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What’s New

• The Menzies Centre for Health Policy has an important role as an independent voice on health policy in Australia. It has become increasingly obvious that to fully respond to the emerging opportunities within the Australian National University, the University of Sydney and the wider government health reform agenda, the Menzies Centre needs to strengthen and expand its role. The MCHP Sydney node has undertaken a review of its activities to develop a strategic business proposal to guide its response to these opportunities. The aim is to restructure the node within the current Centre model to strengthen the divisional functions to enable improved budgeting and cost recovery. This should also enable improved operational management to progress an expanded role. Negotiations with the University of Sydney Vice-Chancellor about operational funding to support the MCHP Sydney node over the next 18 months continue.

• The Menzies Centre has been engaged by NSW Health over the next 13 months to provide independent policy advice on key significant areas of work required during the roll out of the COAG National Health and Hospitals Network Agreement in NSW.

• The MCHP has been awarded an Ian Potter Foundation grant. The grant will support the one-year appointment of two ‘Ian Potter Fellows’ to translate the results of the Serious and Continuing Illness Policy and Practice Study into preventive policies to improve management of chronic illness and secure the best quality of life for patients. In partnership with health providers, policy makers and the community, the Fellows will develop and run pilot studies and conduct a simulation study testing the impact of policy changes on system performance.

• The MCHP Sydney node has been commissioned to provide Calvary Health Care Bethlehem (CHCB) with a descriptive analysis of their specialist model of palliative care. The one-year project will track the patient journey through the CHCB community-based and hospital-based palliative care program, and provide a descriptive analysis of the interplay between multidisciplinary services and their costs. This project aims to make important contributions to describing best-practice care in Australia and to national policy in this area.

• Two NHMRC project applications and one NHMRC partnership application were submitted in the most recent funding rounds. The applications are currently under review.

• The Health and Sustainability Unit has been awarded a University of Sydney Medical Foundation Grant for research and development activities in health and sustainability in Pacific Island countries. The funds will support the appointment of a Research Fellow for 3 years.

• The Health and Sustainability Unit has been awarded a 3-year Word Diabetes Foundation grant for the project “Dealing with Diabetes: Building capacity in the Solomon Islands to improve diabetes outcomes and strengthen prevention efforts”. The project will look to enhance effectiveness of clinical health services by developing and implementing a National Diabetes and Non-communicable Diseases (NCD) Plan.

• From 2010 the University of Sydney will offer a Masters in Sustainability. The Health and Sustainability Unit are coordinating the Health and Populations (SUST5004) Unit of Study which will be offered as four intensive workshop during Semester 2 2010.

• Dr Lesley Russell’s contract concludes on 19 August 2010. A nomination for an honorary appointment at the University of Sydney is under consideration.
Research

Research is a core activity of the Menzies Centre for Health Policy. Menzies Centre staff collaborate extensively with government agencies, area health services, non-government organisations, independent institutes and with industry, locally and internationally, on a wide range of research and consultancy projects. Staff at the Menzies Centre mentor and supervise research students enrolled at both The Australian National University and the University of Sydney. The Menzies Centre also hosts academic and student visitors pursuing projects that align with the research strengths and interests of Menzies Centre staff.

Grant Awards

An application for funding to the Ian Potter Foundation was successful. The grant, ‘Preventing Poor Outcomes for People with Chronic Illness: Improving management – and self management - of chronic disease through evidence-informed policy that integrates care in acute and community settings’ will support the employment of two ‘Ian Potter Fellows’ to translate the results of the Serious and Continuing Illness Policy and Practice Study into preventive policies to improve management of chronic illness and secure the best quality of life for patients. In partnership with health providers, policy makers and the community, the Fellows will develop and run pilot studies and conduct a simulation study testing the impact of policy changes on system performance. These studies will: educate and assist patients, carers and health providers to improve their capacity to manage complex medication therapy; and identify research evidence-informed adjustments to chronic care policies.

Grant Applications

- An NHMRC project application was submitted in March 2010 by the SCIPPS team at the University of Sydney. The application seeks funds to evaluate Care Navigation at Nepean Hospital. An RCT will compare the effect of care navigation on hospital admissions and patient health and health care costs when compared with the current standard method of care. Funding is also sought to conduct a process evaluation to describe facilitators and barriers to the implementation and critical areas of focus in the implementation of future coordinated care methods. Due to the low success rate of NHMRC project grant applications, an NHMRC Partnership grant application for the Care Navigation study was also submitted in April 2010.

- An NHMRC project application was submitted in March 2010 by Angela Beaton and Stephen Leeder. Chronic care planning is currently impeded by policy that allows patients with a general practitioner management plan and team care arrangement five allied health visits per year under Medicare. Plans may be prepared for this purpose alone; they contain limited information and may be of little or no direct benefit to the patient. If the application is successful, we will assess whether more rigorous care planning increases value and benefit to reduce avoidable hospitalisations and improve the quality of life of people with complex needs.

- An Australian Primary Health Care Research Institute application was submitted in July 2010 by Jim Gillespie, Angela Beaton, Justin McNab and Tim Usherwood, entitled ‘What is the role of private health insurance in facilitating access to allied health care for people with chronic illness?’

- The Menzies Centre Sydney node have submitted an Expression of Interest for the NSW Health Preferred Supplier Panel tender. The EOI detailed the Menzies Centre’s expertise for 2 panels: to design, conduct and analyse best-practice qualitative research; and to develop, review and evaluate health policy services, projects and programs.
Research continued

Current Projects

Menzies Centre for Health Policy Nous Group Survey

The second Menzies-Nous Survey on Attitudes to the Health Care System went to the field in July 2010. It focused on the experience of primary and aged care, and will provide an early view of attitudes to proposed national health care reforms. The first results should be available by early August 2010.

