Aims and Rationale

- To increase research capacity of early to mid-career primary health care researchers in Western Australia;
- To add to the evidence base of research through a variety of research training opportunities, workshops, seminars and annual collaborative State conference.

Methods

A retrospective analysis of funding and outputs of the PHCRED strategy in Western Australia from 2006-2009 was undertaken.

Information was collected from reported outputs of two universities and one University Department of Rural Health, spread across Western Australia.

Findings

The analysis highlighted the following improved outcomes:

- More money allocated to fewer fellows has resulted in improved quality research;
- State conference delegate numbers remained static in the three years, 2006-2008. In 2009 there was an increase of 20 per cent in delegate registrations due to a shorter half day event with increased participation from those who attended in previous years. A shorter event during the week was less likely to impinge on clinical time;
- An increased number of publications and presentations by RCBI supported researchers in Western Australia which has added to the evidence-base for primary health care research.

Figure 1: Summary of major RCBI activities in Western Australia.