

# APHCRI@work

## NEWS FROM THE HUB

APHCRI has been working behind the scenes in recent months to develop our strategic research directions into 2007. We hope to be able to share more information about our research and funding projects in coming issues of *aphcri@work*.

Applications for Stream Five closed in May and the Expert Review Committee met on two occasions to discuss proposals put forward. Those recommendations have gone to the Research Advisory Board this week with announcements of successful applicants expected shortly.

APHCRI Hub staff has been hard at work putting the final touches to the APHCRI Annual report which was published this week. The Annual Report is available at: [http://www.anu.edu.au/aphcri/Annual\\_Report/Index.php](http://www.anu.edu.au/aphcri/Annual_Report/Index.php).

Director, Professor Nicholas Glasgow has been working with the PHCRIS team in developing next month's GP&PHC Research conference in Perth. The conference promises to be a great event, with a number of eminent speakers joining the discussions.

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## GP&PHC RESEARCH CONFERENCE 5-7 JULY

APHCRI is delighted to see so many of our research teams involved in the GP&PHC Research conference in Perth next month. Researchers from Streams One through to Four will be involved in presentations, workshops and plenary sessions at this year's conference.

APHCRI will host a plenary session with keynote speaker Professor Larry Green, Senior Scholar in Residence at the Robert Graham Center in Washington. The APHCRI plenary, with Mr Robert Wells, Menzies Centre for Health Policy and Professor Nicholas Glasgow will centre on Australia's worsening medical workforce concerns, a major theme for APHCRI work in the next 18 months.

APHCRI Hub researcher, Karen Gardner, will also present on Hub research looking at the impact of the National Performance Indicators for Divisions on Divisions planning in the first year since it was rolled out. There is an update on this report later in *aphcri@work*.

## APHCRI PLENARY SESSION

[Professor Larry Green](#)

2006 GP & PHC RED conference in Perth (5-7 July)

11.30am - 12.30, Thursday 6 July 2006

Optimising Impact: Workforce Issues

Speakers : Professor Larry Green, Professor Nicholas Glasgow and Mr Robert Wells, Co-Director Menzies Centre for Health Policy.

## HIGHLIGHT YOUR RESEARCH

### ROAD MAP OF AUSTRALIAN PRIMARY HEALTH CARE RESEARCH (ROAR)

Many APHCRI research teams have already taken advantage of the opportunity to list their research on the Roadmap of Australian Research (ROAR) database, hosted by the Primary Health Care Research & Information Service (PHCRIS) website.

If not, APHCRI would encourage you to make use of this excellent tool, which will help raise awareness of your work amongst the primary health care research community and other relevant stakeholders.

ROAR allows primary health care researchers to keep summaries of on-going and recently completed research projects and their individual profiles. This information can easily be submitted online by filling in two short forms at [http://www.phcris.org.au/products/roar/submit\\_project.php](http://www.phcris.org.au/products/roar/submit_project.php) (projects) and [http://www.phcris.org.au/products/roar/submit\\_profile.php](http://www.phcris.org.au/products/roar/submit_profile.php) (profile).

## HUB RESEARCH

### IMPACT OF NATIONAL PERFORMANCE INDICATORS ON DIVISIONS OF GENERAL PRACTICE PLANNING ACTIVITIES

Divisions have responded positively to the creation of National Performance Indicators implemented by Federal Government last year, according to APHCRI Hub Research.

The study, led by Associate Professor Beverly Sibthorpe with Karen Gardner and Duncan Longstaff, showed Divisions have positioned themselves to respond to the National Quality and Performance System through the Performance Indicators, though concerns were raised about data quality and availability for some indicators. There was also a widespread view that the requirement for accreditation and data collection is putting pressure on core funding, resulting in the diversion of resources away from local programs.

While the fit between local programs and national objectives is perceived to be good, there are issues relating to priority and relevance, particularly in rural areas. Most CEOs interviewed for the study have finished the first planning cycle confident they can meet expectations in the first year.

The study revealed the challenge for the NQPS at this early stage is in supporting the system to develop in a way that strikes a balance between local needs and national objectives.

The study undertook interviews with 28 Division CEOs and key staff in State Based Organisations and the Australian Division of General Practice relating to Divisions' experiences in responding to and utilising performance indicators in the planning process.

A Report of this study is available on the APHCRI website and is being distributed to Divisions, ADGP, SBOs and the Department of Health and Ageing.

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## RESEARCH TEAMS

### WHAT WORKS FOR PRIMARY MENTAL HEALTH CARE SERVICE DELIVERY? – STREAM FOUR

An international consultation forum was hosted by the Centre for Mental Health Research at ANU and the Australian Divisions of General Practice to involve stakeholders in the consultation on their Stream Four research project in Canberra earlier this month. CMHR and ADGP have undertaken systematic reviews of literature examining care models for patients with depression and anxiety. The project has also sought to discover how equipped and supported general practice is in providing mental health care and what incentives and procedures are needed to improve the effectiveness of primary health care management of mental illness.

The results thus far make a clear case for further research in the area, with a focus on consumer evaluation and involvement, but do give some indications that treatment supported by web or telephone support can be effective in helping patients with anxiety and depression. Models of collaborative care and shared care also produce better outcomes than treatment as usual, with patient education and role change within practice significantly predicting improvement.

The Canberra consultation forum involved mental health stakeholders from across Australia with the aim of introducing the research thus far and receiving feedback on literature gaps, potential interpretation of the information presented and recommendations for policy from the research.

The recommendations put forward by the group discussion section of the forum will become part of a document on models of mental health care delivery, which may inform current COAG processes.

Professor Helen Christensen, who is leading the team, said the consultation feedback would be used to inform further literature searches and begin to form the basis of policy recommendations to Government. The forum brought together researchers, clinicians and primary care specialists.

The forum was well received by all participants, gave the project a profile among its stakeholder groups and gave a wealth of informed feedback to the research team.

### RE-ORDER – STREAM THREE



The Stream Three re-order (Re-organising care for depression and related disorders in the Australian primary health care setting) project is beginning its consultation phase.

The project team is seeking stakeholder input regarding the management of depression in the general practice/primary care setting. It is aiming to contact a variety of stakeholders from a wide range of sectors within the community, including health sector employees, policy makers, professional organisations, academics, non-government organisations, consumer and carer representatives.

The re-order team is compiling a database of all stakeholders to be contacted for this stage of the research and would welcome the participation of stakeholders interested in improving the management of depression in general practice. If you would like to be involved, or for more information, please contact Ms Ella Butler, Research Assistant at [e.butler@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:e.butler@unimelb.edu.au) or on (03) 8344 7846. [www.reorder.unimelb.edu.au](http://www.reorder.unimelb.edu.au)

*Let us know about your research events and developments so we can inform all our Spokes on your progress. Contact [Frith.Rayner@anu.edu.au](mailto:Frith.Rayner@anu.edu.au)*