The Childhood Asthma Prevention Study

The Childhood Asthma Prevention Study (CAPS) is the first and only Australian randomised controlled trial of the effectiveness of both house dust mite avoidance and modification of dietary intake of fatty acids, both implemented from birth, for the prevention of asthma and other allergic disease during childhood. The study started in 1997 and recruitment of 616 subjects was completed in January, 2000.

The interventions were implemented from birth to age 5 years and the main finding of the trial, published in 2006, was that neither of these interventions reduced the risk of asthma. We have recently reported that neither intervention had a beneficial effect on study outcomes at age 8 years. However, at this age, among atopic (allergic) individuals, the prevalence of poorly controlled asthma was lower in those who had the HDM avoidance intervention. A number of subsidiary studies involving diet, growth and obesity, cardiovascular risk profile, sleep and snoring and genetics have been undertaken and published. We are currently following up the cohort ages 11 1/2 and 14 years. This part of the study will look at longer term outcomes of the interventions as well as examining sex-specific differences in the natural history of asthma and allergic disease during the transition through puberty.

Health Economics Capacity Building Grant

Stephen Leeder is a Chief Investigator on a 5 year NHMRC Capacity Building grant that will provide training and development for a team of health economists to research chronic diseases. The program, Health Economics Research, Modelling, Evaluation and Strategy (HERMES) ‘Using health economics to strengthen ties between evidence, policy and practice in chronic disease’, is a collaboration between the George Institute, School of Public health and the Menzies Centre for Health Policy. It will address issues such as: What is the value for money from investment in different treatments? How do such diseases affect the economic circumstances of families? How do we ensure that strategies to address illness work in practice and can be sustained? How do these issues get put on the policy agenda?

Bev Essue and Joel Negin are Team Investigators on the grant and it is progressing well. The HERMES research team, in conjunction with the Health Economics Collaboration, was successful in winning their bid to host the 2010 Australian Health Economics Society Conference (to be held in September 2010).
Research continued

What is influential public health research?

Stephen Leeder and James Gillespie are Chief Investigators on an NHMRC Project grant that is looking at how population health research workers and policy makers communicate. The study addresses the question as to what the characteristics are of public health research that leads to policy change. The project commenced in early 2009. Interviews with researchers and most of the policy makers have been completed and the project has a substantial number of publications under review.

Health Sector Aid Effectiveness in the Pacific

Joel Negin is conducting research funded by the Knowledge Hub on Health Policy & Finance at the Nossal Institute for Global Health on health sector aid effectiveness in the Pacific.

The 2009 projects focused on sector wide approaches in Samoa and the Solomon Islands and tracking of funding flows for non-communicable disease and HIV/AIDS. The work has been extended in 2010 to investigate regional health sector governance mechanisms. The research is being done in collaboration with the World Bank and Secretariat of the Pacific Community partners.

Blue Mountains Eye and Hearing Study

Julie Schneider and Bamini Gopinath, postdoctoral researchers previously employed on an NHMRC Capacity Building Grant (health policy) and the Blue Mountains Eye Study, to support the study, have published several papers on vision and hearing impairment policy and presented at conferences. The new NHMRC Partnership grant that pilots a screening model for the detection of dual sensory impairment among clients presenting to low vision services will continue to support this research program. The project, led by Stephen Leeder (CIA) and Julie Schneider, received $318,000 in NHMRC funds in addition to financial and in-kind support from partner organisations, Vision Australia and the Audiological Society of Australia. It commenced in April 2010 and will conclude in December 2012.

Ford Foundation projects in Indonesia

Professor Peter Heywood has received funding from the Ford Foundation to conduct a number of projects that examine the health system in Indonesia.

A study of the district health system in a sample of districts in Java

Consistent with the original objectives, this work has looked in detail at how the health system is structured and how it is functioning at the district level in 15 districts in Java, 5 in West Java, 5 in Central Java and 5 in East Java. Professor Heywood has looked at four different but related aspects of the district health system: personnel; facilities; public expenditure; and system performance.

This work is now complete and has resulted in a peer reviewed, open access paper for each aspect of the health system studied. In addition, this work has resulted in invitations to contribute internationally to discussions of health system issues and the preparation of a book chapter in Health Transitions and the Double Disease Burden in Asia and the Pacific, Routledge, London, 2011. Project results will continue to be disseminated at the district, provincial, national and international levels as opportunities arise.

The final project report was submitted to the Ford Foundation in June 2010.
Design and preparation of a pilot project to reduce maternal and neonatal mortality through demand side interventions in West Java Province, Indonesia

Considerable progress has been made with this project in the last year.

1. Define a package of services (including referral) to be available at health facilities where women go for birth deliveries. In collaboration with West Java Province Department of Health, existing documents on a minimum package of services have been reviewed, a report prepared and discussed with the health professionals from the province and district levels. The report has been agreed with the provincial officials and dissemination activities have already commenced through 2 provincial workshops.

2. Support districts in their efforts to strengthen accreditation of facilities and providers where women go for birth deliveries. In tandem with the work on definition of a minimum package of services, existing documents have been reviewed, a report prepared and discussions have been held with provincial officials. The province is now responsible for providing support to districts to implement the minimum standards and accreditation procedures.

3. Support districts in their efforts to improve information about health sector personnel through the use of an electronic health personnel information system. After consultation with the provincial health authorities, an electronic health personnel information system has been developed and is now in the process of being installed and staff trained in its use at the provincial level and in 3 districts in West Java Province. The system, developed after consultation with the province and districts, covers health care providers in both the public and private sectors. This will assist districts and the province to track changes over time in health personnel and facilities. It will also assist the districts and the province to produce standard tables for reports at district, provincial and national levels.

