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Department of Health and Ageing

Primary Health Care Research and Policy Directions

Network Forum – Making Research Work for
Better Health
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Reform agenda

"We must make the patient, not the process, the focus of the system"
Minister Roxon 2008

- Health Funding Agreement with States and Territories
- National Health and Hospitals Reform Commission
- National Primary Health Care Strategy
- Maternity Services Review
- The National Preventative Health Taskforce
- Review of Commonwealth funded rural health programs
- COAG Indigenous Reform – "Closing the gap"



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National Primary Health Care Strategy

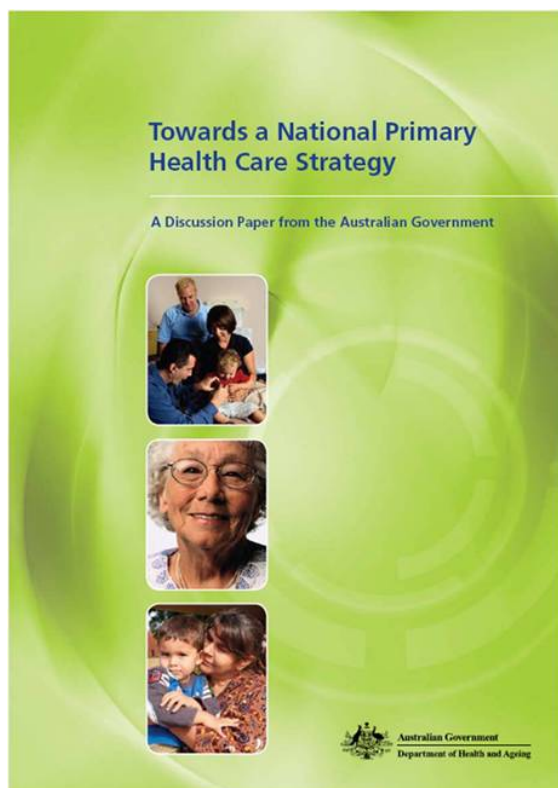
On 11 June 2008, the Minister for Health and Ageing, the Hon Nicola Roxon MP, announced that a *National Primary Health Care Strategy* would be developed by Government with assistance from an External Reference Group (ERG)



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National Primary Health Care Strategy



- The Discussion Paper: *Towards a National Primary Health Care Strategy* was released by Minister Roxon on 30 October 2008
- The deadline for stakeholder submissions was 27 February 2009
- 265 submissions were received
- Submissions have been published on Department of Health and Ageing website



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Key elements of an enhanced primary health care system

1. Accessible, clinically and culturally appropriate, timely and affordable;
2. Patient – centred and supportive of health literacy, self-management and individual preference;
3. More focussed on preventive care, including support of health lifestyles;
4. Well-integrated, coordinated and providing continuity of care, particularly for those with multiple, ongoing and complex conditions;
5. Safe, high-quality care which is continually improving through relevant research and innovation;



