



ANU

THE AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL UNIVERSITY

# AUSTRALIAN PRIMARY HEALTH CARE RESEARCH INSTITUTE NETWORK HANDBOOK



ANU COLLEGE OF MEDICINE, BIOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

Printed 2011  
Published by Australian Primary Health Care  
Research Institute (APHCRI)  
ANU College of Medicine, Biology and  
Environment  
Level 1 Ian Potter House  
Corner of Gordon & Marcus Clarke Streets  
The Australian National University  
Canberra ACT 0200

## CONTENTS

About APHCRI	2
APHCRI'S mission	2
APHCRI'S structure	2
APHCRI'S goals for 2010-2014	3
APHCRI Network research	4
Conditions of appointment	4
Administering institutions	4
Conflicts of interest	4
Ethics clearance	4
The role of APHCRI ANU	5
Knowledge exchange activities	5
Research reports	6
Acknowledgements required	6

This handbook provides information for APHCRI Network researchers.

## ABOUT APHCRI

APHCRI was established at the Australian National University (ANU) in 2003 as part of the Commonwealth Government's [Primary Health Care Research, Evaluation and Development \(PHC RED\) strategy](#). It focuses on important sectoral questions relating to the organisation, financing, delivery and performance of primary health care, including its interaction with public health and the secondary and tertiary health care sectors. The intended beneficiaries of APHCRI's work are consumers of Australian primary health care services.

APHCRI commissions research through Travelling Fellowships; Visiting Fellowships; Centres of Research Excellence; streams of research on Government priority topics, and specifically commissioned research projects. APHCRI's research program is available on the website.

In 2010, APHCRI was awarded a further five-year contract by the Department of Health and Ageing (DoHA) to continue its work in building the nation's capacity to produce high quality primary health care research. A new initiative for APHCRI within this period will be the establishment of Centres of Research Excellence (CREs) in primary health care.

Three CREs were awarded in January 2011. It is anticipated that up to seven additional CREs will be awarded to commence research programs in 2012.

## APHCRI'S MISSION

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.

APHCRI aims to:

- strengthen the knowledge base of primary health care by conducting and supporting research
- facilitate the uptake of research evidence in primary health care policy and practice
- enhance research capacity in primary health care through strategic partnerships with other relevant national and international groups.

## APHCRI'S STRUCTURE

Under the agreement between DOHA and ANU, the ANU is responsible for providing administrative services for APHCRI. The Institute is formally part of the ANU College of Medicine, Biology and Environment, but is obliged to undertake certain wider responsibilities and be accountable in particular ways. APHCRI is embedded within the ANU so it has a well-established academic infrastructure and is supported by ANU's management and financial services and systems.

In consultation with DOHA, ANU established governance structures for APHCRI that accommodate the Australian Government's requirements for the Institute to meet the need of the Australian primary health care community. It also developed mechanisms that govern the allocation of funds to primary health care researchers and research organisations.



**APHCRI ANU** comprises a Director, a research team and administrative staff. The Director is responsible for APHCRI's academic, financial and management activity.

**The Research Advisory Board (RAB)**, which is made up of members with a wide range of expertise, determines APHCRI's research priorities, provides advice on APHCRI's activities and has decision-making authority in three areas. The RAB decides on:

- Priority-driven research questions to be addressed by the APHCRI Network.
- Research funding allocations recommended by Expert Review Committees (the RAB review funding decisions at periodic intervals thereafter).
- Membership of Executive Review Committees to assess project proposals and make funding recommendations.

**Expert Review Committees (ERCs)** assess proposals from potential Network researchers for research funding. These committees have at least one international expert and are chaired by a RAB member.

## APHCRI'S GOALS FOR 2010-2014

APHCRI has received funding of \$22 million over five years to:

- fund research that will feed into the Australian Government and the Council of Australian Government's reform agenda and, in particular, support the National Primary Health Care Strategy
- focus on multidisciplinary research and generate an increasingly high quality, robust evidence base for Australian primary health care
- build 'knowledge exchange' expertise and activities in order to provide evidence, knowledge and specialised expertise to inform decision making for primary health care systems and services
- continue building primary health care research capacity in Australia.

The APHCRI Centres of Research Excellence in primary health care will be funded for four years and will provide support for research teams to pursue collaborative research and develop research capacity in primary health care services. The scheme will provide funding for innovative, high quality and multidisciplinary primary health care research. It seeks to attract established investigators with a strong track record in a domain of primary health care research and who will collaborate with emerging researchers to extend primary health care research capacity. The Centres will be multi-institutional with at least two institutions (universities and/or non-government organisations) collaborating in a Centre, albeit a virtual centre.

