



NATIONAL RESEARCH PARTNERSHIP

Improving practice through research

South Australia Overview

The Partnership project commenced in South Australia (SA) in 2010 with the identification of regional project leaders, ethics approval, the establishment of key stakeholders and a SA Steering Committee. Partners in SA are: South Australian Department of Health (SA Health), the University of South Australia (UniSA), and the Aboriginal Health Council of SA (AHCSA).

Project activity and engagement of health care services in SA commenced with the employment of a regional research officer in early 2011. The regional research officer works alongside lead partner AHCSA and their service delivery staff, offering practical support to implement the One21seventy program to participating Aboriginal Community Controlled health services (ACCHSs) as well as being responsible for the local research program.

A total of fifteen health care services within SA are engaged and participating in the broad SA Partnership project (one health service is located in Western Australia and is included in the SA project). This includes ten ACCHSs and five State Government sites.

The aim of the South Australian project is to liaise with Indigenous primary health care services to develop a practice of continuous quality improvement and to negotiate a research program around that process which is of salience to these community and health services. The South Australian research project is consistent with the national project objectives and is governed by the local Steering Committee.

Current Research

Project title: Investigating the barriers and enablers to continuous quality improvement (CQI) within Aboriginal primary health care services in South Australia

For South Australia, the range of research areas identified by participating health services have reflected that for most services, the introduction of a CQI model has been a new yet predominately positive experience, and that there are still broad questions about how the model is working in SA, and what effects it is having. This project has been designed to address these broad questions within a 12-18 month time frame (2012-13). The overall purpose of this current project is to understand the barriers and enablers of CQI in the South Australian context, in order to identify strategies to strengthen its effectiveness in these settings. It is also anticipated that the project will be able to further develop some of the more specific research issues that have been identified by participating health services, since these topics are likely to impact on how CQI is working in different settings.

This qualitative research project is being conducted alongside implementation activities with 11 participating health centres by the local research officer and is due for completion in 2013.

Updated July 2013

Key contacts in South Australia

Dr. David Scrimgeour, State Project Leader

Dr Scrimgeour is Project Leader in South Australia. He is employed as the Public Health Medical Officer with the Aboriginal Health Council of South Australia www.ahcsa.org.au. He has worked in Aboriginal health as a general practitioner and public health practitioner for most of the last 35 years.

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Ms Jo Newham, South Australia Research Officer

Jo has previously worked at the Children, Youth and Women's Health Service, SA, as a Senior Project Officer for the SA Family Home Visiting program. Jo particularly enjoyed working closely with a small team of Aboriginal Health Workers located across the state conducting research and evaluation projects, developing and delivering appropriate cultural training tools and resources and general project management. Jo majored in Anthropology and completed her Honours thesis which explored the topic of contemporary Aboriginal identity in Australia at Macquarie University in 2004. Jo completed her Master of International and Community Development (Deakin University) whilst working with remote fishing communities in Eastern Indonesia with the support of AusAID in 2008.

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