



**Deakin University/DH/DHS Strategic Alliance
(Barwon - South Western Region)
Executive Meeting**

Minutes

10.00 to 12.00pm Wednesday 30th October 2013
Deakin Regional Community Health Hub (REACH) Bld
Waurin Ponds Campus, Geelong

Chair: Professor Brendan Crotty (Pro Vice Chancellor, Faculty of Health, DU)

Present

Professor John Toumbourou (Professor and Chair in Health Psychology, Faculty of Health, DU)
Ms Leanne Hodder (Manager, Local Connections, Barwon DHS)
Ms Kerri Mansell (Team Leader Planning and Projects, DH)
Mr Chris Loughnan (Project Officer, Deakin/DH/DHS Strategic Alliance)

Apologies

Ms Chris Faulkner (Area Director Barwon DHS) delegated representative for Ms Anne Congleton (Regional Director, DHS)
Ms Maree Roberts (Director Health and Aged Care, DH)
Mr Peter Lake (Area Director, Western District DHS)
Mr Matthew Ebden (Deakin Alliance Coordinator)

Item	Subject	Actions
1	<p>Welcome and Introductions</p> <p>Brendan welcomed participants to the meeting and noted apologies from Chris Faulkner, Maree Roberts and Peter Lake and Matthew Ebden. Leanne Hodder noted that Mr Peter Lake (Area Director, Western District DHS) was an apology for today's meeting to be included as a member for future meetings.</p>	
2	<p>Confirmation of Minutes of the last Executive meeting 30th June 2013</p> <p>Business Arising from Minutes</p> <p>Business arising issues are covered under Agenda Items and Executive Report Summary</p>	Minutes confirmed.

<p>3</p>	<p>MOU /MOU Schedule update</p> <p>John reported that the MOU has been redrafted in accordance with feedback provided by Alliance Executive members, taking out specific staffing and funding commitments. Specific details of Alliance work is now to be listed in an attached Alliance Work Schedule. The term of the new MOU will cover a six year period. John will organize necessary MOU tracks changes with Deakin legal and then circulate draft to DH and DHS for input and approval. A final version will then be circulated to be signed by the senior representative from each organization (name and title included)</p> <p>The 2014 Work Schedule to be discussed and confirmed at today’s meeting will also be circulated for signature by an authorized representative from each organization.</p>	<p>John Toumbourou to organize Deakin legal changes and circulate MOU to DH/DHS for input and approval. John to circulate final MOU and Work Schedule for Executive signatures by end of year</p>
<p>4</p>	<p>Alliance Executive Report</p> <p><i>4.1 Research, Evidence and Evaluation Advisory Group (Professor John Toumbourou)</i></p> <p>Based on previous Research Advisory Group recommendations the decision was made to focus activities in 2012/13 on establishing regional research priorities using the Delphi consultation technique. The Delphi consultation was completed with a panel of 90 people from across the region selected to represent expertise in areas including: research, state government, and local and regional planning. The Delphi technique is used to identify themes that are rated to establish priority responses. As applied in our region the Delphi has assisted in identifying health and research priorities across the Barwon South West and in municipalities. The project was also designed to specifically investigate approaches to address chronic disease determinants and place-based disadvantage in regional settings.</p>	