4. Assess and update databases on number and distribution of health personnel and health facilities, public and private, available at the district level in 3 districts. In order to assess recent changes in the number and distribution of health personnel, we have re-enumerated health personnel in 3 of the 5 districts surveyed in 2007. The survey is completed – there have been significant increases in the number of health personnel on the public payroll in the intervening 3 years. This work is currently being analyzed and prepared for publication later in 2010.

5. Qualitative studies on determinants of birth place delivery. This fieldwork has been carried out in West Java Province by an Indonesian graduate student at the University of Sydney. The information is now being processed and prepared for publication later in 2010.

6. Micronutrient supplements for pregnant women and improved maternal and child health – a policy dialogue. This work to be carried out in West Java Province by the University of Sydney School of Public Health involves a workshop and policy dialogue with the provincial health authorities and health professionals. Due to scheduling difficulties it will now be carried out in mid 2010.

The project is due to conclude in November 2010.
Research continued

Initiative for Cardiovascular Health Research in the Developing Countries

A study conducted in China, India, Argentina and Zambia, estimating the costs to families of heart disease and stroke suffered by one member, is in the final write-up stage. This study has been coordinated from Delhi and Stephen Leeder has chaired the overseeing committee. It complements his work in 2003-4 examining the macroeconomic effects of CVD. Several key publications are currently being prepared and insights from this study may lead to a revision of policy for financing health care and social support for people with CVD in developing countries. The University of Sydney hosted a visitor from the Indian centre of the study, Dr Harikrishnan, for two weeks in June.

Impact of the cost of medicines GP survey

Lesley Russell, Angela Beaton and Tim Usherwood are working on a research project investigating how general practitioners help their patients in severe financial stress manage treatment costs. GPs in the Blue Mountains Division of General Practice and WentWest have been surveyed using the internet, with a follow-up mail-out in February. The results of this research have been submitted for publication in the Medical Journal of Australia (Beaton, Usherwood, Leeder and Russell, “Impact of the cost of medicines and specialist referrals on the health of people in Western Sydney: a survey of general practitioners”). Aspects of this work will also be presented at the upcoming Emerging Health Policy Conference (Beaton) and the Sydney School of Public Health Research Conference (Beaton).

Pharmacist’s Management of Medicine in Chronic Illness

Results of the qualitative study of pharmacists’ management of medicine in chronic illness, conducted by Lesley Russell, Jo-anne Brien and Elin Lehnborn of the University of Sydney’s Faculty of Pharmacy, have been published in the Journal of Pharmacy Practice and Research and presented at several pharmacy conferences.

Securitisation and Multi-drug Resistant Tuberculosis: Global and Australian Perspectives

Jim Gillespie and Joel Negin are looking at new issues around an old disease that has re-emerged in a new and less treatable form.

Multi-drug resistant Tuberculosis (MDR TB) – a more virulent variant with higher mortality rates – has emerged recently as a result of inadequately administered treatment programs for TB. It is closely linked to the prevalence of HIV and AIDS and ‘low quality treatment programs’. The project is looking at the policy context of WHO’s TB DOTS policy and the emergence of MDR TB as a policy problem on Australia’s borders to identify productive responses. Several publications are being prepared on the development of the DOTS program, border protection and MDR TB in the Torres Strait and a commissioned book chapter on ‘securitization’ of illness.

Improving Health Literacy in Seniors with Chronic Illness

Jim Gillespie, Clive Aspin and Steve Leeder received a grant from National Seniors Australia. The study aims to gain an understanding of how seniors living with chronic illness navigate the health system and gain access to information about available care and management options to assist them in managing their conditions. The study will approach the issue of patient care and quality of life from the patient’s perspective, giving a voice to individuals who often are disenfranchised in the development of care plans. The SCIPPS data has been reanalysed to identify strategies to improve health literacy. The results will be discussed with patients, carers and health professionals enrolled in HealthOne Mt Druitt.
Research continued

Descriptive analysis of the Calvary Health Care Bethlehem (Caulfield, Victoria) specialist model of palliative care

Jim Gillespie, Angela Beaton, Cathie Hull and Beverley Essue have been commissioned to provide Calvary Health Care Bethlehem (CHCB) with a descriptive analysis of their specialist model of palliative care. The project will track the patient journey through the CHCB community-based and hospital-based palliative care program, and provide a descriptive analysis of the interplay between multidisciplinary services and their costs. This project aims to make important contributions to describing best-practice care in Australia and to national policy in this area. The first phase of the project (literature review and preparation) is underway. The research team met at CHCB on Tuesday 27 July 2010, for the first of three workshops, which will be held over the course of this project.

Research Students

New Students

Two new PhD students will commence their candidature in Semester 2 under Stephen Leeder’s supervision.

- Ashley McAllister intends to apply both theoretical and empirical economics to help illustrate how prevention policies could further reduce the incidence of chronic disease and create economic savings for governments. The ultimate aim of her research is to make prevention policy a higher priority on the agenda of governments through the use of economic evidence.

- Shauna Downs has been awarded a University of Sydney International Postgraduate Research Scholarship to support her candidature. Shauna is an MSc graduate in Nutrition and Metabolism from the University of Alberta, Edmonton, Canada. Shauna’s master’s degree research was conducted with Aboriginal children living in Northern Quebec Canada, where she looked at the relationship among obesity, the food environment, dietary intake, physical activity and fitness. Shauna’s PhD will research chronic disease in the developing world.

