



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

Friday 21st November 2008
Deakin Waterfront Campus

Minutes

Co Chairs:

Professor David Lowe, Head of School, History Heritage and Society, Deakin University.

Ms Christine Ferguson, Manager, Neighbourhood Renewal, Department of Human Services, Barwon South West Region.

Present:

Professor David Lowe	Head of School, History Heritage and Society, Deakin University
Ms Christine Ferguson	Manager, Neighbourhood Renewal, Department of Human Services, Barwon South West Region
Professor Trisha Dunning	Chair in Nursing, Barwon Health
Mr John Hedditch	Manager, Public Health, DHS (BSW)
Ms Anne Summerville	Executive Officer, G21 Primary Care Forum
Dr Iain Butterworth	Deakin Coordinator, Deakin +DHS Partnership
Mr Greg Waddell	Executive Manager, Director Education Enterprises, Gordon Institute of TAFE
Prof Joseph Graffam	Head of School(Psychology) + Deputy Dean Faculty of HMNBS, Deakin University
Mr Chris Loughnan	Project Officer, Deakin + DHS Partnership
Mr Tim Moore	Project Manager Population Health, Barwon Health
Mr Steven Sawyer	Manager Collaborative Programs and Research, Faculty of HMNBS, Deakin University
Dr Anita Peerson	Lecturer, School of Health and Social Development

Apologies: Ms Wendy Allen, Ms Libby Mears, Ms Irene McGinnigle, Ms Karen Pritchard, Ms Carole Micallef, Ms Kay Mills, Ms Evelyn De Leeuw



Welcome and Introduction

Chris Ferguson (co-chair) welcomed the group to the meeting and invited a round table introduction from members. New participants included Professor Trisha Dunning, Mr Greg Waddell, Dr Anita Peerson and Ms Anne Summerville.

Deakin Cross Faculty Team to support Corio Norlane Major Projects

Since the last meeting Christine Ferguson has sent out a list of Corio Norlane Major Projects to engage Deakin systematically with projects in the area. Christine reports that there is a rolling momentum to pull projects together in a coordinated way with Deakin. Professor Joe Graffam and Professor David Lowe are organizing internal meetings to develop a team approach to Corio and Norlane Major Projects. They indicated in the longer term Corio Norlane projects may be coordinated through a partnership office being formulated at Deakin. Joe Graffam mentioned the high profile positioning of Corio Norlane projects during Iain Butterworth's and John Hedditch's presentation at the recent Deakin Think Tank Forum.

Professor Joe Graffam and Professor Kathryn Von Treuer are working with Lou Brazier and Mr Terry Hearn on a Northern Futures project to look at workforce management and planning issues in Corio and Norlane.

Dr Iain Butterworth is maintaining an ongoing dialogue with Deakin's Senior Executive in regard to Cross faculty support of Corio Norlane projects. Dr Sue Kilpatrick, Deakin's new Pro Vice Chancellor has indicated her support in developing a Cross Faculty team and governance guidance to work with the Corio Norlane Advisory Board.

Centre for Population Health

John Hedditch has recently conducted a focus group meeting to discuss a Centre for Population Health in the region. **Appendix 1** provides feedback and round table discussion comment from this meeting.

The next step is to develop a vision for this Centre and how it might function. John Hedditch will develop and circulate an outline for feedback from a wide range of relevant potential stakeholders. Stakeholders to be consulted should be covered under a broad definition of social determinants of health. Steven Sawyer is an important source of advice for key stakeholders to consult both inside and external to Deakin. **steven.sawyer@deakin.edu.au** Feasibility testing and a Business Case would then need to be undertaken.

David Lowe expressed interest in the Alfred Deakin Institute (due to open in January) hosting database information for a Centre of Population Health. The Alfred Deakin Institute budget and activities are being developed with a focus on research not necessarily a focal point for all partnerships.



