RED Program

- **Current Staff 2006:**

- Program Manager (0.4 FTE)
- Program Coordinator (1.0 FTE)
- Research Development Position (1.0 FTE)
- Administration Assistant (0.4 FTE)

- **Current objectives:**

- Increase the pool of primary health care researchers
- Support early-mid career researchers to undertake more high quality PHC research relevant to policy and practice
- Disseminate and facilitate the uptake of evidence in policy and practice

# PHCRED Bursaries 2004 to 2006

- Building the research capacity of early to mid career researchers, which includes practitioners and consumers
- Provide funding of \$2,500 or \$5,000 to individuals or pairs to undertake research
- Provide funding of \$20,000 to general practice teams to undertake research

# Number of Bursary Holders

2004	3
2005	10 (includes 3 teams)
2006	7 (number not complete)

# Distribution of bursary holders



# Bursary Holder's Backgrounds

Physiotherapist	1
Software engineer	1
Medical student	1
Mental health:	
Project officer	1
Primary mental health team manager, team bursary	1
Health promotion officer (nurse)	1
Health project worker	2
Psychologist	2
Teacher/Assistant principal	2
Dietitian	3
General Practitioners	
Individual bursaries	3
General practice team bursaries	2

# Bursary Holder's Backgrounds

- Wide range of previous research experience:
  - Novice to Post doctoral

# Bursary Holder's new directions

Maintaining research activities	7 current 2006 9 continuing
Enrolled in or undertaking new post graduate study	4
Dissemination:	
Posters at international congress	1
Posters at national conference	4
Conference presentations	9

# Engaging bursary holders

- Entire GH team involved in 'recruitment'
  - Team includes GPs, allied health, project workers. Therefore a wide range of community contacts
- Advertising widely through individual and organisation contacts
- Funding support to protect research time
- Offering affiliation and contact with academic peers pre-bursary

# Supporting bursary holders

- Provide supervision
- Provide mentoring
- Provide training
- Provide funding
- National research networks, Eg YHRIG
- Relies on collaborations with other organisations. Such as:
  - Flinders Department of General Practice
  - other PHCRED colleagues
  - Flinders Rural Clinical School
- Travel

# PHC RED Supervision & Mentoring

- Supervision provides training and capacity building specific to each bursary holder
- Supervision is provided by Greater Health senior research staff, PHCRED Coordinator, collaborations,
- Advisors
- Bursary holders that can be supervised are selected
- Mentoring by PHCRED Coordinator:
  - Ensure regular supervision meetings
  - Ensure project size remains manageable
  - Appropriate training opportunities
  - Resources
  - Writing group

# PHC RED Training 2006

Writing Group	fortnightly
EndNote	regularly as required
Searching electronic databases	April and as required
Systematic literature reviews	May
SARNet research skills workshops	July
Revision of Statistics for health research	September - December
SPSS,	September
PHC RED Collaborative Showcase or Writing Retreat	November
Various Department Seminars, eg Validity and Reliability	
Others as required, eg DHS Burden of disease data, qualitative data analysis, PHCRIS Resources	

# Participation in large scale projects

- In 2005 bursaries were awarded to General Practice teams, lead by a General Practitioner
- Practices became involved in a large scale project lead by senior Greater Health researchers
- Research capacity building by hands on research involvement for GPs, practice nurses and managers
- Research training for GPs, practice nurses and managers

# Fostering a primary health care research culture

- Supporting practitioners to put research into practice
  - ‘Open invitation’ to research training
  - Research training venues
- Evidence based committee
- Cardiac rehabilitation network
- Involvement in Indigenous health services and projects
- Actively supporting and encouraging dissemination of research findings
- Maintaining local PHCRED advisory committee
- SA, NT, GGT Statewide Collaboration

# GGT PHC RED Further information

- PHC RED Coordinator, Rachel Boak:

[phcred@greaterhealth.org](mailto:phcred@greaterhealth.org)

Tel: (03) 5563 3502

[www.greaterhealth.org](http://www.greaterhealth.org)