Continuing Students:

Surianti Sukeri - Heavy Heart: the untold tale of economic and psychosocial impact of CVD on patients and their families in Malaysia

Surianti is conducting a cross-sectional study of the economic and human impact of CVD on patients and their families in Malaysia. This study will seek to address the household healthcare spending in respect to CVD treatment and to determine the effects of the illness on treatment compliance, employment, household income, expenditures, productivity, quality of life, education, functional limitation and access to health care. At the same time this study will also provide an insight into the human face of the disease, particularly its psychosocial and emotional impact concerning household perceptions, effective responses and adaptation towards the illness.
Research continued

Jennifer Hunter - Developing a minimum dataset for use in an Australian integrative medicine clinic

Jennifer is reviewing the quality of information routinely collected in a multidisciplinary primary care clinic that integrates natural therapies with mainstream medicine. The project will also short list and pilot test questionnaires for measuring the outcomes of patients who attend the clinic. A minimum dataset will be proposed that aims to measure a broad spectrum of domains including health care use, physical health outcomes, disease prevention, quality of life and positive definitions of wellbeing.

From this project, the long-term aim is to develop a standardised online database that is able to monitor health service use and patient outcomes. The database will provide a practical tool to support urgently needed evaluations of multidisciplinary primary care and integrative medicine clinics in Australia. Jennifer's project is supported by a National Institute of Clinical Medicine seed funding grant.


Anne Marie Thow - The impact of trade and fiscal policy on population nutrition in the Pacific Islands, and future policy implications

Anne Marie is investigating the effect of trade and fiscal policy on population nutrition. She is also examining the scope to use such economic policies in promoting healthy diets through conducting policy analyses of fatty meat bans and soft drink taxes in Pacific Island countries.

Publications to date:


Adam Capon - The development of an Environmental health policy for nanotechnology in Australia

Adam is being sponsored by NSW Health to complete the first major Australian study of the policy implications of the development of nanotechnologies. He will compare current Australian approaches with overseas initiatives, such as the UK Health Protection Agency. He will consult closely with the different Australian jurisdictions to develop some concrete proposals and regulatory strategies.

Angela Littleford - NSW models of care that reflect innovation in ageing and chronic disease management and their links to policy

Angela is looking at the development of standardised models of care in chronic disease management in NSW, looking at the policy frameworks, national and state that have influenced these models and the problems of implementation. Her study is in its first year and she is currently interviewing policy-makers.

John Hall - The global politics of Tuberculosis control: an analysis and critique of the international Tuberculosis Directly Observed Short Course (TB DOTS) policy, its development, and transfer to low income countries taking Papua New Guinea as a case study

John Hall is a public health physician with long experience of working in the Pacific Islands and other low resource settings. His thesis looks at the context of emergent MDR TB in Papua New Guinea. He is examining the reasons for widespread failures in health surveillance and implementation of externally funded programs. His main interest is the troubled relationships between global policies devised with little regard for local realities and the difficulty of implementing these interventions in setting with poor resources, inadequate trained workers and fragile governance structures.

Nittita Prasopa-Plaizier - What is the impact of research funded through WHO on filtering and use of evidence by policy-makers?

Nittita (who is employed by WHO and based in Geneva) is looking at the interaction between the needs of health policymakers in developing countries and policy development and dissemination by the World Health Organization. She will work closely with several WHO divisions to complete evaluations of their policy exchange and transfer practices. She has just commenced her PhD program and is currently working out the details of the case studies to gain ethics approval.

Deborah Schaler: Patient complaint policy: improving the quality and safety of health systems

A study of patient complaint policy that seeks evidence that implementation leads to improvement in the quality and safety of the health system. The study aims to better understand the limitations of current patient complaint policy and identify areas where the policy and its place in a clinical governance framework can be strengthened to more effectively improve patient quality and safety.

Andrey Zheluk - HIV advocacy in the former USSR

Andrey is completing a study of the work of the Russian Harm Reduction Network amongst HIV positive injecting drug users in the former USSR. His study looks at: externally funded public health interventions; the problems of integration into a hostile local context; the means by which successes could be identified; and the means of overcoming local barriers to scaling up effective programs.
Visitors

Oliver Herbert, MCHP Research Affiliate

Oliver Herbert is a specialist in Dermatology and Venerology with a sub specialization in Allergology. His medical thesis explored the effects of environment and lifestyle on allergological sensitisation and the prevalence of atopic diseases. Oliver’s current research focuses on the effect of Melanesian tradition and Western modernity on public health in Papua New Guinea.

The main objective of this study is to illuminate the different effects of Melanesian tradition and Western modernity on public health in Papua New Guinea. While visiting with MCHP, Oliver will be translating field data and encoding data to generate a database for descriptive and interpretative statistics.

Oliver was with MCHP until May this year before returning to Germany (his research is a cooperative project with the University of Bremen). Oliver will visit MCHP again next January for a further 6 months.

Xiaohui Wang SCIPPS Visiting Fellow

Wang arrived in February and will spend the next year working as a Visiting Fellow with SCIPPS and MCHP. Wang has a background in Preventive Health and Toxicology and has worked at the School of Public Health, Lanzhou University for the past 7 years. She currently works as a Lecturer at Lanzhou University and is in charge of courses such as Organisational Behaviour, Health Economics, Social Medicine and Prevention Medicine.

