

# National meeting: Primary Health Care Research Evaluation and Development University Initiative

4-5 September 2002, Adelaide  
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The second national PHC RED university initiative meeting was hosted by the Department of General Practice, Flinders University, on the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> of September 2002.

The meeting was attended by representatives of the PHC RED programs in each State and Territory, the PHC RED State coordinators, and representatives from the Research and Quality section of DoHA and State Offices.

The objectives of the meeting were:

- to support a national collaborative, strategic approach to the building of GP and PHC research capacity in Australia
- to provide further opportunities for universities to share and learn from each others' experiences
- to identify issues pertinent to the evaluation of the program
- to establish improved opportunities for inter-collegiate networks and collaboration.

The meeting provided a forum for representatives from each of the PHC RED programs to present the highlights, opportunities, issues and difficulties experienced in establishing their research capacity building activities. The presentations showed colour, passion and enthusiasm, and highlighted how much has been achieved since the last national meeting. The activities presented were many and varied, including the establishment of research networks, workshops on qualitative and quantitative research methods, critical thinking skills courses, and research bursaries and fellowships. All speakers provided a one-page summary of their presentations.

The plenary discussion held at the



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end of each session provided delegates with the opportunity to openly discuss and share ideas about their own experiences of establishing and running similar activities. It was particularly exciting to hear about the enthusiastic response of the primary health care community to the research capacity building activities on offer. For some groups, the high demand for their workshops and other activities has led to the development of novel approaches for their delivery. For example, the University of Sydney PHC RED Program now provide their *Basic Critical Thinking Skills* workshop in three different forms: as an online tutorial; as a face-to-face, small group workshop; and in seminar form. The challenge now is for the PHC RED programs to continue to meet the needs of those who have expressed an interest in research, in order to sustain a strong and vibrant research culture in primary health care.

Presentations by representatives from DoHA and the small group discussion sessions provided further opportunities for delegates to exchange experiences and ideas, discuss alternative funding opportunities, provide feedback on the proposed reporting framework, and raise issues related to the upcoming evaluation of the PHC RED University Initiative. The refreshment breaks and the mid-meeting dinner provided excellent opportunities for delegates to spend time nurturing their ongoing collaborations with colleagues and establishing new collaborations.

Proceedings of the meeting are currently being prepared. They will be distributed to all delegates and will be available in pdf format from PHC RIS at:

[www.phcris.org.au](http://www.phcris.org.au)

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