Key elements of an enhanced primary health care system

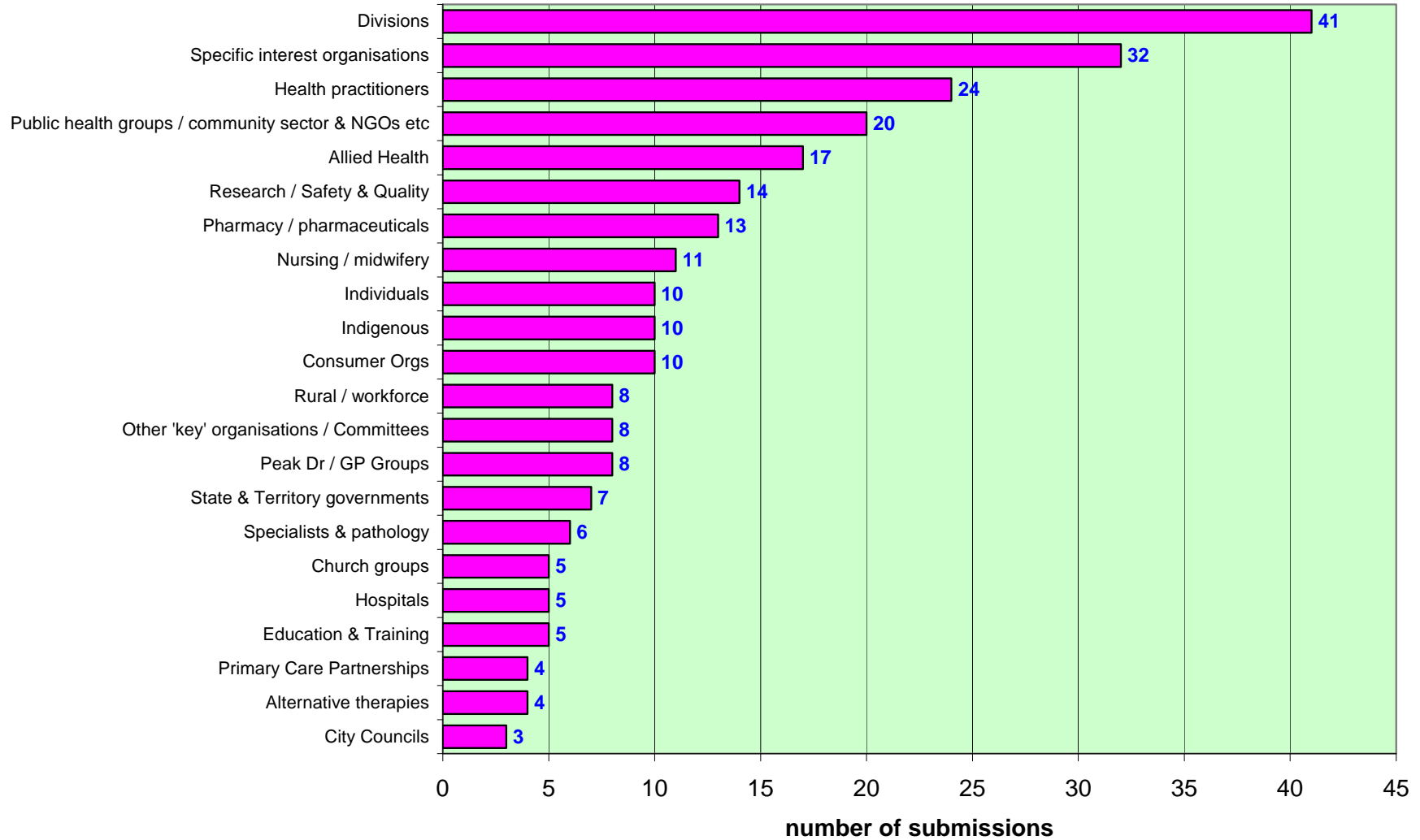
6. Better management of health information, underpinned by efficient and effective use of eHealth;
7. Flexibility to best respond to local community needs and circumstances through sustainable and efficient operational model;
8. Working environments and conditions which attract, support and retain workforce;
9. High-quality education and training arrangements for both new and existing workforce; and
10. Fiscally sustainable, efficient and cost – effective.



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Who made submissions





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National Primary Health Care Strategy

The Strategy will look at how to deliver better frontline care to families across Australia, with priorities including:

- Better rewarding prevention
- Promoting evidence-based management of chronic disease
- Supporting patients with chronic disease to manage their condition
- Supporting the role GPs play in the health care team
- Addressing the growing need for access to other health professionals, including practice nurses and allied health
- Encouraging a greater focus on multidisciplinary team-based care



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Primary Health Care Research Evaluation and Development Strategy (PHCRED)

Aims to build the primary health care research evidence base to inform future policy development and improve health care

The 2008 evaluation considered:

- appropriateness, effectiveness and efficiency;
- a strategic review of possible options for the future; and
- the extent to which the Strategy has shifted its focus toward research that is practice and policy relevant.



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PHCRED Evaluation

Project objectives for the overall Evaluation

Project deliverables

Methodology

- APHCRI
- PHCRIS
- NHMRC and Department Programs
- RCBI and RDP



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PHCRED Evaluation Findings

- Increasing importance of primary health care in Australian health policy
- Need for a comprehensive evidence base to support development of policy
- Expansion of primary health care research workforce through PHCRED Strategy
- Ongoing need to better engage Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People in research



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PHCRED Strategy – next steps

Developing the next phase of PHCRED around a vision for the next 5 years

Consulting broadly with stakeholders over the next few months



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More information



www.health.gov.au