Dr Harikrishnan Sivadasan Pillai

Dr Harikrishnan Sivadasan Pillai visited the University of Sydney in June 2010 to progress his project on the economic impact of cardiovascular disease in India. Dr Harikrishnan is a cardiologist with public health interests in heart disease. He works in Trivandrum, a city of 750,000 people in the state of Kerala, India (32 million or 3.4% of the Indian population). He works at one of the leading biotechnology and public health institutions in Kerala.
Serious and Continuing Illness Policy and Practice Study (SCIPPS)

Work in Progress

Evaluation of the Blue Mountains GP Network Chronic Disease Self-Management Project

SCIPPS Sydney agreed to partner with the Blue Mountains GP Network to conduct the evaluation of a training package that is being proposed as part of the Chronic Disease Self Management/Lifestyle and Risk Modification Program, to be funded by the Department of Health and Ageing.

A draft of the final report of the Evaluation of the Blue Mountains GP Network Chronic Disease Self-Management Project has been submitted to the GP Network and the funding body (Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing). A final focus group will be conducted with Moving On participants in October 2010 after which time a Final Report will be produced. Negotiations are currently underway with the Blue Mountains GP Network to include further interviews with local GPs in the October data collection.

HealthOne Mt Druitt (HOMD)

HealthOne Mt Druitt is a system of managing people with chronic illness that integrates both primary and community health services.

The HeathOne Mount Druitt Memorandum of Understanding has been signed by Warwick Dawson at the Research Office and is in the process of being signed by the CEO of SWAHS. Research will begin immediately after both parties have signed the Memorandum of Understanding.

Care Navigation

The aim of the RCT is to determine if there is any difference between standard care and Care Navigation (a new model for the management for individuals with chronic illness) for individuals with chronic illness who present to Nepean emergency department.

The Care Navigation RCT commenced at Nepean Hospital in mid-May. Natalie Plant has been working at Nepean Hospital recruiting patients to the study. As at Friday 23rd July, 146 people have been recruited to the study, providing an anticipated completion date for the recruitment phase of the study of 24th January, 2011. An amendment to the protocol, to be implemented as of Monday 12th July 2010 now allows recruitment of patients presenting over the weekend who would normally receive Care Navigation, which is expected to shorten the recruitment period.

Recruitment of additional Aboriginal patients and carers to SCIPPS

The recruitment of additional Indigenous participants to SCIPPS in Sydney West and ACT has been completed and 19 Indigenous people are included in the study; this increase is intended to allow data saturation to be reached in relation to key issues. A coding frame has been developed that amends the original framework to provide a better coding set as well as to ensure that the transcripts are coded in a manner that captures the experience of living with chronic illness as an Indigenous person. All the interviews have been coded against the new framework. Analysis is underway.
Root cause analysis of hospital admissions

The Root Cause Analysis study has been completed as a preliminary study to assess the feasibility of using the root cause analysis method to determine what has led to a hospital admission. The project was carried out as a population health project by medical students with the supervision of the study team. Findings show that the method produces rich results, incorporating the recognition of medical exacerbation leading to hospital admission, but also identifying other social and behavioural factors which may be more important in any intervention to prevent unnecessary admission. The report of the study was submitted for consideration for publication in the *Medical Journal of Australia* in October 2009.

45 and up data-linkage study

A study is being developed using the 45 and Up data set to explore patterns of service utilisation by people with cardiac disease and/or diabetes, and the links between those patterns, particularly the use of the Medicare items relating to the management of chronic illness, and health outcomes.

An agreement on costs of access to the data has been reached, a data analyst identified and contract negotiated with that person. Access to data from Medicare is said to be imminent, and we are one of a number of research teams in the same position. We are hoping to do the analysis of the 45 and Up data and Medicare data on the use of management plans in the next couple of months; the second stage, assessment of impact on future hospitalisations, will take place next year.

Impact of chronic illness on socio-economic well being of senior Australians

One of the key findings of the SCIPPS study was the experience of economic hardship experienced by people with chronic illness. This experience was reported by people with chronic illness and their carers during interviews as well as by health professionals who took part in focus groups. These findings are reported in a paper on economic hardship, currently in press.

Further work has been done, led by Steve Jan and Bev Essue exploring the issue with a group of people with COPD who attend a clinic in western Sydney.

The current study is designed to examine the ways in which the health of senior Australians influences their economic situation and the way they live their lives. The research will allow the team to develop an in-depth understanding of the financial and day to day living experiences of households where health problems occur and contrast this with those households with less or no health problems. Findings will be used to inform government and the wider community about these issues and to develop policy to assist senior Australians.

The study is being carried out with the assistance and in partnership with National Seniors Australia. A survey, approved by the ANU Human Research Ethics Committee has been sent to a stratified sample of 10,000 NSA members across all of Australia. The response rate has been over 40%. Data are currently being entered and will be analysed using SPSS. Early analysis suggests that our intention to describe differences between people with and without chronic illness, and with different numbers and types of chronic illness will be able to be realized.

At the same time, a review of literature is being carried out to identify research in the Australian and international contexts about the impact of chronic illness on social and economic wellbeing which will provide the foundation for our specific analysis, leading to a better understanding of the issues relating to older people and chronic illness.
All data are now coded and papers underway; one which looks at chronic illness, workforce participation and need for assistance is a short listed paper for the special issue of *Chronic Illness*; another paper was presented at the International Federation of Ageing in Melbourne in May, and one was be submitted for the Primary Care Conference in Darwin.

**Other Projects**

- **Support for diabetes management in general practice:** SCIPPS will be involved in the evaluation of a pilot project in which specialist endocrinologist and nursing staff will work with general practices to test whether this is a potential option for testing on a wider scale. The lead clinician with the interest in this study is working on identifying interested practices. A preliminary study of referral patterns and reasons for referral is underway to determine the parameters and to support the next phase of the project. The report of referral patterns and identification of key issues has not yet been completed.

