



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

Thursday 11th June, 2009  
Room AD1.122 in the Denny Lascelles Building  
Deakin University, Waterfront Campus

**Minutes**

**Chair:** Professor John Catford

**Present**

Mr Jim Higgins, Professor John Catford, Associate Professor Mardie Townsend, Mr John Hedditch, Ms Kay Mills, Dr Cathryn Carpenter, Mr Chris Loughnan, Dr Kathryn Von Treuer, Ms Celisha Budge

**Welcome**

John Catford welcomed executive members to the meeting with a particular greeting and congratulations to Cathryn Carpenter on her appointment as the new Deakin Partnership Co-ordinator. He noted that the partnership looked forward to benefiting from Cathryn's wide experience and expertise.

**Confirmation of Executive Minutes from last meeting**

Executive Minutes from Thursday 12th March confirmed and accepted. No business arising.



## Mid Year Executive Report

Kay Mills tabled the **Partnership Executive Report** for the last quarter and summarized major points of action across the four **Advisory groups** and the **Three Beacon Projects** nominated for partnership attention. **(see attached Executive Report)**

### Health and Wellbeing Strategy

- The current focus with this strategy has been to organize a twin event with **Ms Sue Brumby** and **The National Centre for Farmers Health** scheduled for Friday 10<sup>th</sup> of July at the Western District Health Service in Hamilton. The program begins with the official **launch** of the National Centre for Farmers Health followed by an inaugural **Symposium "Opening the Gates on Farmer Health"** which aims to identify key health, well being, safety and social priorities for farming communities. The symposium also aims to identify key issues to formulate a program for a broader Farmer Health Conference in 2010 which could coincide with the DHS Rural Health Conference.
- The Corio Norlane Development Advisory Board application for **Health City accreditation** is currently being developed and is due for submission by the end of June.

### Teaching and Workforce Strategy

- **Student Clinical Placement Governance in Victoria:** In March 2009 a Project Steering Group set up by DHS invited the Council of Victorian Health Deans (CVHD), chaired by John Catford to lead the development of a regional cluster model for clinical placements in Victoria. The CVHD has engaged a consultant (Dr Donna Cohen of Darcy Associates) to assist with this work. As a part of this process, a series of round table discussions drawing together stakeholders in the area of clinical placements has been undertaken in Metropolitan and Regional Victoria.

John Hedditch and Chris Loughnan attended discussions for the Geelong Region on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> May. Other representatives included Student Placement Coordinators from a range of Deakin Faculties as well as Anne Somerville representing G21. A range of options and key issues were clearly presented and articulated by Dr Cohen. The models canvassed outlined how local networks might operate student clinical placements to fit into the national system being developed by the National Health Workforce Taskforce (NHWT). As a result of these discussions the most favoured model for Clinical Placements was a **disciplined based network** grouped together under a **Regional Clinical Academy**. In this model the responsibility for developing clinical placement policies for negotiations between education providers and health services is determined by the professional discipline.



The Academy would provide a mechanism for information sharing between disciplines, develop regional priorities for capacity building and infrastructure, as well as provide a platform for innovation and research. Clinical placements are a key component of a broader DHS Workforce Planning Strategy in the Barwon South West Region that takes into account a wide range of factors in the local environment.

John Catford reported that the CVHD supports the recommended model developed by Dr Cohen although it poses complex organizational challenges. A final report and full details on how the accepted model could operate is being finalized and this report will be circulated to key stakeholders for further comment.

John Hedditch reported that the Partnerships Teaching and Workforce project steering group is working to develop a Barwon South West Strategic Framework for Workforce Planning. It is important that new clinical placement models are informed by a strong Regional Workforce Strategy as well as the VET Reform agenda.

- **Medical and Nursing placement activity:** John Catford reported that medical placements are running at satisfactory levels to date. There are three clinical schools established at Geelong, Warrnambool and Ballarat Hospitals. GP placements are minimal at this stage. John flagged a shortage of placements for nursing students. Jim Higgins was interested in further discussion with John regarding Barwon Health's role in facilitating clinical placement opportunities.

An **Australian Centre for Nursing Workforce Development** is currently being established in the Alfred Deakin Institute, Deakin Waterfront Campus. Its role would include investigating: course design and competencies (Division 1+ 2 Nursing), chronic disease management, blended workforce practices, as well as wider roles for nursing practitioners and paramedics (especially in rural settings).

Kay Mills mentioned the Interprofessional Practice Program being delivered at Northern Health in conjunction with Latrobe University and funded by DHS. This program provides an opportunity for students to develop their professional skills in a team based setting, providing multi-disciplinary structured learning across a three week period. Northern Health is also in the process of developing an allied health clinical school, that will sit within the broader Northern Health clinical school and include medical and nursing students. They are also having discussions with other health and community service providers with a view to establishing a network of agencies across the region who are skilled and supported to take students.