	<p>Delphi study update</p> <p>The Delphi project titled “Identifying health research strategies to reduce chronic disease determinants and place-based disadvantage in regional settings: A Delphi study in Australia” has now been completed with two Delphi reports disseminated to stakeholders associated with the SW Alliance. The first report presented the main priorities. The second report summarised the recommendations for actions and research to address the issues of obesity and mental health that respondents indicated to be amongst their priority concerns. The findings revealed a number of stakeholders across the region recommending the use of evidence-based community-level approaches informed by research and evaluation that are supported by multiple systems.</p> <p>The Delphi survey was timed to coincide with the local and regional health priority setting activities that were occurring in 2013 and have provided a clearer understanding of how Deakin University can support research priorities around the region. The study findings will be further disseminated in peer-refereed journals. Given the changed Alliance context the planned second round of the Delphi study will no longer be completed.</p> <p>Executive discussion recommended that the two Reports be posted on both the Alliance and Faculty of Health websites. It was also recommended that an Opinion Piece on the Delphi findings be developed for local media exposure in the New Year. The aim would be to raise the profile and action on the Delphi study priorities across the region. The Opinion Piece would focus on action solutions to address the major priorities including obesity, mental health, education, and place based disadvantage. The article would highlight positive local solutions and strong regional structures in place to address these issues. (eg G21 Addressing Disadvantage Taskforce)</p>	<p>Chris to post two Delphi Reports on Alliance and Faculty of Health websites and check latest web architecture settings.</p> <p>John to organize an Opinion Piece on Delphi findings in the New Year in consultation with DH and DHS</p>
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4.2 Prevention Capacity Building Advisory Group (Chris Loughnan summary overview)

Peter Quail Oration 2013

Dr Steven Allender, Professor of Population Health and Co-Director of the World Health Organization (WHO) Collaborating Centre for Obesity Prevention at Deakin University presented the **2013 Peter Quail Oration: "Where next for prevention of chronic disease? Scaling up from community based obesity prevention in schools to whole populations"** on Tuesday 22nd October at Deakin University's Waterfront Campus. Steve has an ongoing program of research on the burden of disease and obesity prevention. Recent work has seen a particular interest in the emerging burden of chronic disease in developed and developing countries and the possibilities for using complex systems approaches for community-based intervention.

Steve presented a summary covering the first ten years of the WHO Collaborating Centre for Obesity Prevention and the current program of research relating to the development of novel obesity prevention as well as scaling up from community-based obesity prevention in schools to whole populations.

The Peter Quail Oration was filmed for distribution as a Deakin Cloud link and was well attended and enthusiastically received by a large 80 plus audience.

Refer Deakin Cloud Link below:

http://air.deakin.edu.au/public/media/Where+next+for+prevention+of+chronic+disease%3F/0_9vxmtmqk

Chris to check with Deakin IT embedding PPT slides with presentation, or alternatively attaching PDF of presentation to film link

Place Based Community Strengthening Forum

The "**Place Based Community Strengthening Forum**" was successfully held at the Camperdown Golf Club on Wednesday 9th October 2013. The theme for the Forum aimed to explore best practice applied and research methods that strengthen the health and wellbeing of communities tackling issues of disadvantage across the Barwon South West Region. A selection of Deakin researcher's academic learning's and regional place based development approaches were showcased at the Forum. The Forum was well attended by over 80 participants across a spectrum of health professionals and managers in community health services and local government as well as Deakin researchers and educators across the region. The Forum program consisted of a keynote address, three main presentations as well as a choice of marketplace session interactions.

Dr Fiona Reidy (Director Health and Wellbeing, G21 Regional Alliance) presented the Forum's Keynote address: "**G21's Addressing Disadvantage Taskforce**" providing an extensive and informative overview of G21's recent policy platform to address disadvantage in the Geelong Region.

Forum presentations included:

- "**Whittington Works**" Mr Mark Farrugia (Senior Facilitator, Whittington Works) presented "Whittington Works" which was developed as part of the Whittington Community Renewal project as a targeted approach to enhance employment opportunities for Whittington residents.
- "**Great South Coast Year 12 or Equivalent Attainment Project**" Ms Vicki Mason (Chair of the Strengthening our Communities Pillar & Director of Community Development, Warrnambool City Council) and Ms Toni Jenkins (Executive Officer, South West LLEN) outlined this project which aims to address the issue of poor school educational attainment rates in the Great South Coast.
- "**Disrupting inter-generational cycles of place-based disadvantage**" (Professor John Toumbourou (Chair in Health Psychology, Deakin University) presented International examples showing where different states and regions have successfully reduced poverty through a planned program. Responses to the SW Alliance Delphi study were presented to argue that reducing place-based disadvantage is a regional priority.