Deakin and DHS future research priority areas

DHS regional priorities research priorities are:

- To strengthen client's capacity to meet their needs
- To reduce inequalities by improving the health and wellbeing of the community, particularly for disadvantaged people and communities
- To build a sustainable, well-managed and efficient human service system
- To increase the involvement of the region in the development of policy and program initiatives
- To increase employees' capacity to maintain or exceed performance.

DHS direct and funded services aim to address disadvantage and inequity by providing timely, accessible and relevant community services throughout the region.

<http://www.deakin.edu.au/dhs/objectives-clusters.php>

Deakin Research being conducted covers a broad range of health related areas, including diabetes, obesity, mental illness and community empowerment. The approaches address both disease prevention and disease management; and include community-based interventions, economic evaluations biomedical to psychophysical methods, epidemiologic studies and policy-based research.

<http://www.deakin.edu.au/dhs/research-portfolio-areas.php>

An important priority for both DHS and Deakin is to link the National Reform Agenda with local initiatives. Regional programs being developed include:

- Prevention Taskforce
- GP Super Clinics
- Work Safe pilot program (Hamilton)
- Life Program
- TAC Head Office redeployment to the Geelong region
- CTM Net program
- Rural and regional agendas
- Centre for Emergency Medicine

The advisory group members looked at where Deakin + DHS research interests intersect to identify areas of common priority. It was determined that the partnership aim to focus on three main research priority areas while facilitating engagement in research across the broad research agendas of both DHS and Deakin. The three priority areas identified are **Corio Norlane Research Projects**, **Work Force Strategy** and **Data Linkage** research.



1) Corio Norlane Research Projects

The Deakin **Cross Faculty Team** to support Corio Norlane Major Projects is currently gathering momentum to engage with projects under the **Corio Norlane Development Advisory Board**. ([see](#) agenda item above) These projects include:

- Corio Norlane Neighbourhood Renewal
- Corio Norlane Education Regeneration Project
- The Norlane Regeneration Project
- Corio Norlane Major Urban Renewal
- Northern Suburbs Health Services Redevelopment
- The Northern futures Project
- The Northern Water Plant Project
- North Shore Train Station as Community Hub
- Community Advisory Panel-Shell Refinery

2) Work Force Strategy Research

The group discussion considered a research focus on developing long term **Work Force strategies** to review a broad range of workforce issues including:

Student placement and training

Student training capacity needs to match impending increased demand across medical and allied health professions. Research is required to investigate all aspects of student placement including shortages, supervision, infrastructure and staffing capacity, quality standards and key elements to support the wide variety of student placement concerns.

Work ready, integrated and sustainable workforce.

Research is required to plan for a work ready and sustainable workforce. A whole concept approach was highlighted as a priority to embed student placements in the community for ongoing induction into the workforce. Research is needed to identify current and pending workforce priorities including an ageing workforce and rural workforce shortages. Workforce strategies need to incorporate all post secondary pathways from early school leavers to VET and University training.

Related Teaching and Workforce Advisory group focus

The Teaching and Workforce Advisory group has its main focus to facilitate operational engagement between Deakin and DHS on workforce issues.

Advisory Group “sub committee” to lead a submission for research funds

- Anne Summerville advised that the COAG National Health Workforce Taskforce (NHWT) will be calling for demonstration projects in December.
- DHS: submissions for Innovation at Work
- Steven Sawyer noted the NHMRC Partnership Program conducts research that aims to influence policy and planning

Identified Deakin experts in workforce research include

Professor Joe Graffam (School of Psychology)
Associate Professor Louise Johnson (Geographer)
Dr Kathryn Von Treuer (Organizational/Industrial Psychology)
Dr Christine Jubb (Deakin Business School)



3) Data Linkage Research

The Advisory Group members supported Professor David Lowe's concept of auditing data sets to investigate convergence and applications for innovative interdisciplinary/interagency research. Initially this would involve a sub group to conduct asset mapping and an inventory exercise to report back to a wider meeting.