- **Survey study of GPs to explore the ‘no symptoms- no disease’ hypothesis:** practice experience suggests that for many patients the lack of frank symptoms of the disease leads to a belief that the disease has ‘gone away’ and may lead to less than optimal management. This project is underway and participants are being recruited to the study. Data collection has been completed, and analysis is underway.

- **The first stage design for three policy studies is being worked up by Robert Wells, Jim Gillespie, Paul Dugdale and Laurann Yen. The first of these, an analysis of the strategies used by the COAG reform processes and their effect on the culture and behaviour of health services provision was presented at the Health Services Research and Policy Conference in November in Brisbane. An additional piece of work has now been planned in which policy makers in health and central agencies at state and commonwealth level in Victoria and NSW will be interviewed to provide information about the process of translation at the senior bureaucratic level from government statement to implementation.**

- **The SCIPPS team is proposing to undertake an additional patient survey to: quantify the types of costs associated with illness for people with CI and people who are involved in their care; determine the possible impact on workforce and income policy; and identify what the expectations are of ‘the system’- health and social care. The Lung Foundation and NSA have both indicated their interest and willingness to allow us to send the survey to their members.**

**Papers in Press**


**Papers in Submission**

Health and Sustainability Unit (formerly The Diabetes Unit)

The Health and Sustainability Unit is dedicated to policy development and implementation; strategic planning for population health; health services research and development; chronic disease prevention and sustainability and health – particularly the influence of the way we live and manage our societies now on climate change and the unprecedented growth in obesity and chronic diseases.

Established at the Australian Health Policy Institute (now Menzies Centre for Health Policy) in 2005, The Health and Sustainability Unit is a new iteration and extension of its predecessor, the Australian Centre for Diabetes Strategies, which was located at the Prince of Wales Hospital, University of New South Wales. The Health and Sustainability Unit complements the Menzies Centre for Health Policy’s existing strengths by:

- maintaining an Oxford Health Alliance presence in the Asia-Pacific Region
- pursuing local and international activities in health services research and development, capacity building, and population health improvement
- contributing to the evidential and consensual basis on which policy for the prevention and care of diabetes and related chronic diseases is founded

The Health and Sustainability Unit contributes directly to The University of Sydney by leading the Institute for Sustainable Solutions Health Theme.

The Health and Sustainability Unit sees its role as a conduit between theory and practice, and works as a bridge between academia, the broader chronic disease community and the general population. It employs a pragmatic approach and is mindful of the diverse needs, perspectives and prevailing forces that impact on health across all levels of society.

What’s New

The transition to operating as the Health and Sustainability Unit (HSU) was successful with very little disruption to the team and its existing projects.

Highlights to date include:

- The development and advertising of a three-year (2010-2013), Level C Senior Research Fellow position to coordinate the Medical Foundation funded program “Preventing Cardiovascular Disease in Pacific Island Countries: An Environmental Approach. Applications close on 1 August 2010.

- World Diabetes Foundation funding for a three year Solomon Island project to build local capacity for reducing the burden of diabetes.

- Establishment of the first Masters in Sustainability Program at the University of Sydney, which includes a Populations and Health unit of study (SUST5004) coordinated by HSU.

Grant Applications - Success

The Unit was successful in obtaining:

- University of Sydney Medical Foundation Grant for research and development activities in health and sustainability in Pacific Island countries.

- World Diabetes Foundation three year funding for the project “Dealing with Diabetes: Building capacity in the Solomon Islands to improve diabetes outcomes and strengthen prevention efforts”, the project will look to enhance effectiveness of clinical health services by developing and implementing a National Diabetes and Non-communicable Diseases (NCD) Plan.
Health and Sustainability Unit continued

Grant Applications - Submitted

Applications were submitted as follows:

**Australian Leadership Awards Fellowship**

An application was submitted on 25th June 2010 in collaboration with the University of Sydney’s International Office to run a program to strengthen the knowledge and enhance the capacity of key PICT Ministry of Health and Ministry of Urban Planning/Environment officials (ALA Fellows) to be effective advocates and change agents within their governments for the development of a sector-wide, ‘health in all policies’ approach to create healthy and sustainable environments and reduce chronic disease risks in their communities. The ALA Fellows will develop a detailed understanding and knowledge of the intimate relationship between the drivers and causes of chronic diseases and climate change - and the health and environmental benefits that will flow from generating policies, which address both - and transform that knowledge into practical policies on return to their own countries.

The Program will achieve this through the participation of the ALA Fellows in an intensive programme of workshops held at The University of Sydney and site visits with leading Australian chronic disease policy makers and researchers.

**Diabetes Australia Research Trust (DART)**

On 30th April a DART application entitled “A root cause analysis of avoidable hospital admissions for Diabetes” was submitted. Outcomes would be announced on World Diabetes Day in 12th November 2010. The project aims to develop evidence and consensus based strategy and recommendations to reduce potentially avoidable hospital admissions in older people with diabetes.

**International Development Program Funding (IDPF)**

The proposal seeks to further develop the research network following the inaugural WUN Public Health and Climate Change Workshop hosted by the University of Bristol in February 2010, by holding a follow-up workshop in Sydney, early 2011. The research network was established to address the relatively unexplored space for public health law, a discipline that is centrally concerned with the design and evaluation of regulatory measures to manage risks to the health of the global population.

Current Projects

The team continues to work in collaboration with internal and external organisations on key projects such as:

**Systematic Review of Health Urbanisation**

In collaboration with Sydney South West Area Health Service, a systematic review has been designed to identify effective interventions that have been tested to evaluate the impact of transport and urban design on health outcomes and also identify the gaps in research.

