



**Research and Evidence based Practice Advisory Group Meeting**  
**Deakin + DHS Partnership**

Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2009  
Seminar Room Ad1.122  
Alfred Deakin Institute  
Deakin Waterfront Campus

**Minutes**

**Chairperson:**

Professor David Lowe, Director, Alfred Deakin Research Institute, Deakin University.

**Present:**

Professor David Lowe, Professor Trisha Dunning, Associate Professor Louise Johnson, Professor Mardie Townsend, Professor Sue Kilpatrick, Mr Chris Loughnan, Ms Kay Mills, Dr Cathryn Carpenter.

**Apologies:**

Ms Christine Ferguson, Mr John Hedditch, Ms Anne Somerville, Ms Libby Mears, Ms Irene McGinnigle, Ms Carole Micallef, Prof Joseph Graffam, Mr Greg Waddell, Mr Tim Moore, Mr Steven Sawyer, Mr Mark Brennan, Prof Rob Carter, Ms Michelle Courtney, Mr Peter Day, Mr Chad Foulkes, Mr Ron Frew, Ms Sharlene Gillick, Mr Kim McGough, Ms Anne O'Callaghan, Dr Darren Palmer, Mr Terence Reed, Dr Sally Savage, Mr Andrew Scott, Dr Paul Talman, Ms Virginia Todd, Mr Tom Van Etten, Dr Kathryn Von Treuer, Ms Juliet Williams, Ms Karen Pritchard, Ms Susan Morgan, Dr Anita Peerson

**Welcome and Introduction:**

David Lowe (co-chair) welcomed members to the now officially opened Alfred Deakin Institute with a particular welcome to Cathryn Carpenter attending her first Research Advisory Group meeting as the newly appointed Partnership Co-ordinator (Deakin). David also welcomed Sue Kilpatrick via video conference link from Warrnambool. David noted that unfortunately Chris Ferguson as co-chair was unable to attend today's meeting due to illness.



## **Research Working Parties:**

David and Kay reported that they have recently met with Christine Ferguson to develop a draft proposal to progress the formation of project teams to focus on priority research areas relevant to both DHS and Deakin policy agendas. The Research and Evidence-based Practice Advisory group (REPAG) to date has played an excellent role in drawing together research activity across the Deakin + DHS Partnership but it is now timely to develop smaller project teams to focus on specific research issues. These teams would be convened to work in recommended areas reporting back to the REPAG when it meets. The three priority areas below have been identified for concentrated work during 2009:

- 1. Regional Research Centre Project Team**
- 2. Evaluation Support Project Team**
- 3. Thinker in Residence Project Team.**

For an outline of the proposed project team aims and suggested membership refer to the **Project Team Summary** tabled by Kay ([see attached](#)). Kay noted that the project team proposals were presented at the Partnership's recent Executive meeting and enthusiastically supported by both Jim Higgins and John Catford. The Advisory Group endorsed the recommended Project team priorities and offered suggestions and comment for each team

### **Regional Research Centre Project Team**

- Suggested additional membership to include Sue Kilpatrick, Sandra McClelland (Business Development Manager, Research Services Division, Deakin) and Kylie Hamilton (COGG).
- Louise Johnson noted the importance of developing clear terms of reference especially in regard to ethical and confidentiality research issues. There needs to be clear protocols developed around how data is managed and used by organizations like the Geelong Advertiser.
- Sue Kilpatrick was interested in incorporating details of project teams into her Regional Research Plan. David advised he would forward Sue the Minutes of the recent discussions undertaken regarding setting up a Regional Research Centre Project Team.

### **Evaluation Support Project Team**

- Dr Kathryn Von Treuer and Celica Budge (School of Psychology, Deakin) are currently engaged to create a formal Evaluation Framework for the Deakin + DHS partnership. They have commenced a stage one evaluation process with a main focus to develop performance indicators and evaluation measures to track partnership outcomes over time. Meetings are currently in process between Advisory Group Co-chairs and the Evaluation team. The Evaluation Support Project Team would provide ongoing valuable support in this process. Kathryn has withdrawn as a member of the Research Advisory group during the evaluation process to adhere to research ethical requirements. ([see attached Evaluation Power Point , Evaluation Tool and Timeline documents](#)).
- The group discussed a possible chairperson to convene this team. Mardie Townsend and Christine Ferguson were identified as excellent candidates. Mardie deferred to Christine due to her current work commitments. Kay noted Christine would be happy to chair this Group.



