



Department of General Practice
Flinders University
Adelaide
South Australia



Primary Health Care Research Evaluation and
Development Program

Business Plan 2002

***Developing a culture of research-aware and
research-oriented practitioners***

Associate Professor Liz Farmer

Director

Raechel Waters

Program Manager

Dr Kath Weston

Program Consultant

Vision Statement

for Flinders Primary Health Care Research Evaluation and Development Program (Flinders PHC RED):

Developing a culture of research-aware and research-oriented practitioners

The Flinders University Primary Health Care Research, Evaluation and Development (PHC RED) Program aims to use a 'whole-system approach'¹ to increase the research capacity of primary health care providers, consumers and students, and to provide leadership in developing a research-aware and research-oriented culture in primary health care.

Guiding Principles of Flinders PHC RED

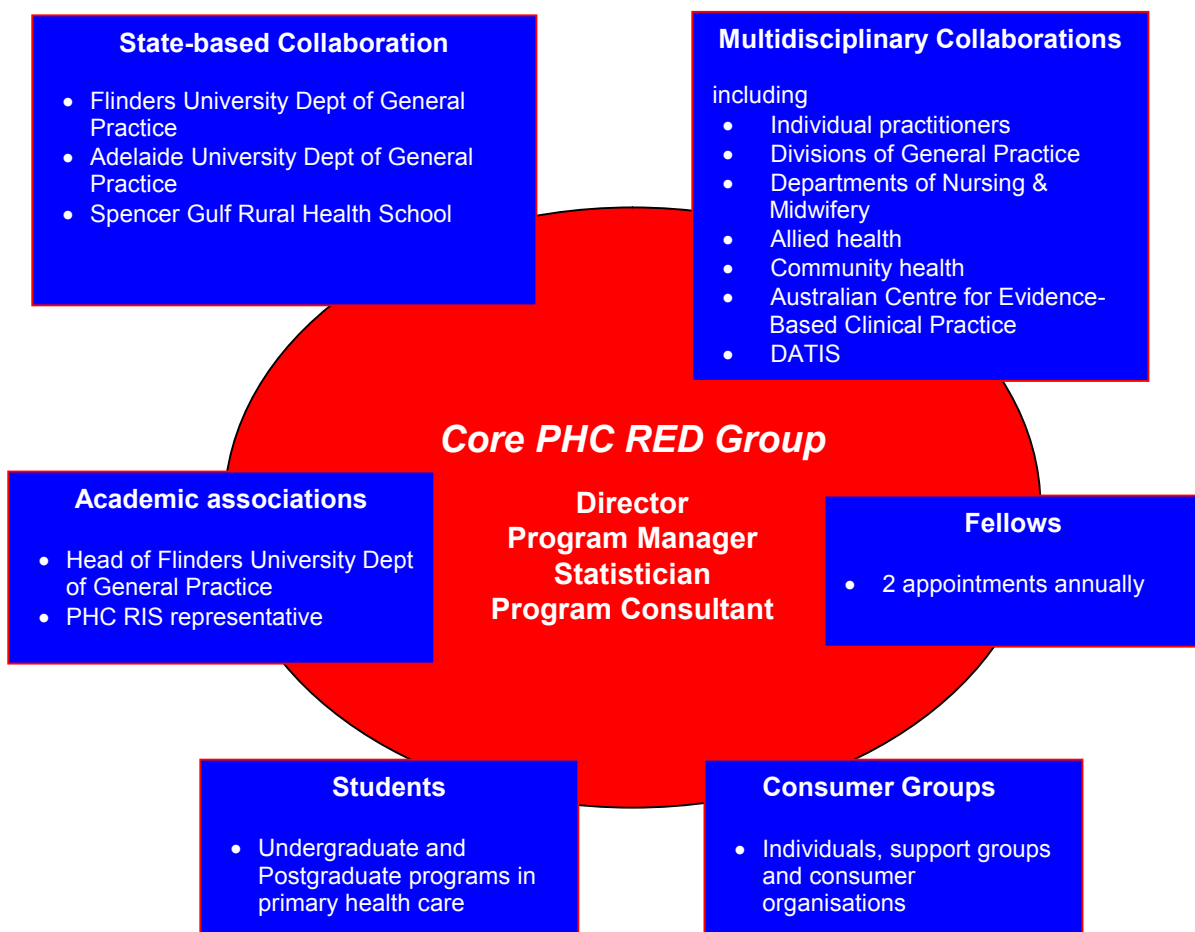
1. Initiate and drive a change process that recognises the value of research and evaluation skills and the value of development of these skills in primary health care providers.
2. Develop, encourage and implement excellence in research and evaluation skills within Flinders University Department of General Practice, within the network of primary health care practitioners, within all stakeholder and consumer groups, as indicated in Figure 1, and within the training and educational facilities of the Flinders Medical School.
3. Contribute to primary health care service delivery and development by reflecting current and local priorities in areas of health, and to ensure that education and research opportunities reflect the needs of all stakeholders, including consumers, practitioners and policy-makers.