**SCIPPS Transport Review**

The objective is to add to the pool of knowledge about health service barriers for people with chronic diseases and inform health policy development aimed at reducing these barriers in Australia by undertaking a structured review of the peer-reviewed literature. The search strategies are designed to reduce bias and ensure optimal inclusion of the relevant available data.
Health and Sustainability Unit continued

ADS Guideline for Type 1 Diabetes

The Unit has been sub-contracted by the Australian Diabetes Society (ADS) to assist with the development of an NHMRC Guideline on Type 1 Diabetes in children and adolescents and the extension of these guidelines into adulthood.

ADS Position Statement for Diabetes and Driving

The Unit has been sub-contracted by the Australian Diabetes Society (ADS) to develop a position statement for health professionals on driving and diabetes encompassing a targeted systematic literature review, international guideline comparison and coroners cases. The literature review has been completed; a report and a position statement are underway. The position statement will be submitted for publication in the *Medical Journal of Australia*.

IDF Toolbox: Guide to National Diabetes Programmes

The Guide to National Diabetes Programmes is complete and will be published by the International Diabetes Federation shortly. In additional to the traditional approach to diabetes and related NCD prevention and care, this handbook includes advocacy, policy and public health considerations for a more ‘ecological’ approach to primary prevention and highlights the link between chronic diseases and economic and environmental sustainability.

Report on Health Implications of Population Growth for the Minister for Population – The Hon. Tony Burke

The Unit is currently completing a briefing paper report outlining the health-related issues facing the Australian population. The purpose of this paper is to set out a summary of some of the key issues and current and emerging evidence and thinking around health and sustainable population growth. It will outline the issues and areas of primary concern, which require deeper exploration and a more detailed analysis.

Low SES and Supermarket Shopping Review

The aim is to research and collate the supermarket purchasing habits of high and low socioeconomic groups to determine any differences that may exist that could contribute to greater rates of obesity and diet-related disease. Simultaneously, we wish to evaluate interventions attempting to modulate consumer supermarket purchases. A systematic review of peer-reviewed literature to provide objective and detailed peer review information has been completed. A final report will be produced late 2010.

Completed Projects

Indicators for National Diabetes Programmes

The 2008-2009 global survey of National Diabetes Programmes (NDPs) highlighted the lack of consistency around concepts and terminology relating to NDPs. Based on the questions used in the survey, the International Diabetes Federation Task Force on Diabetes and NCD Prevention, Policy and Practice has developed a set of core standards to clarify and promote the inclusion of essential components of diabetes prevention and care internationally.
The aim of the standards is twofold:

- to encourage greater clarity and consistency of language and conceptualization of NDPs
- to provide direction and an advocacy tool for those countries attempting to initiate and design new NDPs

**USISS, Oxford Health Alliance (OxHA) and International Diabetes Federation (IDF)**

**Prescriptions for a Healthy Planet Conference**

Over sixty key opinion leaders and activist from health, planning and design, business, industry, government, politics, environmental science, public health, medicine and law gathered to consider the individual and collective responses needed to maintain the vital balance between health and the environment. The aim was to address four key areas:

- reducing poverty and social disadvantage;
- supportable populations;
- responsible business and consumption and
- healthy urbanisation.

Notable participants included the CEOs of Greenpeace and the Australian Business Council, the Manager of Premiers Council for Active Living, Senator Christine Milne and the Hon. Mr John Della Bosca.

**Teaching**

For the first time in 2010 the University of Sydney will offer a Masters in Sustainability, as part of the masters program the HSU are coordinating the Health and Populations (SUST5004) Unit of Study which will be offered as four intensive workshop during Semester 2 2010.

The unit explores the extent to which environmental changes influence population demographics and health, and the extent to which demographic and secular changes impact on the physical environment. The influence of migration, conflict, food insecurity, scarce resources, droughts, flooding, heat stress, emerging and re-emerging infections and chronic health problems on poverty, ageing and dependency, physical, mental and social health and economic sustainability will be analysed alongside the elements needed to preserve the diversity and functioning of the ecosystem for future human survival. International models and policies for mitigating and/or adapting to the negative consequences of globalisation, urbanisation, overconsumption, and resource depletion will be analysed for their potential benefits and harms to sustainable population growth, optimal health and equitable distribution of essential resources.

At the completion of the unit, students will be able to describe, analyse and assess the relative merits of policy and governance options for reversing, mitigating and/or adapting to current sustainability imperatives for populations and the planet.
Publications

Peer Reviewed:


Non-peer reviewed:


Submitted


Conference Presentations

Associate Professor Ruth Colagiuri presented at the following meetings:


- 14-16 May, Videotaped presentation, entitled “The link between diabetes prevention and economic and environmental sustainability to the Journess Internationales de Diabetologie De Constantine (JIDC), Algeria.
Health and Sustainability Unit continued

• 19-20 April, Presentation on the Sydney Resolution, at the Oxford Health Alliance Summit 2010, in New Delhi.

• 30 March 2010, Dr S Girgis presented at the Multicultural HIV/AIDS & Hepatitis C Service Staff Meeting (MHAHS), at RPAH, Sydney on “literature review of variations in health outcomes and health service utilisation by the culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) individuals in Australia”.

Notable Meetings

Associate Professor Colagiuri attended the following meetings of interest:

• 21-23 June, Pacific Non-Communicable Disease Forum, in Nadi Fiji, conducted jointly by SPH and WHO. Approximately 21 countries from 22 Pacific Islands were represented.

• 5-9 June, Foundation for Informed Medical Decision Making (FIMDM) International Workshop on Diabetes, in London UK.