APHCRI will also continue to fund streams of research to address questions related to the health reform agenda. These streams will be announced periodically and separately to the Centres of Research Excellence program.

## APHCRI NETWORK

The overarching purpose of the APHCRI Network of researchers is to address priority-driven research questions proposed by the RAB and aligned with the National Health Reform priorities. Building the APHCRI Network is a strategy that can facilitate knowledge translation and exchange. The APHCRI Network is formed with national and international research linkages.

### NATIONAL LINKAGES

Department of Health and Ageing (DoHA)

[www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/Home](http://www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/Home)

Primary Health Care Research and Information Service (PHC RIS)

[www.phcris.org.au](http://www.phcris.org.au)

PHC RIS works in partnership and supports three main stakeholder groups, generating, managing and sharing information and knowledge that contributes to policy and improves performance. These three stakeholder groups are Divisions of General Practice Network, primary health care researchers and policy advisors.

National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC)

[www.nhmrc.gov.au/node](http://www.nhmrc.gov.au/node)

National Institute of Clinical Studies (NICS, through NHMRC)

[www.nhmrc.gov.au/nics/index.htm](http://www.nhmrc.gov.au/nics/index.htm)

As part of NHMRC, NICS works to improve health care by incorporating the best available evidence from health and medical research into everyday practice, and using research findings to help close important gaps between best available evidence and current clinical practice.

PHC RED Grants (administered through the NHMRC)

[www.phcris.org.au/phcred/grants/index.php](http://www.phcris.org.au/phcred/grants/index.php)

The PHCRED Strategy funds a variety of primary health care research grants and awards administered through the NHMRC. These programs provide research training and experience for early, mid and senior level researchers and include the funding of both investigator and priority driven research relevant to both policy and practice.

Australian General Practice Network (AGPN)

[www.agpn.com.au/media/Primary-Health-Care-Reform](http://www.agpn.com.au/media/Primary-Health-Care-Reform)

The AGPN is the peak national body representing 120 Divisions of General Practice and 7 State Based Organisations across Australia.

Australian Health Ministers' Advisory Council (AHMAC)

[www.ahmac.gov.au/site/home.aspx](http://www.ahmac.gov.au/site/home.aspx)

The Australian Health Ministers' Advisory Council charter is to provide effective and efficient support to the Australian Health Ministers' Conference by:

- advising on strategic issues relating to the coordination of health services across the nation and, as applicable, with New Zealand
- operating as a national forum for planning, information sharing and innovation.

## **Research Australia**

<http://researchaustralia.org>

Research Australia is a not-for-profit alliance of organisations and companies that are committed to making health research a higher national priority. These companies include Bupa Health Foundation, Florey Neuroscience Institutes, St Vincent's Health Australia, The University of Adelaide, Pfizer, The University of Western Australia, The University of Sydney, Cochlear, Australian Government: Cancer Australia, Victoria: The Place To Be, Macquarie Group Foundation, Monash University, The University of NSW, The University of Melbourne, NAIR, Curtin University of Technology, The University of Queensland, Walter and Eliza Hall Institute of Medical Research, Sydney Business Chamber, The Garnett Passe and Rodney Williams Memorial Foundation; Queensland Institute of Medical Research, CSL, ResMed, Lilly, QUT: ihbi, The George Institute for international Health, the Garvan Institute, Deakin University, and others.

## **The Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP)**

[www.racgp.org.au/racgpfoundation/awards/indigenous](http://www.racgp.org.au/racgpfoundation/awards/indigenous)

APHCRI partners with the RACGP to co-sponsor the RACGP/APHCRI Indigenous Health Award. This award is presented annually to two researchers working in the field of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health. The award builds research knowledge as well as researcher capacity in this important area of health for Australia.

## **INTERNATIONAL LINKS**

### **Health Research Council of New Zealand**

[www.hrc.govt.nz](http://www.hrc.govt.nz)

The Health Research Council of New Zealand is the Crown agency responsible for the management of the Government's investment in public good health research.

National Research Council Canada (NRC)

[www.nrc-cnrc.gc.ca/eng/index.html](http://www.nrc-cnrc.gc.ca/eng/index.html)

The National Research Council (NRC) is the Government of Canada's premier organization for research and development.

World Organisation of National Colleges, Academies and Academic Associations of General Practitioners/ Family Physicians (WONCA)

[www.globalfamilydoctor.com](http://www.globalfamilydoctor.com)

Wonca is made up of national colleges, academies or organizations concerned with the academic aspects of general family practice. There are 120 member organizations in 99 countries. This includes 10 organizations in collaborative relations with Wonca. In all, the total membership of the member organizations of Wonca is over 250,000 general practitioners/family physicians.

