

MEDIA RELEASE

For immediate release

Are teams the key to a better Australian health care system?

“Working together” 2007 General Practice and Primary Health Care Research Conference

Chronic disease, workforce shortages and poor Indigenous health continue to plague the health care agenda, but a large community of researchers will be working with Governments to provide positive health solutions at their annual meeting at Darling Harbour in May.

The conference will bring together international and Australian primary health care research leaders to address issues such as: Are teams the solution to the medical workforce crisis? What should we be doing to better manage diabetes in primary care? How can we stop childhood obesity becoming a lifelong issue through primary care solutions?

The 2007 annual General Practice and Primary Health Care Research Conference - Wednesday 23rd - Friday 25th May at the Sydney Convention Centre - is a major event in Australian general practice and primary health care research. This year the conference focuses on building partnerships and promoting collaborative endeavours between research, policy and practice elements of the primary health care sector.

Conference convenor, Associate Professor Ellen McIntyre, says the conference is an excellent opportunity for delegates to exchange ideas and solutions that will have a significant impact on Australian's health.

“Whether it is debating how GPs can help patients manage their diabetes or looking at international models for solving our workforce issues, we are here to contend with the real issue of making policy more evidence-informed so Australians know their healthcare dollar is being wisely spent,” says Associate Professor McIntyre

The conference is run in partnership with the Primary Health Care Research and Information Service (PHC RIS), the Australian Primary Health Care Research Institute (APHCRI) and the Australian Association of Academic General Practice (AAAGP). The conference is funded by the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing.

Notes to Editors:

PHC RIS works in partnership with the Divisions of General Practice Network, primary health care researchers and policy advisors to generate, manage and share information and knowledge that contributes to policy and improves performance. For more information visit our website: www.phcris.org.au

⇒ Keynote speakers attending the event include

- **Professor Chris van Weel (Professor and Head of Department for General practice/Family medicine, Radboud University Medical Centre, Nijmegen, The Netherlands)** APHCRI Visiting Fellow. *Professor van Weel has a strong interest in chronic disease management and is the founder of the Netherlands School of Primary Care Research. He is President-elect of WONCA.*
- **Professor Bonnie Sibbald (Deputy Director of the National Primary Care Research and Development Centre University of Manchester)** APHCRI Visiting Fellow. *Professor Sibbald is investigating how general practice teams should be configured to improve the quality and cost-effectiveness of care.*
- **Professor Nicky Britten (Professor of Applied Health Care Research & Deputy Director of the Institute of Clinical Education, the Peninsula Postgraduate Health Institute, UK).** *Professor Britten is a sociologist with interests in the synthesis of qualitative research and user involvement in research.*

⇒ Other presenters attending the event include

- The Hon Tony Abbott MP
- Norman Swan
- David Currow
- Please see the speaker profiles in your media pack for more information

⇒ Media registration is available to those wishing to attend the conference, contact Sarah Eckermann for details

⇒ A media room will be available at the event.

For more information, please contact Sarah Eckermann (Communications Officer, PHC RIS) 0405 459 857