### Thinker in Residence Project Team

- G21 and Anne Somerville are driving the *Thinker in Residence* concept, however there is the opportunity for the Project Team to work with them in this process.
- David has offered to host a Thinker in Residence and provide office space at the Alfred Deakin Institute.
- David, Anne and Dr Andrew Scott (CEO G21) have had preliminary discussion regarding the *Thinker in Residence* concept, how and who to source as an appropriate *Thinker*, a focus for the *Thinker's* consideration and deliverables. A suggested focus was to develop innovative ideas in an economic context around responses to the Global Financial Crisis.
- Sue Kilpatrick recommended as a first step to decide on the topic and objectives for the *Thinker* and then match these with the best candidate. Sue noted consideration needs to be given to the target audience for the *Thinker's* advice (eg small/large business and or community) and what research opportunities would develop from the *Thinker's* concepts.
- Mardie suggested a focus could include developing new models of business connection with issues of health and wellbeing as well as DHS service delivery.

### Deakin Cross Faculty Team to support Corio Norlane Major Projects:

Prof Sue Kilpatrick is working with Sandra McClelland (Research Services Division, Deakin) to map Deakin's current level of engagement with Corio Norlane projects. Sue has recently held discussions at Deakin regarding research engagement with Corio Norlane Development Advisory Board and will provide a report at our next meeting.

Sue is now a member of the Corio Norlane Development Advisory Board (CNDAB) which is scheduled to next meet on Wednesday August 19<sup>th</sup>, 9.30 to 12.30pm at the Norlane Neighbourhood House. The CNDAB and key Deakin University academics will convene a Research Planning Forum later this year to set a strategic approach and to develop key research questions that will have the potential for further research funding.

David noted that the Alfred Deakin Institute is keen to promote Deakin's socio demographic change research expertise and would welcome CNDAB research activity to sit within the Institute.

### ARC Grants:

Sue reported that Deakin University has selected Corio Norlane and Colac as research sites for the ARC Research Grant into education and resilience: **"Interagency collaborations supporting resilient students, families, schools in disadvantaged communities"**. This project aims to identify conditions and characteristics of resilience in disadvantaged communities and educational, health, work related, leisure interventions that improve individual and collective opportunities.



### **Research matters arising:**

- Kay noted that the National Centre for Farmer Health (NCFH) in Hamilton has developed an advisory group with a similar research focus to our own. She advises she will explore linkages with Susan Brumby (Director of NCFH) and discuss possible sharing of Minutes.
- David will share the recently developed Mission Statement and objectives of the Alfred Deakin Institute at the next advisory group meeting. David also advised that Deakin has recently submitted a Future Fellow application with a focus on Youth and Risk.
- Louise is currently negotiating with Kylie Hamilton (COGG) to undertake research to evaluate development of suburbs at Armstrong Creek. The aim is to start with seeding funding leading into 3 to 5 year projects with a Health and Wellbeing focus. Kay noted that John Hedditch would be very keen to be involved and informed of developments in this process.
- Mardie has recently visited Colac Are Health (Doug Lang) to explore voluntary work in agro forestry connections to wellbeing and alcohol/drug rehabilitation.
- Cathryn noted that Rotary is currently undertaking a Mental Health project in rural areas.
- Kathryn Von Treuer has circulated details to the advisory group of a new grant scheme University Research Partnerships Grant Scheme -2009 closing in August ([see attached DU Research Partnership Grant Guidelines and Application](#)).

### **Other items:**

Vice Chancellor Professor Sally Walker has invited Professor Judith Ramaley (Winona State University) to visit Deakin University in Melbourne and Geelong from August 2-6<sup>th</sup> 2009. The Deakin +DHS Partnership have the opportunity to work with Judith on August 6<sup>th</sup> to review our current position and seek her expert advice on future objectives. The partnership team will keep all members informed as the program for the day is finalized.

### **Next meeting:**

Monday 14<sup>th</sup> September, 10am to 12pm, Conference Room 3, Level 3, State Government Offices, Fenwick Street, Geelong.