Chris to include Executive members in distribution of Forum Summary Report (including presentation PDFs and Forum contact links)

Marketplace presentations included a selection of best practice place based strengthening projects occurring across the region showcased in small and interactive group discussions:

- **Foodskil_A Community Food Social Enterprise** based in Norlane, Geelong which aims to offer affordable quality fresh food to local residents as well as a space for the community to come together (Ms Katharine Drummond-Gillett, General Manager Foodskil)
- **Heywood Food Access Project** aims to increase access to fresh food for families in Heywood by strengthening local partnerships, developing gardening skills and participation in the Heywood Food Swap “hub” (Ms Jo Brown, SGGPCP)
- **Get Amongst It** held on the Warrnambool Civic Green with activities designed to inform people with a dual diagnosis (mental illness and substance use) about established resources in their community to maintain optimal health and wellness. (Ms Jillian Reid, South West Health Care)
- **Heywood Men’s Shed** aims to decrease social isolation of Heywood residents as well as address long term employment and local youth disengagement (Ms Carolyn Millard, Heywood Rural Health)
- **Merino Healthy Community Initiative** aims to enhance the health and wellbeing of the small rural community of Merino in remote Western Victoria by providing a supportive environment for residents to access affordable fresh food and increase physical activity. (Ms Lindy Stuchbery, Heywood Rural Health)
- **South West Healthy Kids** project in partnership with communities in the South West set out to build a local picture of factors contributing to poor eating and activity habits in children and use this information to design a community based initiative to address rising trends in childhood obesity. (Ms Catherine Loria, South West Healthcare; Ms Lisa Mcleod, Warrnambool City Council)
- **Building Bridges between Gordon TAFE and Deakin University** works to strengthen the pathway from the Diploma of Community Services (Gordon TAFE) to the Degree in Social Work (Deakin). (Mr Peter Barnes, Gordon TAFE)

	<p>Executive meeting discussion : Yr 12 Attainment Rates across Barwon South West Region</p> <p>Brenda highlighted poor school YR 12 educational attainment rates, students disengaging with school and not accessing alternative career pathways as a critical issue in Geelong and across the Barwon South West Region. The problem is compounded by reduced DEECD capacity to address low attainment rates across the region. John noted that the Forum presentations included clear evidence based solutions to address this critical area of disadvantage for many young people including critical early intervention activity before students disengage from school, improved teacher training in behavioural approaches to work with disengaged and disruptive students (eg Good Behaviour Game training) and alternatives to counterproductive school suspension policies. Leanne noted that the Vulnerable Children Fund may be a forum to engage with DEECD to help them address educational attainment rates with collaborative and joined up organizational responses.</p>	
5	<p>Deakin Activity update (Brendan Crotty)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Faculty of Health has expanded new courses and student recruitment with the continued rollout of Optometry and Sports Sciences courses as well as Medical Imaging to start in 2015 • Deakin wide course enhancement occurring with emphasis on transforming delivery into the digital world with a focus on a combination of online delivery and interactive discussion using high level IT • “Disability at Deakin” group set up to facilitate whole of University collaborations with NDIA • Deakin planning to set up an Integrated Health Research Centre in Western Victoria over the next 12 months with a focus on health workforce research and hospital based and primary care • Deakin establishing a presence in South West corridor of Melbourne setting up “Deakin Werribee” offering “Deakin at Your Doorstep” transition programs to tertiary studies in collaboration with Gordon TAFE • Deakin is working with Monash university to expand post graduate medical training in the region • Challenges include tighter budget restraints and flattening of growth of international student market 	

