



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

Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2008, Room J3.52,  
Building J, Level 3  
Burwood Campus, Deakin University

**Minutes**

**Chair:** Professor John Catford

**Present**

Professor John Catford, Mr Grant Boyd, Ms Sandy Austin, Dr Iain Butterworth, Mr Chris Loughnan

**Apologies**

Mr Jim Higgins, Professor Evelyn De Leeuw

**Tabled: Deakin+ DHS Partnership Progress Report**

Iain Butterworth tabled the Deakin +DHS report which outlines summary activities of the partnerships four advisory groups whose inaugural meetings have been conducted over the past three months. The partnership team has been pleased with the levels of engagement and participation from key stakeholders at each of these meetings. These meetings have been attended by high calibre participants across a wide range of government and community organizations.

The tabled report outlines the aims of each advisory group, membership details, as well as outcomes and benchmarks for progress for 2008-2009 developed by advisory group members. Each advisory group meeting was successful in bringing stakeholders together in a conversation to clarify common aims and objectives. The advisory groups provided a forum to share information, enhance networks and develop ideas for joint action across organizations and agencies. Iain outlined a range of actions for the Partnership as recommended by each advisory group including the following:



### Teaching and Workforce advisory group

- Distribution of Deakin+ DHS Student placement guidelines to the widest range of DHS agencies, Health services and Primary Care Partnerships
- Wider workforce connection between DHS agencies and Deakin Career and Employment Services
- Brokering student placement between Deakin and Corio Norlane Development Advisory Board
- Continued facilitation of student and research placement between Deakin +DHS

### Research and Evidence based advisory group

- Engaging with Deakin's new Alfred Deakin Institute and the Health and Wellbeing Research College
- Developing a Deakin research support team to participate in the Corio Norlane Development Advisory Board
- Identify opportunities to involve Honours and higher degree students in applied research from 2009
- Engaging the School of psychology's Organizational Psychology team in discussions with the Armstrong Creek partnership team, the Corio Norlane Development Advisory Board and the Deakin +DHS partnership team
- Identify opportunities to include economic perspectives in health related research

### Public Health Forum advisory group

The Advisory Group proposed developing a new model to present Public Health Forums in the South West Region. The model aims to present forums widely across the region and use a community-building approach to develop topics in response to local needs. Its focus would be to give local areas ownership and control over topics as well as follow up on issues arising from the forums.

The model proposes to fund PCPs to organize one forum each per year in collaboration with the Deakin DHS Partnership coordinators. Barwon may be funded for two forums, based upon its size. The Public Forum Advisory Group proposed that the Deakin+DHS partnership fund four forums over the 2008 to 2009 calendar year. It was recommended that the partnership provide funding @ \$3000 per forum to be distributed as below per calendar year.

- |   |                   |
|---|-------------------|
| • Barwon Primary Care Partnership -                     | 2 forums (\$6000) |
| • Southern Grampians-Glenelg Primary Care Partnership - | 1 forum (\$3000)  |
| • South west Primary Care Partnership -                 | 1 forum (\$3000)  |

### Health and Wellbeing advisory group

Current partnership activity of particular relevance to the Health and Wellbeing group include advice and guidance to the Regional Managers Forum and major projects such as the **Armstrong Creek urban development** and the **Corio/Norlane Development Advisory Board**.



**Armstrong Creek** is to be a huge residential/commercial development on 4,000ha of land in southern Geelong that abuts Deakin's Waurin Ponds campus. "The Armstrong Creek urban growth area will be developed into a sustainable community that sets new benchmarks in best practice urban development. Natural and cultural features will be protected and enhanced to create a distinct urban character. Armstrong Creek will become a highly sought-after location for living, working and recreation, forming an attractive addition to Geelong."<sup>i</sup>

Neighbourhood Renewal has been so successful in Corio-Norlane that its Community Reference Committee has recently evolved into the **Corio/Norlane Development Advisory Board**. This is an overarching community governance structure for a suite of other current, major, long-term initiatives in Corio-Norlane. These initiatives have an estimated combined investment in the order of \$500M<sup>ii</sup>

**Actions** identified by the Health and Wellbeing advisory group relevant to Corio-Norlane for 2008-2009 include:

- Provide capacity building and education to relevant projects
- Refer to State legislation - Health and Wellbeing Act to guide project work
- Encourage Regional Health Plan
- Provide guidance on governance
- Share and network capacity building information
- Promote and share information and expertise on Healthy Cities with key project stakeholders

Partnership activity to date has promoted the credibility of Healthy City concepts to a position where the Regional Managers Forum now embraces "Healthy City" concepts and the City of Geelong is engaging with the Healthy City message.

