

INFORMATION FOR APPLICANTS

2013 Stream Funding

Integrated Primary Health Care Centres

Preamble

The Australian Primary Health Care Research Institute (APHCRI) was established at The Australian National University in 2003. Its mission is to provide national leadership in improving the quality and effectiveness of primary health care through the conduct of high quality, priority-driven research and the support and promotion of best practice. The intended beneficiaries of APHCRI's work are Australian consumers of primary health care services.

Background

The Australian Government is implementing a program of investment to accommodate and co-locate primary health care services in a network of facilities. The aim of the program is to improve integration, co-ordination and access to services and support professional training/education. The funding program includes the upgrade of existing facilities and new or significantly extended centres known as GP Super Clinics.

APHCRI previously commissioned a [rapid review of Integrated Primary Care Centres and Polyclinics](#) that describes types of integrated primary health care centres and the policy/funding context that supports co-location as a strategy to promote service integration. This review also identified other Australian co-location models, HealthOne in NSW, GP Plus in SA and extended GP Practices that have similar objectives to GP Super Clinics.

There are now sufficient GP Super Clinics and other models, with local variations, to begin to identify and assess the characteristics of their development and operation that contribute to successfully achieving the objectives of integration.

Proposed program of research

The Institute is now calling for proposals that use case studies to answer one or more of the following questions:

- > What are the enablers and barriers to achieving integration of different service types, for example allied health, social care, acute care?
- > What are the enablers or barriers to co-located services achieving objectives of improved integration and access? The GP Super Clinics selected as case studies should provide for a geographic spread and reflect the variation in models including factors such as governance, scope of services, community engagement, ownership, multi-disciplinary teams, funding sources, extent of shared services.

- > Are there any differences between GP Super Clinics and other co-located models such as Health One/ GP Plus that have an impact on achieving objectives of improved integration and access?
- > Using individual GP Super Clinics as case studies what has been the role of the centres in diverting emergency department presentations? What factors have contributed to successful diversion e.g. co-location, triage and service profile? What has been the experience of consumers and what education/communication strategies have been required and effective?
- > Using individual GP Super Clinics as case studies what has been their role in development and implementation of e-health initiatives and virtual networks to support integration?
- > Using individual GP Super Clinics as case studies what measures of service quality have been adopted for individual services and for the centre as whole/ Identify potential frameworks that would support quality improvement in multi-service/discipline integrated care settings.

Funding for individual projects up to the value of \$150,000 will cover travel and associated project costs. A maximum of six projects will be funded.

All funded research projects will be required to be completed within **eighteen months** of commissioning.

It is anticipated that the announcement of the successful applicants will be made in December 2013.

Eligibility to participate in the integrated primary health care centres research stream

- (a) Eligible applicants are **not** required to have participated in a previous APHCRI funded research stream.
- (b) An applicant must be either an Australian citizen, an Australian permanent resident, or a New Zealand citizen who holds a Special Category Visa. Note that applicants who have not yet been granted permanent residency or a Special Category Visa may apply, provided that such status has been sought. Evidence that this status has been granted must be provided prior to commencement of the Award.
- (c) Applicants must be residing in Australia at the time of application.
- (d) Participants from different Institutions may choose to combine and apply jointly for this Stream of funding.

Knowledge Translation and Exchange

The Institute aims to facilitate the use of research evidence to inform national policy. To achieve this aim, APHCRI has adapted the notion of linkage and exchange proposed by Professor Jonathan Lomas of the Canadian Health Services Research Foundation,¹ and the concept of knowledge translation proposed by Professor John Lavis, the Canada Chair in Knowledge Transfer and Exchange from McMaster University, Canada. Applicants should refer to the APHCRI model which is available at: <http://aphcri.anu.edu.au/resources>

¹ Lomas J. Using 'linkage and exchange' to move research into policy at a Canadian foundation. *Health Affairs* 2000; 19:236-40

Funding

The Research Advisory Board has determined that each of the integrated primary health care centres research stream recipients will be eligible to receive up to \$150,000. Acceptable expenditures of these funds, to be itemised in proposals are for:

- > Salary support (NOTE that funding will not be used to provide salary support for staff already in receipt of institutional salary)
- > Consultation with target population/s as required, including venue hire, catering and related expenses
- > Consultation with service provider/s as required, including venue hire, catering and related expenses
- > Direct research costs
- > Support for multi-institution collaboration using the most economical means (travel, teleconference, etcetera)
- > Support for knowledge translation and exchange (including reasonable research travel for investigator and stakeholders)
- > A number of network meetings will be held in Canberra. The exact number is yet to be determined but will not exceed three.
- > Final reporting visit for the Chief Investigator A to the Commonwealth Department of Health and Ageing and APHCRI ANU. (Other investigators may attend these meetings by agreement but not at a cost to the grant.)
- > Recognising that some potential applicants may incur additional costs because they are based in rural locations, or locations remote from Canberra, the Research Advisory Board has decided to make available additional funds to support such applicants. These additional funds will not exceed \$25,000 per rural or remote project. The request for additional funds together with the justification for these must be included in the proposal. For general guidance, State capitals in the eastern mainland States and South Australia would not be considered remote from Canberra.