The mission of Wonca is to improve the quality of life of the peoples of the world through defining and promoting its values, and by fostering and maintaining high standards of care in general practice/family medicine by promoting personal, comprehensive and continuing care for the individual in the context of the family and the community, encouraging and supporting the development of academic organizations of general practitioners/family physicians, providing a forum for exchange of knowledge and information between member organizations of general practitioners/family physicians, and representing the educational, research and service provision activities of general practitioners/family physicians before other world organizations and forums concerned with health and medical care.

London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (LSHTM)

[www.lshtm.ac.uk](http://www.lshtm.ac.uk)

The mission of the LSHTM is to contribute to the improvement of health worldwide through the pursuit of excellence in research, postgraduate teaching and advanced training in national and international public health and tropical medicine, and through informing policy and practice in these areas.

Health Services Management Centre at the University of Birmingham

[www.hsmc.bham.ac.uk](http://www.hsmc.bham.ac.uk)

The Health Services Management Centre is one of the leading centres specialising in policy, development, education and research in health and social care services in the UK. HSMC's prime purpose is to strengthen the management and leadership of these services and to promote improved health and well-being.

National Primary Care Research and Development Centre at the University of Manchester

[www.medicine.manchester.ac.uk/primarycare/npcrdc-archive/archive](http://www.medicine.manchester.ac.uk/primarycare/npcrdc-archive/archive)

The NPCRDC group, founded in January 2010, brings Manchester's primary care researchers, including those in NPCRDC, together with experts in health research methodology (economics, statistics, informatics) and health psychology, to form a unit dedicated to improving health care policy and practice through high quality research.

The Independent Practitioners' Association Council of New Zealand (IPAC)

[www.ipac.org.nz/home](http://www.ipac.org.nz/home)

IPAC is an organisation supporting the vital role of organised general practice, which resides at the heart of New Zealand's primary health care system.

Ministry of Health New Zealand

[www.moh.govt.nz/moh.nsf](http://www.moh.govt.nz/moh.nsf)

The Ministry of Health is the Government's principal advisor on health and disability policy.

Canadian Health Services Research Foundation (CHSRF)

[www.chsrf.ca/Home.aspx](http://www.chsrf.ca/Home.aspx)

The CHSRF is an independent, not-for-profit organisation with a mandate to promote the use of evidence to strengthen the delivery of health services in Canada.

Robert Graham Centre, Washington DC

[www.graham-center.org/online/graham/home.html](http://www.graham-center.org/online/graham/home.html)

Improve individual and population health by enhancing the delivery of primary care. The Center aims to achieve this mission through the generation or synthesis of evidence that brings a family medicine and primary care perspective to health policy deliberations from the local to international levels.

## POTENTIAL RESEARCH LINKAGES

Any current APHCRI funding recipient automatically becomes a part of the APHCRI Network of researchers. The APHCRI website provides a list of currently funded research projects associated Chief Investigators, [www.anu.edu.au/aphcri/Spokes\\_Research\\_Program/index.php](http://www.anu.edu.au/aphcri/Spokes_Research_Program/index.php).

Other potential researcher linkages may be made with APHCRI international visiting fellows and researchers who have been awarded an APHCRI travelling fellowship, [www.anu.edu.au/aphcri/Spokes\\_Research\\_Program/index.php](http://www.anu.edu.au/aphcri/Spokes_Research_Program/index.php).

## THE ROLE OF APHCRI ANU

APHCRI ANU assist Network researchers by:

- monitoring and coordinating APHCRI Network activities
- administering contracts and funding
- facilitating the dissemination of the results of Network research, including to the Department of Health and Ageing
- assisting with identifying technical research resources that Network researchers need
- developing and implementing practices to work iteratively and collaboratively with research funding applicants in respect of:
  - o proposals for developing APHCRI projects
  - o publications resulting from successful grants.

## KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE ACTIVITIES

APHCRI provides national leadership in facilitating the uptake of research findings to improve health care and the health system. It undertakes and funds research intended to inform politicians, policy advisers, health care providers, consumers and the media. APHCRI seeks to actively engage these stakeholders to develop their understanding of the role they can play in increasing the adoption of research evidence into policy and practice.

APHCRI Network researchers are expected to disseminate the results of their research appropriately and develop a communications and media strategy for their projects, in consultation with APHCRI's Media and Communications Consultant.

Any costs associated with knowledge exchange activities need to be built into project budgets, as appropriate.

Further information on APHCRI's knowledge translation and exchange model can be found in APHCRI's [Knowledge Exchange Report](#).





[www.anu.edu.au/aphcri](http://www.anu.edu.au/aphcri)