



Maximising the value of rural and remote health research

Old Parliament House, Canberra  
Tuesday 2 September – Wednesday 3 September 2014

Program as at 1 September 2014

## DAY 1

Supporting local health service providers, community groups and early-career researchers – in collaboration with leaders of rural and remote health research, data agencies, and research and service funders – to undertake systematic research and evaluation of frontline rural health services.

8.30 am	<b>Registration</b>
8.50 am	<b>Welcome to Country</b> Matilda House, <i>Ngambri-Ngunnawal Elder</i>
9.00 am	<b>Official opening</b> Senator Fiona Nash, Assistant Minister for Health
9.15 am	<b>Overview of day: Ruth Kearon, Facilitator</b>
9.25 am	<b>Keynote Address: Research and innovation in rural and remote health services</b> David Hansen, <i>CEO, Australian e-Health Research Centre</i>
9.50 am	<b>Panel session: Clarifying the research questions</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Trish McKenzie, <i>Isolated Children's Parents' Association and Chair, Cunnamulla Community Advisory Network</i></li> <li>• Lyndon Seys, <i>CEO, Alpine Health Multi-Purpose Service</i></li> <li>• Karen Harvey, <i>Regional Manager (Queensland and SA), Frontier Services</i></li> </ul> <b>Facilitated discussion</b>
10.30 am	<b>Morning tea</b>
11.00 am	<b>What is fundable?</b>  <b>The rural health research interests of Government</b> Samantha Palmer, <i>Head, Indigenous and Rural Health Division, Department of Health</i> Timothy Dyke, <i>Executive Director, Strategic Policy Group, NHMRC</i>  <b>The research needs of the private health insurance sector</b> Michael Armitage, <i>CEO, Private Healthcare Australia</i>
11.40 am	<b>Workshop: Key elements and characteristics of a valuable research proposal</b> (one potential or one that you know was actually undertaken). Characteristics to consider might include: a clear, practical research question; its importance well justified (existing evidence, gap analysis); relevant to potential funders (meets funding criteria/categories); funding sought is justified (not operational or staff); clear how its success will be measured; sustainability or transferability beyond the funding; and more.
12.30 pm	<b>Drawing the session together:</b> Key points from table groups
1.00 pm	<b>Lunch</b>
1.30 pm	<b>Constructing a research project</b> Robyn Aitken, <i>A/Chief Nursing and Midwifery Officer, Northern Territory, and Professorial Fellow, Charles Darwin University</i>
1.55 pm	<b>Preparing for workshops: Facilitator outlines the tasks</b>
2.00 pm	<b>Workshops: Planning and conducting a good research project</b> Facilitated group discussions at tables of 'right methods', ethics and informed consent, facilities and personnel, planning to share findings, preparing for evaluation.
2.50 pm	<b>Drawing the session together:</b> Facilitator, group facilitators and whole of room
3.20 pm	<b>Afternoon tea</b>

For more information visit the 4<sup>th</sup> Rural and Remote Scientific Symposium website at [www.ruralhealth.org.au/symposium2014](http://www.ruralhealth.org.au/symposium2014)

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<b>3.40-5.00 pm</b>	<b>SPREADING THE NEWS ABOUT THE RESULTS, TRANSLATING THEM TO ACTION</b>
3.40 pm	<b>Returning Home to Community from Custodial Care. Not just a pilot!</b> Tonya Grant, <i>Indigenous Advisor and Program Manager</i> on behalf of Joanne Bourne, <i>Program Coordinator, Closing the Gap, Townsville-Mackay Medicare Local</i>
4.00 pm	<b>Panel session and debate: Disseminating results to different audiences</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• David Perkins, <i>Honorary Editor, Australian Journal of Rural Health</i></li> <li>• Sue Dunlevy, <i>National Health Reporter, News Corp</i></li> <li>• Jennifer Doggett, <i>Online journalist, commentator</i></li> </ul>
4.40 pm	<b>Discussion of the whole day: What are the key ways in which the non-traditional rural and remote health research sector and effort can be enhanced/expanded?</b>
5.00 pm	<b>Close</b>
7.00 pm for 7.30pm	Symposium dinner, Dining Room, Old Parliament House



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## DAY 2

Maximising the use of national, regional and local health data sets for shaping and evaluating frontline rural/remote health services and policy. Strengthening the relationship between rural and remote health researchers/service providers and national health data agencies (eg ABS, AIHW, Medicare, AHPRA, NHPA).

8.00 am	<b>Informal meetings between researchers and data agencies – over coffee</b>
9.00 am	<b>Keynote address: Demonstrated value of national data sets for policy</b> David Butt, CEO, Commissioner, National Mental Health Commission
9.20 am	<b>National data sets</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Availability and use of the Australian Health Survey, ABS census data and other health data (including new biomarkers)</i> Louise Gates, Director, Health Section, Australian Bureau of Statistics</li> <li>• <i>Australian Institute of Health and Welfare data and rural/remote research</i> Lisa McGlynn, Senior Executive, Health Group, AIHW</li> <li>• <i>Medicare data and rural/remote research</i> Chris Carlile, Medicare Finance and Listing Branch, Department of Health</li> </ul> <b>Facilitated discussion</b>
10.20 am	<b>Data linkage</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>AIHW data linkage work</i> Phil Anderson, Head, Data Linkage Group, AIHW</li> </ul> <b>Facilitated discussion</b>
10.50 am	Morning tea
11.15 am	<b>Cardiovascular health and social determinants in rural populations</b> Martin Laverty, CEO, Royal Flying Doctor Service
11.40 am	<b>Health workforce data and planning</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Multidisciplinary data for health workforce planning</i> Steve Graham and Lisa Wardlaw-Kelly, Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency</li> <li>• <i>Planning with health workforce data</i> Maureen McCarty, Director, Workforce Data Analysis Section, Department of Health</li> </ul> <b>Facilitated discussion</b>
12.20 pm	<b>Handling some of the challenges with data analysis in rural and remote areas</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Getting access to reliable small area data</i> John Glover, Public Health Information Development Unit, University of Adelaide</li> <li>• <i>Regional data and Medicare Local variation</i> Tricia Linehan and Melanie Taylor, National Health Performance Authority</li> <li>• <i>Linking big and small data sets for geo-spatial mapping and analysis</i> Ian McRae, Head, GRAPHIC, APHCRI</li> </ul> <b>Facilitated discussion</b>
1.00 pm	<b>Lunch</b>
<b>2.00-3.40 PM</b>	<b>AGREEING A TWO-YEAR PLAN</b>
2.00 pm	<b>Identifying some of the elements of a two-year plan from the morning discussion</b>
2.10 pm	<b>Workshop: What are the elements of a two-year plan.</b> To enhance the non-traditional rural/remote health research effort, and to add value to the use of national data sets and the relationship between data agencies, researchers, the public and the policy makers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>What needs to be agreed and by whom?</i></li> <li>• <i>What needs to be newly provided? Who needs to do what?</i></li> <li>• <i>What incentives might be provided or disincentives removed?</i></li> </ul>
3.10 pm	<b>Elements of the action plan: who will lead?</b> (The beginnings of a communiqué will be considered.)
3.40 pm	<b>Closing address</b> Stephen Jones MP, Shadow Assistant Minister for Health
3.50 pm	<b>Concluding comments and evaluation</b>
4.00 pm	<b>Close</b>

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