



**Deakin University and the Department of Human Services
(Barwon - South Western Region) Partnership
Executive Meeting**

Wednesday 26th November
Department of Human Services
Level 3, Regional Directors Office

Minutes

Chair: Mr Jim Higgins

Present

Mr Jim Higgins, Professor Evelyn De Leeuw, Mr John Hedditch, Dr Iain Butterworth, Ms Kay Mills, Mr Chris Loughnan

Apologies

Professor John Catford

Welcome

Jim Higgins welcomed members to the meeting with a particular greeting to Kay Mills who has recently taken up the DHS Coordinator position for the Partnership. Kay brings a wealth of experience and knowledge to the partnership team. Jim expressed regret at missing the recent Deakin Think Tank presentations. John and Iain reported that their combined presentation at this event was well received and was an excellent forum to lift the partnership's profile.

Confirmation of Executive Minutes from last meeting

Executive Minutes from Wednesday 3rd September confirmed and accepted



Deakin+ DHS Partnership Progress Report

Iain tabled the Partnership Executive Report for the last quarter. Iain summarized the key aspects of the report and the recent actions of each advisory group. Iain noted the achievement of high level University endorsement for developing a Cross Faculty Research Group to work in collaboration the Corio Norlane Development Advisory Board (CNDAB). Dr Sue Kilpatrick, Deakin's new Pro Vice Chancellor has expressed interest in supporting the CNDAB develop its governance structures.

John is also currently facilitating the scoping steps to investigate developing a Centre for Population Health which he presented to the recent Partnership Research Advisory Group. John will develop and circulate an outline for feedback from a wide variety of potential stakeholders.

Partnership Beacon Issues for 2009

The Executive reviewed and discussed Deakin and DHS priorities to identify matching themes for partnership focus in 2009. Professor Evelyn De Leeuw described these priorities most effectively as "Beacon" objectives to guide the partnership. Jim recommended investing in a select a range of beacon priority issues that can produce evidence based outcomes. The three "**Beacon**" initiatives that have been identified for 2009 are:

- The continued focus on promoting Deakin and DHS ongoing engagement with the Corio Norlane Development Advisory Board. The **Corio Norlane projects** are significant to Governments at all levels. Christine Ferguson has developed a list of potential projects to link with the cross faculty research team currently being developed by the Research and Evidence based Practice Advisory Group. The Deakin +DHS Partnership needs to review this list and focus on projects where it has the capacity to deliver outcomes and which are symbolic of both Deakin and DHS priorities. Jim emphasized the need to join up and work in partnership with the community on projects over the long term. Evelyn noted the importance of implementing longitudinal measures of partnership activity, including measures of social capital and lifestyle patterns. Christine Ferguson will be an excellent representative of the Partnership at the Commonwealth Community Cabinet scheduled in Corio and Norlane on the 10th December 2008.



- Engaging in activity to promote **Farmers and Rural Health** issues. It was proposed that Evelyn De Leeuw develop the concept of a Farmers Health Conference for Deakin + DHS Partnership support. Dr Sue Kilpatrick is a key contact with a strong interest and knowledge of Farmer and Rural Health issues, and excellent connections with the University Department of Rural Health in Warrnambool. John Hedditch noted great potential benefits for Dr Kilpatrick's engagement on Rural Health issues in the South West Region. Other key representatives would include members from the National Centre for Farmers Health and Ms Sue Brumby from the Deakin's Farmers Health Centre. Evelyn has also developed contacts at the Geelong Grammar school who have a keen interest in helping support rural communities. A Farmers Health Conference could cover a range of topics relevant to farmers and their families from issues of mental health to climate change.
- Fostering **Research to promote Workforce Development** in the Barwon South Western Region. The Partnership will be working with Research Advisory Group members from DHS, G21, the Gordon TAFE, and Barwon Health to generate a submission to the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) Research Fellowships and Practitioner Fellowships (applications close 6th February 2009). Iain is currently following up submission applications with key Deakin research contacts such as Professor David Lowe and Professor Joe Graffam.

DHS review of Student Clinical Placements

Jim Higgins reported recommendations are yet to be determined in regard to the DHS State wide review of student clinical placements. Jim requested a reminder to investigate current stage of student clinical placement review process (Chris Loughnan)

Deakin + DHS Partnership Budget

Chris Loughnan tabled the Deakin + DHS Financial Report-Year 1 as at 31st October 2008. The Budget is currently in surplus with Balances bought forward into the New Year. This reflects the requirements of the 3 year Business Plan and the Partnership Memorandum of Understanding.



Other Business

Iain asked the Executive for feedback on the reporting style on the Partnership Executive Report. Jim Higgins and Evelyn De Leeuw felt the format was both informative and comprehensive.

Christine Ferguson (Co Chair Research and Evidence Based Practice Advisory Group) has made a request for the Executive Report and Minutes be circulated to Advisory Group co chairs to progress coordination of actions between the Executive and Advisory Groups. This suggestion was endorsed by the Executive.

Next Meeting

Two hour quarterly meetings are to be co-ordinated Jim Higgin's and John Catford's Executive Assistants for 2009.

The meetings are to alternate between DHS BSW State Government Offices and Deakin Waterfront Campus.

Recommended meeting days Monday, Thursday (all day) or Friday AM to accommodate partime Partnership workers attendance.

It was recommended by the Executive to invite Advisory Group co chairs to the first meeting next year.