



1. Develop partnerships with and between regional health services and divisions and appropriate state-based institutions to facilitate education and research activities

MOUs outlining collaborative activities prepared with Institute for Child Health Research and the WA branch of the Johanna Briggs Institute.

Opportunities for research support widely promoted among partner organisations.

2. Foster the involvement of primary health care providers in research

Evaluation of training to promote effective use of the internet and electronic databases has been completed, which demonstrated increased confidence by participants six weeks after training. A plan to address recommendations is being put in place.

Four rural/remote PHC providers sponsored to present research activities at national conferences.

Two PHC Research Fellowships (3-month) accepted (physio & AHW manager).

Development of a series of rural-based workshops (including guideline development, follow-up and evaluation) on evidence based nursing practice.

3. Be a source of research expertise and information for rural and remote health services, divisions and health professionals

Extensive statistical and research design assistance provided to 12 research projects by PHC providers, about half in collaboration with CUCRH academics.

Ad hoc statistical or research design assistance to an additional 10 rural PHC providers and 7 postgraduate students working on rural health topics.

Three general practice based research projects initiated (pathways to mental health care; socio-demographic profile of a new general practice client load in an area of special need; integration of care planning into general practice).

4. Pioneer the use of new methodologies for rural, remote and Indigenous primary health care research

Anthropologically informed research on the adoption of a primary health care model in a remote health service has resulted in a peer reviewed article, external funding for an action research project on early childhood development and a program of undergraduate research training to be based in the region (piloted this year and to expand significantly in 2003).

Considerable work has been done in the area of geographic systems and primary health care. A study of diabetes complications through the northern Goldfields has been completed and presented at a state forum. Ethics applications for two PHC GIS projects are under review.

5. Undertake collaborative research and evaluation activities that inform national and state policy directions and regional priorities and address local and regional health needs

Extensive work leading a team of partner organisations in the Pilbara (esp. the Pilbara Division) to develop a proposal of a consultative needs analysis and evidence-based planning for **chronic disease management**.

Collaboration with the Midwest Division and the Midwest Mental Health Team to address the findings of CUCRH research into **primary mental health care** partnerships by launching team-building educational sessions structured around case scenarios reflecting these

Collaboration with the Midwest Division, health services and AMS to introduce and evaluate an **asthma** management strategy appropriate to small isolated towns.

In keeping with our targets, one fellowship was awarded to an Aboriginal person and two major projects (chronic disease in the Pilbara and diabetes in the Goldfields) address **Aboriginal health** priorities.