	<p>Department of Health update (Kerri Mansell)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A lot of work and a lot of change in sector with current recommissioning of service system delivery • Particular focus on Psychiatric Disability Support Services sector and funding transfer to NDIS • Home and Community Care (HACC) Program funding also in transition phase across to NDIS and preparation for remaining HACC services transition to Commonwealth <p>Depart of Human Services update (Leanne Hodder)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Similar environment to DH, with phased approach of transition of services to NDIS • Continue to rollout Services Connect and challenge of child protection, youth justice and housing interface with NDIA • Shergold Report and reforms due imminently to review how business is conducted, burdensome reporting requirements, and how to better engage with clients • Exciting developments to review how DHS engages with clients changing from dealing with crisis to building resilience model of operations 	
6	<p>Budget</p> <p>Financial Report to end of year tabled for discussion. Current Budget surplus @ \$18,000</p> <p>John Toumbourou noted possible further savings of \$17,000</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delphi study work is completed and Rachel Leung's salary item can be discontinued • Surplus Prevention Capacity Building funds from 2013 available <p>Consensus agreement that these funds be allocated to cover 2014 Work Schedule (see below) with any for surplus being available to be allocated at the Executive's discretion in 2014</p>	<p>John to advise the Faculty financial officers to carry \$17,000 of projected 2013 expenses into the 2014 budget</p> <p>Chris and John to notify advisory group members that in current funding model there is no funding for Prevention Capacity Building projects in 2014</p>

<p>7</p>	<p>Work Schedule for 2014</p> <p>Due to current Alliance budget constraints the 2013 model of Alliance operation is not sustainable for 2014. Annual funding contributions from members for Alliance Coordinators and a Project Officer are not available at this time. Alternative operational options were tabled for discussion at the June Executive meeting with consideration that the estimated budget surplus roll over for the end of 2013 is \$18,000</p> <p>The Executive agreed on a Work schedule for 2014 which supported using surplus funding to maintaining Executive meetings as a forum for intelligence sharing and identification of common priority projects as well as continuing the Peter Quail Oration under the Alliance banner.</p> <p>Key features of the Works Schedule for 2014</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue Alliance Executive meetings (x 2 per year) for intelligence sharing and collaboration on common priority projects • Continue Peter Quail Oration under Alliance banner • Advisory group activity discontinued • \$18,000 surplus and \$17,000 carry over to be used for salary to support Alliance Governance tasks and Peter Quail Oration • Project Officer EFT position reduced to fit budget constraints (from 0.6 to 0.2) <p>Proposed amendment to 2014 Work Schedule</p> <p>Meeting participants considered an amendment suggestion to replace the former three advisory groups with one reconfigured Project Collaboration Advisory Group with well-defined Terms of Reference</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meetings (x 2 per year) for intelligence sharing and collaboration on common priority projects • Meetings to focus on linking up existing working groups across organizations and exposure for DH/DHS staff to Deakin research staff and resources and evidence based solutions • Project activity to be specifically resourced from members existing capacity with Alliance resources only available for Advisory Group support eg chair meetings, organize venues, agendas and minutes. Alliance does not have the capacity to action any project activity arising <p>Consensus agreement with the above recommendation</p>	<p>John Toumbourou to circulate 2014 Work Schedule for review, ratification and signage by Executive members.</p>
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	<p>Executive meeting discussion re Peter Quail Oration 2014</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brendan noted the success and relevance of this year's Oration and that it was a well-attended event which also lifted the Alliance profile • Leanne noted a target next year to better engage DH and DHS support staff and suggested topics in particular which cover on the ground issues which staff are dealing with on a day to day basis • A/Professor Peter Miller was suggested as an ideal candidate to cover a current issue of major concern to DH/DHS staff eg. client aggression & alcohol/drugs and violence • Recommendation that Chris manage the Oration with support from Deakin students and also DHS community participation team • Participants agreed with continuing the Oration in 2014 	
	<p>Next Alliance Executive meetings for 2014</p> <p>Date/time/venue: To be confirmed for an appropriate date in March 2014</p>	<p>Chris to ask Executive Assistants to confirm available date in March</p>