



**Immediate release [30 June 2010]**

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **GP conference in Darwin is massive success**

"I am delighted to be chairing this conference which highlights the significant contribution primary health care researchers can make to the health reform agenda, through their commitment to improving health inequities and health outcomes."

This was Associate Professor Libby Kalucy's welcome to delegates at this year's Primary Health Care Research Conference and to The Hon Warren Snowden MP, Minister for Indigenous Health, Rural and Regional Health and Regional Services Delivery, who opened the conference in Darwin today (Wednesday 30 June). Libby continues:

"This conference provides an opportunity for researchers to share their knowledge and expertise in how best to improve primary health care provision and quality of care and I am proud to have been a part of it."

The 3 day conference will be attended by over 370 primary health care researchers, practitioners and policy makers and feature keynote speeches by Dr Colin Tukuitonga, Chief Executive of the Ministry of Pacific Island Affairs from New Zealand, Dr Stephen Campbell, Senior Research Fellow at University of Manchester, England, Dr Jim Primrose, Chief Advisor in Primary Health Care for New Zealand Ministry of Health<sup>1</sup> and Associate Professor Noel Hayman, Clinical Director of the Inala Indigenous Health Service.

As part of his role in opening the conference, Minister Snowden launched 2 major primary health care publications; *Snapshot of Australian primary health care research 2010* and *the Central Australian Practitioners Association (CARPA) Standard Treatment Manual, 5th edition*.

Conference convenor, Associate Professor Ellen McIntyre, was enthused by the number of delegates who attended the first day of the conference:

“I am very pleased that so many delegates have been able to join us in Darwin to share in the wonderful examples of work being conducted in primary health care research. Already, we have learnt the value of understanding the barriers GPs face in diagnosing and treating childhood obesity, from Romayne Moore, and heard from Tom Brett<sup>ii</sup> why so many of our GPs are considering early retirement.

“We have explored preventive health approaches, such as Wendy Bissinger’s research<sup>iii</sup>, which engaged parents and teenage girls to help identify the benefits of and barriers toward HPV vaccination, and heard from Dr Jim Primrose how a primary health care plan in New Zealand is helping to improve the delivery of primary health care and reducing pressure on the hospital system.”

The Primary Health Care Research Conference is in Darwin until Friday 2 July.

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For more information on the conference or to schedule interviews **please contact Fae Heaselgrave**, communications officer for Primary Health Care Research and Information Service, **on 0432 971291**.

### **Notes to editors**

#### **Primary Health Care Research and Information Service (PHC RIS)**

The Primary Health Care Research Conference (formerly the GP & PHC Research Conference) is convened by the Primary Health Care Research and Information Service and run in partnership with the Australian Primary Health Care Research Institute, the Australian Association of Academic General Practice and the Human Resources for Health Knowledge Hub, one of four knowledge hubs funded by AusAID. The conference is funded by the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing.

PHC RIS is a national primary health care organisation based at Flinders University in South Australia in the Discipline of General Practice. PHC RIS is responsible for generating, managing and sharing information and knowledge to inform, influence and enhance primary health care practice, policy and research by working in partnership with its key stakeholders: the Divisions of General Practice Network, primary health care researchers and primary care policy advisors.

More information is available at the [PHC RIS website](#) or by calling 1800 025 882.

#### **Hon Warren Snowden**

As Minister for Indigenous Health, Rural and Regional Health, and Regional Services Delivery, the Hon Warren Snowden has responsibility for Indigenous Health, Rural and Regional Health, Men’s health and Papua New Guinea cross border health issues. For more

information visit the Minister's [portfolio pages](#) on the Department of Health and Ageing website.

***Snapshot of Australian primary health care research 2010*** is available online at: <http://www.phcris.org.au/phcred/snapshot/index.php>

See attached media release for more details of *Snapshot* highlights and to arrange interviews with primary health care researcher, Dr Tom Brett.

### **The CARPA Standard Treatment Manual 5th edition**

Information about The Central Australian Remote Practitioners Association (CARPA) Standard Treatment Manual (STM) is available from the [CARPA website](#)

The CARPA-STM has become the Territory Health Service endorsed manual for use in remote health centres throughout the Territory. It is also the main clinic handbook used in all Aboriginal Health services in the Territory and surrounding Central Australian region.

Evaluations of previous editions confirmed local anecdotal reports of the manual being widely and regularly used and had established an important role in standardising clinical practice and greatly helping remote staff face the challenges of remote (mostly Aboriginal Health) work.

### **Romayne Moore**

Romayne is a GP practice trainee with the Central and Southern Queensland Training Consortium currently undertaking an academic registrar position through Griffith University.

### **Dr Tom Brett**

Dr Brett is Professor and Director of the General Practice and Primary Health Care Research Unit at The University of Notre Dame Australia, Fremantle. Research interests include medical workforce issues, primary prevention of cardiovascular disease, prostate cancer, STIs and multi-morbidity.

### **Dr Wendy Bissinger**

Dr Bissinger is a GP in outer-east Melbourne, Chair of the Eastern Region Immunisation Committee and Deputy Chair of General Practice Victoria. She spoke about her research aimed at increasing the uptake of Human Papillomavirus vaccination among Year 7 girls at the conference today. See media release issued Monday 28th June for further details.

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<sup>i</sup> Refer to the attached media invite for details of the keynote speakers presentations

<sup>ii</sup> See separate media release about the publication of Snapshot, which reflects on Tom Brett's research in more detail.

<sup>iii</sup> Refer to separate media release 'Victoria's drive to increase HPV vaccination,' about Wendy Bissinger's work to increase the uptake of Human Papillomavirus among Year 7's in Eastern Melbourne schools.