



South Eastern Sydney Research Collaboration Hub Primary Health and Integrated Care

Review and key achievements 2015-2016

WHO WE ARE

SEaRCH is five year collaboration between the UNSW Research Centre for Primary Health Care and Equity (CPHCE) and South Eastern Sydney Local Health District (SESLHD), formalised through a Memorandum of Understanding. It is led by a Senior Research Fellow employed by CPHCE and funded by SESLHD. Our mission is to support the goals of both organisations to achieve better and fairer health for the population of south eastern Sydney.

WHAT WE DO

Purpose

- Undertake, promote and support research and evaluation that strengthens primary health care and equity
- Support the implementation of research evidence into practice and policy
- Contribute to the development of primary health care in SESLHD.

Roles/areas of focus

- Conduct primary health care research and evaluation (including implementation research) within SESLHD, often involving SESLHD services and staff.
- Apply research findings in the work of SESLHD, including support for health service development and the uptake of evidence based interventions
- Support pathways for research capacity building within the LHD.

GOVERNANCE

The collaboration is governed by a MOU and overseen by an Operations Committee which meets quarterly and undertakes an annual review of the agreed work plan. Membership of the Operations Committee:

CPHCE

Prof Mark Harris, Executive Director
A/Prof Terry Findlay, CEO
Dr Julie McDonald, Senior Research Fellow, and
Hub leader

SESLHD

Dr Greg Stewart, Director, Primary, Integrated
and Community Health
Ms Tish Bruce, Deputy Director, Primary,
Integrated and Community Health
Ms Linda Soars, Manager, Integrated Care Unit
Claire Phelan, Director, Oral Health.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS 2015-2016

2015: Establishment phase

- ✓ Core staff recruited (0.8 FTE Senior Research Fellow; 0.3 FTE Research Officer).
- ✓ Secured \$55,260 additional research funding from SESLHD for:
 - Primary and community health 45 and up cohort feasibility study and associated research projects (Primary and Integrated Health);
 - Evaluation of the Arabic mindfulness CD project (Multicultural health Service).
- ✓ Partnership and governance arrangements established.
- ✓ Identity created (name, logo, and webpage).
- ✓ Strategic Directions and priorities agreed.
- ✓ Met with relevant SESLHD stakeholders on research directions, priorities and needs.
- ✓ Contributed to development of the SESLHD Integrated Care Strategy and evaluation framework.
- ✓ Promoted CPHCE equity related Master Classes (n=6 SESLHD staff).
- ✓ Secured 4 complementary places for SESLHD staff on UNSW 3 MPH Summer School courses.
- ✓ Increased SESLHD attendance at CPHCE seminar and symposiums.
- ✓ Presented on PHC Research to the Health-Science Alliance Symposium, RHW Nov 2015.

2016: Implementation and growth

- ✓ Core staff enhanced (0.8 FTE Research Officer).
- ✓ Enhanced access to other CPHCE research expertise on SEaRCH research projects.

- ✓ Consolidation of relationships and embedded in SESLHD organisational structure.
- ✓ Secured \$196,338 additional research funding from SESLHD for:
 - the Primary and community health 45 and up cohort study (Primary, Community and Integrated Health);
 - Exploratory research on patterns of access to and utilisation of oral health services (Oral Health);
 - Research on attitudes towards water pipe smoking in the Arabic community (Multicultural Health Service);
 - Evaluation of project to increase access to and participation in cervical screening by Nepalese and Bangladeshi women (Multicultural Health Service);
 - Development of evaluation plan for the SESLHD Integrated Care Strategy (Integrated Care Unit).
- ✓ Commenced research project on the use of the Patient Activation Measure to improve quality of care:
 - completed a literature review;
 - completed a retrospective pre and post audit on 194 patients referred for pulmonary rehabilitation.
- ✓ Compiled a profile of research and evaluation activities undertaken by PICH services.
- ✓ Contributed to the development of Translational Research Grant Scheme submission (evaluation of the Integrated Care Strategy's 'House of Care' approach).
- ✓ Negotiated and supported participation of SESLHD in an US/Australian Fellowship research project on characterising integration in Australia.