¹ Farmer EA & Weston KM (2002). A conceptual model for capacity building in Australian primary health care research. *Australian Family Physician*, in press.

Business Plan 2002

Flinders PHC RED anticipates an active year in 2002. We will further develop a 'whole system' approach to capacity building in our region, interacting with the stakeholders outlined in Figure 1. Our primary focus will be the establishment of the SARNet research network, through which many of our strategic objectives will be achieved.

Figure 1: Flinders PHC RED core staff and affiliations



Strategic Objectives 2002

The Flinders PHC RED specific objectives as stated in the Strategic Plan are to:

1. Raise the profile of research, evaluation and development in primary health care
2. Develop the research and evaluation skills of primary health care providers, students and consumers
3. Encourage a multidisciplinary approach to research and evaluation in primary health care
4. Develop and foster collaborative links with and between primary health care organisations
5. Enhance the research, evaluation and development infrastructure for primary health care providers
6. Raise the profile and quality of the Department of General Practice in research, evaluation and development
7. Help achieve an evidence-based culture in primary health care
8. Contribute to setting priorities for primary health care research and evaluation directions and policy at a national level

For each objective, key strategic activities and performance indicators are detailed on the following pages.

Objective 1. Strategic activities

To raise the profile of research, evaluation and development in primary health care

- Create an advisory group and consult with them regarding the development of the Flinders PHC RED Program,
- Create a research network (SARNet) and promote it to primary health care practitioners
- Advertise PHC RED and SARNet in multiple media, including newsletters, brochures and electronic media,
- Disseminate results of PHC RED activities at relevant conferences, and in peer-reviewed and other professional journals and newsletters.

Performance indicators

- Form advisory group and commence meetings thereof
- Create register of local and regional primary health care and consumer groups
- Create SARNet logo, brochure, website, and supporting documentation
- Advertise SARNet to all affiliated groups shown in Figure 1
- Create architecture for the SARNet membership database
- Create complementary PHC RED website
- Plan inaugural SARNet event
- Submit article on research networks to GP Infonet or similar
- Submit article on capacity building approaches to peer-reviewed journal
- Submit newsletter article to international research newsletter
- Submit conference abstract to GP&PHC conference, and attend
- Plan article on SARNet for peer reviewed journal

Objective 2. Strategic activities

To develop the research and evaluation skills of primary health care providers, students and consumers

- Create a research network, SARNet, to promote the participation of individuals and groups in research and evaluation activities
- Facilitate access to existing education and training opportunities, where relevant, ranging from application of evidence to clinical practice through to tertiary degree qualifications, in conjunction with the State-based collaboration
- Provide innovative education and training according to undergraduate, postgraduate and practitioner continuing professional education needs, by drawing on breadth of expertise available in academia, related fields and Flinders PHC RED staff
- Mentor research and evaluation activities of individuals and groups
- Create funded opportunities (individual research bursaries, writing grants, student bursaries and fellowship positions)

- Objective 2.**
- Provide peer support for preparation of manuscripts, articles and abstracts
- Continued...
- Promote national PHC RED initiated 'NHMRC Training Fellowships - General Practice Fellowships' and 'NHMRC Primary Health Care Postgraduate - Research Scholarships' and support applications

Performance indicators

- See Objective 1 for setting up SARNet
- Organise SARNet inaugural event
- Create peer review process for SARNet-funded applications
- Create documentation for individual research bursaries and writing grants, guidelines and forms for applications
- Advertise and monitor uptake of SARNet-funded opportunities (research bursaries, writing grants, student bursaries, fellowship positions)
- Describe outcomes of SARNet-funded opportunities
- Send letter of intent to Sturt Fleurieu General Practice Training Consortium regarding registrar education in research and evaluation and registrar invitations to join SARNet
- Send letter of intent to Southern Division of General Practice regarding joint continuing medical education event(s)
- Seek to establish mentor relationships with individuals and groups, numbers and description and outcomes of those mentored
- Document numbers of peers supported, types of support, record numbers of manuscripts, abstracts and articles published by PHC RED staff and Department staff in University approved database in 2002, and authors supported by PHC RED
- Survey Department staff for research articles, abstracts, presentations etc. not included in University database
- Include links to PHCRIS website for access to national PHC RED scholarships information, advertise on SARNet website and support any applications

Objective 3. Strategic activities

- To encourage a multi-disciplinary approach to research and evaluation in primary health care
- Ensure SARNet membership is offered to affiliated groups shown in Figure 1
 - Explore the potential for multidisciplinary collaborations in project and grant applications, and in SARNet funded bursaries
 - Promote funded research opportunities to multidisciplinary groups

Objective 3. Performance indicators

Continued...

