

Evaluation of PHCRED

Brian Wall
Oceania Health Consulting
and
Anne Egan
University of Tasmania

Oceania Health Consulting

- OHC did the Implementation plan for GP RED in 1999
- Done similar evaluations successfully eg the evaluation of the Rural Health Services Strategy
- Brian Wall has been Principal for 8 years. Previously worked in Health Dept WA, finally as General manager Public Health

Anne Egan

- Qualified physician, pathologist
- PhD basic scientific research
- Experience in development, support and accreditation of postgraduate medical education in Tasmania and other states

Evaluation objectives

- The evaluation should specifically determine:
- the **effectiveness** of the Strategy and its individual components in terms of:
 - the degree of success of the Strategy and each component in achieving their goals and objectives;
 - any unintended consequences;
 - linkages between components of the Strategy and linkages with other Programs; and
 - where they exist, the adequacy of existing performance indicators relating to effectiveness and where they could be improved;

Evaluation objectives

- the **efficiency** of the Strategy and individual components in terms of:
 - instances where there have been delays in implementation and why;
 - the expenditure on administration for the outputs achieved over time; and
 - the extent to which the program's inputs have been minimised, or outputs maximised, in achieving the program's goal;

Evaluation objectives

The **appropriateness** of the Strategy and individual components in terms of:

- the nature and extent of any continuing need in the area of research capacity-building;
- the likely consequences of not addressing the need;
- alternative strategies for addressing the need;
- the extent to which the Strategy is consistent with Government priorities;
- the extent to which the identified need is addressed by programs funded from other sources such as State government, DEST and NHMRC;
- the research capacity-building approaches funded, including the broader approaches (eg the allocation of training awards) as well as approaches implemented by University Departments under their individual PHC RED Programs.

Evaluation objectives

The **future** of the Strategy in terms of:

- components and sub-components of the Strategy that should and should not be continued, based on an assessment of their efficiency, effectiveness and appropriateness (EEA);
- how components and sub-components of the Strategy might be improved to increase their EEA;
- additional components that might be added to increase the EEA of the Strategy as a whole;

Evaluation objectives

Future of the Strategy (continued)

- the core components and sub-components of a national program of research capacity-building;
- KPIs for the Strategy and individual components;
- if the review recommends that the Strategy should continue, recommendations should be made regarding the timing and main issues to be addressed by the next evaluation, including an assessment of action taken to implement any recommendations from the present review.

Methodology

Stage 1

- Study documentation – program reports, financials, etc
- Interview Dept staff & others eg NHMRC
- Interview other key stakeholders, eg ADGP
- PHCRED Meeting
- Questionnaire to get comparable data
- Visit or speak to all RCBI-funded centres
- Speak to Fellows, Scholars etc.

Methodology

- Stage 2
 - Collate information, consider and develop possible findings, KPIs etc
 - Discuss with Reference Group
- Stage 3
 - Draft report, then finalise after feedback from Department

Practical considerations

- Consultations have to be completed by mid-December – very tight time-frame
- Trying to have face to face consultations with majority of centres that have been in operation for a while but not necessary to visit every centre
- Propose about half a day at each centre visited
- Looking to revisit the baseline survey – plus some summary data on staffing

Possible schedule of visits - BW

- 23 Nov Townsville
- 24 Nov Brisbane
- 25 Nov Newcastle
- 26 Nov Sydney &/or
- 29 Nov Sydney
- 30 Nov Broken Hill
- 1-2Dec Adelaide
- 3 Dec Alice Springs
- 6 Dec Perth
- 7 Dec Geraldton
- Tasmania, ACT soon after

Possible Schedule of Visits

Anne Egan

- To Victoria either
- 22 and 23 November or
- 29 and 30 November 2004.

PHCRED Evaluation

Questions and
Comments
then Workshop

Contact details
bwall@ohc.com.au
tel 0412 233 577

Questions for small groups

- Nominate 4 activities that have been most successful in the RCBI component of PHC RED and should be a key part of the suite of activities or way of doing things in the future.
- Are there things that have consistently failed and that should not be tried again?
- What are one or two key issues that need to be addressed in the operation of the strategy as a whole in the next cycle?