Grant Boyd noted that partnership activity across advisory groups was helping Deakin + DHS get around clash of cultures and barriers to engagement. The partnership was also helping the two organizations coordinate varying timelines and priorities as well as clarifying cycles of research at Deakin.

### **Discussion of Deakin + DHS Partnership evaluation and capacity indicators**

Iain Butterworth outlined the new partnerships model as moving away from specific project delivery to the brokerage and engagement of partnership connections with the community. John Catford emphasized the importance of tracking partnership outcomes and brokered projects using high level performance indicators and baseline measurement. He suggested widening capacity indicators and the importance of logging outcomes and service improvement being brokered through the partnership. These indicators may include the tracking of student engagement, research activity facilitated and Deakin+ DHS partnership engagement with major regional projects (eg Corio Norlane and Armstrong Creek). Iain suggested that organizational psychology students under Professor Joe Graffam could help the partnership develop and implement a wider set of capacity indicators. He also noted that Professor Ramaley's visit and symposium forum would be a timely opportunity to review and obtain advice on the partnerships evaluation framework.



## Health and Prevention agenda

John Catford noted the importance of the partnership having a stock take of emerging national Health and Prevention research agendas and building up infrastructure to engage with key stakeholders in these areas. The agenda includes a focus on chronic disease prevention and mental health prevention strategies. Recent regional policy and programs being developed include:

- Prevention taskforce
- GP Super Clinics
- Work Safe pilot program (Hamilton)
- Life program
- TAC Head office redeployment to the region(Geelong)
- CTM Net program

## Symposium: University-Government Partnerships: Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> October

The interest for this partnership Symposium is strong with presentations being organized from an excellent cross section of University Government partnerships. The invitation list includes Deakin + DHS partnership core and associate members and a wide selection of DHS + Deakin senior program and faculty representatives. The program for the day has been divided into two main sections:

**AM: Deakin+ DHS Partnership “University-Community Engagement Workshop”** This is an invitation for partnership members to attend a special workshop featuring Professor Judith Ramaley to review partnership achievements and further develop evaluation strategy and performance measures.

**PM: Symposium: “University-Government Partnerships”** The aim of the symposium is to showcase best practice in University-Government partnerships for health and well being and share models of engagement. The guest of Honour and keynote speaker for the symposium is Professor Judith Ramaley. Partnership presentations for the day include:

- Deakin + DHS Partnership (Barwon-South West Region)
- DHS Gippsland + Monash University Partnership
- La Trobe University + DHS Loddon-Mallee Region Partnership
- University of Tasmania + Tasmanian Department of Health and Human Services Partnership
- Partners in Health and Primary Health + University of Tasmania Department of Rural Health Partnerships

**To Open Symposium** suggestions Fran Thorn, Peter Allan, John Catford, Jim Higgins



## Other Business

- A meeting between Mr Jim Higgins and Professor John Catford to be arranged before Symposium.
- Iain to request partnership financial summary from Allan Taylor

## Next Meeting

Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> November 2008 at 2-3 pm at State Government Offices, DHS.

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<sup>i</sup> [http://www.geelongcity.vic.gov.au/Services\\_In\\_Geelong/Planning/Strategic\\_Planning/Armstrong\\_Creek\\_Urban\\_Growth\\_Plan/](http://www.geelongcity.vic.gov.au/Services_In_Geelong/Planning/Strategic_Planning/Armstrong_Creek_Urban_Growth_Plan/)

<sup>ii</sup> [http://www.neighbourhoodrenewal.vic.gov.au/projects/corio\\_and\\_norlane](http://www.neighbourhoodrenewal.vic.gov.au/projects/corio_and_norlane)