Mechanics of determining Deakin + DHS Partnership research priorities

Research advisory group priority recommendations are to be referred to the next partnership Executive meeting for consideration by **Mr Jim Higgins** (DHS Regional Director) and **Professor John Catford** (Dean- Faculty of Health, Medicine, Nursing and Behavioural Sciences)

Other Business

A request has been made for Partnership Executive Minutes to be circulated to advisory group co chairs and core members to facilitate the flow of information and a timely feedback on Executive decisions in regard to advisory group issues.

Schedule for next meeting

- Monday 27th April, 10 to 12 pm, venue to be confirmed at Waterfront Deakin Campus
- Next meeting to incorporate tour of new Alfred Deakin Institute

"If we knew what it was we were doing,
It would not be called research, would it?" **Albert Einstein**



Appendix 1

Centre for Population Health discussion meeting 20/11/08

Present:

Mr John Hedditch, Dr Mark Kennedy, Ms Anne Sommerville, Mr Chris Loughnan, Mr Andrew Churchill, Prof David Lowe, Prof Evelyn De Leeuw, Dr Anita Peerson,

Background and opportunities of a Centre for Population Health

John Hedditch

- Need for a collaborative model to share data sets as widely as possible
- DHS looking for wide data input to inform its planning functions
- Reference to Centre for Farmers Health as existing model for reference
- DHS key areas of interest include areas of disadvantage, populations at risk eg Koori and disability

Evelyn

The Centre for Population Health would be a priority resource for her current focus of activity to develop the Deakin Health and Wellness Centre in conjunction with the Alfred Deakin Centre at the Waterfront campus (Denny Lascelles Building). This is defined as an interactive infrastructure incorporating 3 main concepts

- **Science shop**- identify research connections with the community
- **Health shop**- information on social determinant of health
- **Referral hub**- connecting communities to health services, not service provision

David Lowe

David distributed a handout scoping document for the **Alfred Deakin Institute** emphasizing role to inform public debate and public policy. There is a strong emphasis on multi disciplinary research. Research excellence depends on reference to robust and wide data bases that a Centre for Population Health has the potential to develop. A need for diverse data base information covering all aspects of the social determinants of health ie not just Health but Education and Social determinants etc

Mark Kennedy

Geelong has a natural advantage to capture data in defined boundaries. A Centre for Population Health would provide wonderful opportunities for key stakeholders in the community to develop preventative health strategies and address disadvantage.

Anita Peerson

A Centre for Population Health would be a key resource for Human Service major students to develop a focus for research. Anita in her work throughout the region identifies a range of issues and data for further investigation including: Dry/drought issues, Food security, Unemployment and labour market trends, alcohol and drug data.



Andrew Churchill

The Health Intelligence Unit (Public Health, DHS) produces significant data information including the Victorian Population Health Survey, Burden of Disease and a range of Population Health based research and surveys. Andrew indicated the need to measure over smaller geographical areas and to more useful for intervention purposes rather than just for policy development. In the new information age there is the opportunity to take the guess work and politics out of planning and make decisions based on evidence and accurate data.

The Victorian Government is data focused and has expanded its Victorian Population Health Survey from a sample size of 7,000 to 32,000. DHS aims to triangulate its Administration data sets to build a composite picture with a wider/clearer view to inform planning eg triangulate admin data sets, population data and geo spatial analytical tools.

Relevant to this discussion Evelyn referred to an extensive data linkage model developed in Western Australia as well as the Dutch "Compass" model web site.

Anne Summerville

Anne noted the relevance of collaborative data base resources and knowledge depositories for all pillars of G21 activity. Discussion on where to start and scoping up a Centre for Population Health

Next Steps

- Shape a paper on the opportunities offered by a Centre for Population Health
- John Hedditch to distribute a one page framework outline to the group for feedback and to develop a description of purpose outline.
- Evelyn and David confer to develop common points
- Input encouraged from Sue Kilpatrick and Kerri Erler