## Research and Evidence Based Practice Strategy

- **Corio Norlane Projects:** Professor Sue Kilpatrick met with the Corio Norlane project team, the DU + DHS Partnership team and Dr Chris Hickey for a briefing and overview of Corio Norlane Major Projects and the governance structure of the Corio Norlane Development Advisory Board (CN DAB). Sue outlined the next steps to facilitate Deakin's wider engagement with these projects and was invited to join the CN DAB. Sue is working with Sandra McClelland to map Deakin's current level of engagement with Corio Norlane. The Project Team 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 to form the basis of further funding opportunities.
- **Deakin ARC Linkage Research Grant:** Deakin University has selected Corio Norlane and Colac as two 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. Jim Higgins noted that the ARC Research Grant site selection in Corio and Norlane was an important milestone to focus research activity in an area of disadvantage which is undergoing major urban renewal. Jim is particularly keen to promote longitudinal research to track investment projects (and whether they add value) in Corio and Norlane.
- **Project Teams:** The Research and Evidence-based Practice Advisory Group has identified three priority areas that it would like to form the focus of its work during 2009. In order to progress these areas, smaller focussed Project Teams will be convened in each of these areas and will report back to the Research and Evidence Based Advisory Group when it meets. The recommended Project Teams are: **Regional Research Centre, Evaluation Support, and Thinker in Residence.**

Membership of each of these groups is by invitation and it is expected that each of these groups will convene in July following endorsement of this structure at the next Research Advisory Group meeting.

- **Current Deakin Research and Course activity:**

- Cost effective "Evaluation of Life Program"- John Dunbar NHMRC funding.
- Diabetes in Pregnancy research.
- Diabetes Australia signing an agreement with Deakin; Chair currently being sought.
- Preventative Health Taskforce Research.
- Associate degree program 'Deakin on Your door' being set up at Warrnambool Campus.
- Deakin is currently looking for funding to develop an Indigenous Medical Program.



- **DHS + Deakin Research collaboration opportunities:**

-John Hedditch reported the Regional Managers Forum have set up a sub committee to investigate the links between liveability and disadvantage in the community. Mardie outlined the challenge to research and develop reliable liveability indicators and measurements.

-DHS is scoping out an Aboriginal Health and Wellbeing Plan for the region and developing a list of Deakin members to assist in this process.

- **Deakin Research Inventory:** Executive meeting participants discussed the challenge of keeping partnership members up to date regarding ongoing Deakin Research opportunities. Mardie offered to talk to Professor Beverly O'Connell (Associate Dean research, Faculty of HMN&BS) to explore the best system for capturing research projects and giving access for potential partnership collaboration. An inventory would need to incorporate research information from a range of research databases at Deakin. Jim suggested developing a web enabled research register with a restricted access for partnership members.

### **Public Health Forums Strategy**

Two Public Health Forums have been organized and presented since the last executive meeting:

- **The Peter Quail Oration for 2009: "Addressing Racism in Australia"** was presented by Dr Yin Paradies on the 25th March in the Percy Baxter Theatre, Deakin University. Dr Paradies is currently a Research Fellow jointly at the Menzies School of Health Research and the University of Melbourne. His research activity focuses on the health effects of racism as well as anti-racism theory, policy and practice. Dr Paradies has received a range of awards, including a Fulbright scholarship to study at the University of California (Berkeley), the Australian Day Councils's 2002 Young Achiever of the Year award and the Scholar of the Year in the 2007 National NAIDOC Awards.
- **"Can't Stand the Heat":** A community information day on healthy aging and climate change was held in Portland on Wednesday, 25th March. The day addressed health and wellbeing in our changing climate with participants being provided with positive tips and information in relation to climate change. Around 25 community members 60 years and over attended to hear an excellent array of speakers including Rebecca Rhyland from Thornbill Eco Education, Peter Reefman from Portland Sustainability Group and representatives from Wannon Water and Centrelink. With Mayor Geoff White opening the day participants enjoyed a day out with friends whilst increasing their knowledge on climate change, health & wellbeing. The event was organised by the Southern Grampians & Glenelg Primary Care Partnership and funded by the Deakin + DHS Partnership.



- **Anne Somerville (Director Health and Wellbeing, G21 Regional Alliance)** is organizing two Public Health Forums for October. Anne has designed an innovative program for these forums incorporating keynote speakers, panel discussions and master class sessions. The master class will provide key business and community members with the opportunity to develop leadership action in response to Forum issues. The forums at this time include Professor Rob Moodie to discuss Preventative Health issues followed by Professor Frank Oberklaid, Clare Martin and Dr Mark Kennedy to discuss issues on Child Health & Wellbeing.

### **Deakin + DHS Partnership Staffing**

During 2009 the Partnership team has been understaffed for 6 months (due to the vacancy in the Deakin Co-ordinator Position). The Executive discussed the increased work profile occurring as Advisory Group and Project activity escalates. Jim and John requested a proposal to address Partnership staffing demands in the short term. The proposal would outline specific staffing requirements as well as tasks and deliverables to be undertaken during the recommended period. The proposal would be funded from the current partnership budget underspend. In the longer term consideration needs to be given to solutions to meet ongoing increased work demand.

**Deakin + DHS Budget** Chris Loughnan tabled the Deakin + DHS partnership Budget (**see attached budget statement**).

### **Evaluation Framework for the Deakin + DHS Partnership**

Dr Kathryn Von Treuer and Celisha Budge (Organizational Psychology at Deakin University) provided an overview of the evaluation plan for Stage 1 to review Deakin + DHS Partnerships operational activity and outcomes. This is an interim review to provide a snapshot of partnership activity as well as bench marking data for further review. (**see attached Evaluation Power Point Presentation, Evaluation Tool and Evaluation Timeline documents**).

### **Other Business**

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 has the opportunity to work with Judith on August 6<sup>th</sup> to review our current position and seek advice on future objectives. Cathryn and Mardie will coordinate and develop a program to coincide with Judith's visit.

**Next meeting:** Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> Sept 2009, 10am to 12pm: **DHS Regional Directors Office**, Fenwick St, Geelong.