A single administering institution must be identified for each proposal. Institutions administering APHCRI research projects are either required to be NHMRC-registered institutions or, in the case of organisations not registered with the NHMRC, must self-assess according to the NHMRC criteria which can be found at the following linked site http://www.nhmrc.gov.au/files_nhmrc/file/grants/policy/policy02.pdf and submit their assessment to the Research Advisory Board for consideration.

Funds must be acquitted within twelve months of the project's completion. At that time financial acquittal of all funds must be provided to APHCRI in Australian dollars.

Application and commissioning process

The process for the integrated primary health care centres research stream will involve two stages:

- > Expressions of Interest
 - o Submission of Expressions of Interest using an Expression Of Interest proforma

- Assessment of the Expressions of Interest by the Expert Review Committee.
- > Submission of full proposals
 - High ranking Expressions Of Interest will be invited to submit full applications using the integrated primary health care centres research stream application form
 - Assessment of the full proposals by an Expert Review Committee
 - Decision by the Research Advisory Board on the basis of the recommendations of the Expert Review Committee.
 - Notification of and contracting with successful projects.

The RAB reserves the right to not fund any projects under this funding Stream if the applications are not deemed to be of a sufficient standing.

Proposals

Expressions of Interest must be submitted using the integrated primary health care centres research stream application proforma which can be downloaded from the APHCRI website (<http://aphcri.anu.edu.au>) or on request from APHCRI.

One or more topic areas can be addressed in each proposal. The same institution may submit more than one proposal and a Chief Investigator may be named on more than one proposal.

Selection Criteria

Applications will be assessed against the following criteria:

- > Scientific quality of the approach and methodology
- > How completion of the work will contribute to integration of care in primary health care centres
- > Demonstrate the current gaps in integration in primary health care services and how they will be addressed, and how existing barriers will be overcome;
- > Demonstrate that the project can be achieved in an efficient and effective manner
- > Demonstrate multi-disciplinary and cross-sectoral involvement;
- > Demonstrate an innovative and successful approach to integration of primary care services which complements and does not duplicate other activities or efforts in the applicable environment: and
- > Demonstrate that the project is suitable for broader implementation and can be easily transferable to other relevant setting / systems.
- > The feasibility and appropriateness of budget and timeframes.

Preparation and Submission of Proposals

The closing date for receipt of the four page Expressions of Interest for the integrated primary health care centres research stream is **30th August 2013**. Expressions of interest are to be submitted using the Expression of Interest proforma. An electronic version (in .pdf format) and signed hard copy version must be submitted.

The electronic version should contain the completed application form as a single Adobe Acrobat PDF file. It should be e-mailed to the Director through submissions.aphcri@anu.edu.au with the filename format: Surname lead investigator, initial(s) lead investigator, file extension (e.g. brown.mf.pdf).

MAILING ADDRESS:
The Director, APHCRI
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Cnr. Mills & Eggleston Rd
The Australian National University
CANBERRA CITY ACT 0200

COURIER ADDRESS:
The Director, APHCRI
Building 63
Cnr. Mills & Eggleston Rd
The Australian National University
Acton ACT 2601
(02) 6125 0766

EMAIL ADDRESS:
The electronic copy can be emailed to
submissions.aphcri@anu.edu.au.

Certification

By signing the application, the researcher and administering institution agree, if successful, to accept the Conditions of the Award as set out in this document.

Summary of Process for Stream: Integrated primary health care centres

Activity	Date
Announcement of the integrated primary health care centres research stream	Monday 22 nd July 2013
Closing date for receipt of Expressions of Interest	Friday 30 th August 2013
ERC for Expressions of Interest	Mid-September
Research Advisory Board invites full applications from selected candidates	October 2013
Closing date for receipt of full applications	End of November 2013
ERC assessment process against Selection Criteria	November/December 2013
Integrated primary health care centres research stream successful applicants announced	December 2013
Integrated primary health care centres research stream project period	January 2014- June 2015
Integrated primary health care centres research stream researchers present Final Report to APHCRI.	End of July 2015

Funding Agreement

All successful applicants will be required to have entered into a signed funding agreement between the administering institution and the Australian National University (ANU) within 30 days of a formal offer having been made by the ANU or the offer may be withdrawn. A generic draft is available at <http://aphcri.anu.edu.au/resources>.

This generic agreement enables the ANU to comply with its contractual obligations to the Department of Health and Ageing with respect to the PHCRED funding agreement. Applicants are strongly advised to ensure that their administering institution is prepared to accept the generic agreement as this component of the Funding Agreement cannot be varied.

Acknowledgement

The contribution of the Department of Health and Ageing will be acknowledged in all correspondence, public announcements, advertising material, and other material produced by the recipients on behalf of APHCRI.

This acknowledgement will normally be of the form:

The Australian Primary Health Care Research Institute is supported by a grant from the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing.

Publication of APHCRI Research

Acknowledgement of the Institute's role in publications of the recipient's research will normally be of the form:

The research reported in this paper [or presentation] is a project of the Australian Primary Health Care Research Institute, which is supported by a grant from the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing, under the Primary Health Care Research, Evaluation and Development Strategy. The information and opinions contained in it do not necessarily reflect the views or policy of the Australian Primary Health Care Research Institute or the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing.

On notification by a publisher of intent to publish an article or research report submitted by a recipient, the researcher will advise the APHCRI ANU of the paper's acceptance for publication and send APHCRI ANU a copy of the final version of the paper or report, embargoed from further dissemination until publication.