- Create comprehensive register of local and regional primary health care and consumer groups, in conjunction with State Branch of DHA, and use register to distribute SARNet information
- Describe professional backgrounds and interests of SARNet members via membership questionnaire
- Facilitate and develop multidisciplinary research and evaluation collaborations and submit grant applications with multidisciplinary focus
- Advertise sources of funding via SARNet website

Objective 4. Strategic activities

To develop and foster collaborative links with and between primary health care organisations

- Facilitate and develop strategic collaborative links with affiliated groups as shown in Figure 1, in particular Divisions of General Practice
- Involve relevant organisations in research activities and initiatives

Performance indicators

- Contribution made to the state-based collaboration links
- Program of opportunities at SARNet event(s) for organisations to meet and discuss potential areas of collaboration
- Continue to develop relationships with regional Divisions, SADI through communication and meetings
- Seek collaborations with and offer involvement of PHC RED staff to research and evaluation groups eg Divisions, number of opportunities identified and outcomes
- Continue to sit on management committee of SDGP and invite SDGP to Departmental executive meetings
- Send letter of invitation to hold focussed research meetings seeking to explore areas for collaboration with and between groups to: Limestone Coast, Southern and Riverland Divisions, and the Greater Green Triangle University Department of Rural Health.

Objective 5. Strategic activities

To enhance the research, evaluation and development infrastructure for primary health care providers, students and consumers

- Develop local research network, SARNet
- Develop local research and evaluation resources and contribute to state-based resources
- Offer Research Fellowships, bursaries and writing grants
- Develop and maintain PHC RED and SARNet websites, including links to relevant sources of national and international expertise and PHC RIS website
- Secure physical resources for PHC RED activities

Performance indicators

- Continuing employment of PHC RED staff
- Membership list and activities of SARNet as in Objective 1
- Commence database of local research and evaluation resources
- Numbers of Fellowships, bursaries and writing grants awarded (see Objective 2 for outcomes)
- Website presence of PHC RED and SARNet and links
- Number and type of physical resources secured
- Prepare to house state-based collaboration coordinator

Objective 6. Strategic activities

To raise the profile and quality of the Department of General Practice in research, evaluation and development

- Create and support joint PHC RED and Department research seminar program
- Develop joint applications for research funding between groups, including the Flinders Department of General Practice, Flinders PHC RED and the State based collaboration
- Encourage Department staff to join SARNet,
- Appoint Research Fellows
- Promote higher degree candidatures and funding opportunities to potential students, including the RED initiated NH&MRC Primary Health Care Postgraduate - Research Scholarships
- Facilitate research links and 'in kind' support of Department with affiliated groups as shown in Figure 1, and across faculties
- Encourage staff to publish in relevant literature and offer support to Departmental staff in completing manuscripts, articles, abstracts, competitive grant applications, scholarships and awards
- Promote and support applications for academic registrar and special skills positions
- Improve supervisory capacity in Department for higher degree students

Objective 6. Performance indicators

Continued...

- Organise seminar series within Department, nature of Program, speakers attracted and attendance at seminar series monitored
- Numbers of joint research grants submitted by Department and PHCRED members, and assess total funding received
- Numbers of staff joining SARNet
- Numbers of Research Fellows (see Objective 2)
- Seek to develop opportunities available for higher degree students in Department
- Number of research links facilitated and nature of 'in-kind' support, if any
- See Objective 2 for documentation of departmental publication and other research outputs
- Advertising and number of applications for academic registrars and special skills positions
- Attendance of eligible staff at supervision workshops and number of staff qualified to supervise higher degree students

Objective 7. Strategic activities

To help achieve an evidence-based culture in primary health care practice

- Liaise with Divisions and other primary health care professional bodies to facilitate symposia and seminars on the uptake of evidence into practice, and critical appraisal skills of primary health care practitioners
- Communicate with groups undertaking evidence-based training initiatives, eg Australian Centre for Evidence-Based Clinical Practice, Drug and Therapeutic Information Service
- Develop links to evidence-based sites through website, network

Performance indicators

- Letter of invitation to Divisions to facilitate seminars and symposia on evidence-based medicine (see also Objective 2)
- Include training on the uptake of evidence into practice, and critical appraisal skills of primary health care practitioners, in SARNet event(s)
- Record of communications with Australian Centre for Evidence-Based Clinical Practice (ACEBCP), Drug and Therapeutic Information Service (DATIS)
- Website links created to evidence-based sources, and subscribe to Clinical Evidence (BMJ), see also database of resources in Objective 5

Objective 8. Strategic activities

To contribute to setting priorities for primary health care research and evaluation directions and policy at a national level.

- Develop effective communication and liaison with PHC RIS regarding PHC RED issues
- Facilitate presentations from State Department of Health in Departmental seminar program
- Contribute to Annual University PHC RED workshops and related initiatives

Performance indicators

- PHC RIS representative on PHC RED business meetings
- Departmental presentations from State Department of Health representative
- Apply to host Annual PHC RED University initiative meeting 2002 attendance at, and contributions to meeting and related initiatives
- Representation of Flinders PHC RED at national forums (eg RACGP National Standing Committee - Research)