• 25 May, NHMRC Global Health Workshop in Canberra.

• 20 May, Department of Health and Lynnette Glendinning and Bob Wells in Canberra.

• 20 May, Meeting with AusAid staff in Canberra regarding the Pacific Islands.

• 19-20 April, OxHA Annual Summit on Cardiovascular Disease prevention, in New Delhi.

• 21-22 April, A meeting of the Centre of Excellence in Global Health supported by the NIH.

• 13 April, Meeting with the newly appointed Minister of Populations, Hon. Tony Burke.

Future Events

UNDPI NGO Conference

The 63rd Annual United Nations DPI/NGO Conference is scheduled for 30th August to 1st September 2010, in Melbourne. A/Prof Colagiuri is coordinating a workshop focusing on Diabetes and Poverty: Determining Achievement of the MDGs, which will be co sponsored by Oxford Health Alliance, Asia Pacific, University of Sydney (Centre for Obesity, Diabetes and CVD and the Institute of Sustainable Solutions) and Diabetes Australia.

Thinker in Residence

Prof Stig Pramming will be visiting Sydney in December. Funding is currently been sort after to extend his visit to include a two week “Thinker in Residence” program on health and sustainability.

Diabetes as a Development Issue Public Lecture

Professor Jean Claude Mbanya, President of the International Diabetes Federation will be in Australia for the UNDPI meeting. During his visit, the unit will be organising a public lecture on 2 September 2010.
Health Policy Analyses, Advice and Commentary

The Menzies Centre has been prominent in assisting the various Commonwealth inquiries into the future reform of the health system. Expert commentary has also been provided on funding commitments and health initiatives in the media, online forums and peer journals.

New advisory role for MCHP

The Menzies Centre has been engaged by NSW Health over the next 13 months to provide independent policy advice on key significant areas of work required during the roll out of the COAG National Health and Hospitals Network Agreement in NSW. The Menzies Centre will: advise on new governance structures such as Local Hospital Networks; develop evidence based engagement and consensus approaches which will facilitate effective policy and program transition and reform implementation; deliver consultation forums around the health reform process and assist in both the development of decisions and in implementation; and conduct comparative jurisdictional analysis on effective governance and other health service delivery structures.

Menzies Foundation Fellow

Dr Lesley Russell has spent the past 12 months in Washington DC where she has combined her Australian work (teaching, research into the impact of out-of-pocket costs on patients’ health, policy analyses and commentary) with work on US health care reform and other health issues, primarily obesity and the public health effects of the Gulf oil spill.

Most of this US-based work has been done in affiliation with the Center for American Progress, where she is a Visiting Senior Fellow. Dr Russell is also a Visiting Professor in the Department of Health Policy at George Washington University, where she teaches postgraduate students and conducts a seminar series on comparative health policy, and a Senior Fellow at the Center for Australian and New Zealand Studies in the Edmund A Walsh School of Foreign Service at Georgetown University, where she is involved in seminars on the Australian health care system and Australian politics.

Dr Russell has retained her affiliation as a Research Associate at the US Studies Centre at the University of Sydney, and she has a blog on the Centre’s website.

Networking

- Engaged in discussions with Professor Alan Tidwell, CANZ Director, about pursuing some of my earlier work on poverty, health and climate change in the Pacific Islands. Professor Richard Southby is assisting with the search for funding.

- Working with A/Prof Kate Conigrave to get resources for her project to train Indigenous health care workers in substance abuse, tobacco and alcohol prevention, education and treatment.

- Advice provided to ACOSS on budget analysis issues.

- Advice provided to White House Task Force on HIV/AIDS on addressing racial and ethnic disparities in health care.

- Advice provided to Professor Patrick McGorry on getting the Australian Government to take a more active approach to mental health.
Health Policy Analyses, Advice and Commentary continued

Seminars and presentations

- January 26, 2010 Health workforce issues facing the US, Australia and the developing nations of Africa and the Pacific. Keynote speaker at GWU seminar with Professor Fitzhugh Mullan.

Meetings and conferences

- March 4, 2010 Invited attendee at The Atlantic Food Summit on food safety and nutrition. Washington DC.
- April 8, 2010 Participant in Institute of Medicine conference: Ten Years Later: How Far Have We Come in Reducing Health Disparities. Washington DC.
- April 19, 2010 Participant in Center for American Progress planning meeting with other think tanks, academics, NGOs, and state and federal health representatives on coordination of implementation tasks for health care reform.
- May 2-5, 2010 Participant in 12th International Medical Workforce Collaborative, New York City.
- July 12-14, 2010 Participant in Australian American Leadership Dialogue, Washington DC.
Education

One of the principal objectives of the Centre includes training researchers to such a level that they will have the capacity to participate meaningfully in national and international research programs on health policy and to undertake research training activities and programs that are consistent with these objectives. The Menzies Centre has provided a focus for expanding postgraduate programs in health policy at the University of Sydney and a new Master of Public Health program at the Australian National University.

The University of Sydney

The Master of Health Policy offered three units in first semester. Staff from the Menzies Centre, the School of Public Health and a wide array of policy practitioners contributed to the teaching program.

HPOL5000 Introduction to Health Policy (J Gillespie and S Leeder – enrolment: 25)

This unit explores historical perspectives on the development of the structures, systems and institutions of health policy. The focus is comparative, setting Australian developments in a wider context. Case studies include the political development of the main institutions of health policy such as Medicare and the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme, the legal system and interest group politics. The unit investigates the theoretical basis of policy and policy frameworks including conflicts between rival notions of equity.


This unit explores comparative perspectives on health systems with a focus on the main models in developed OECD countries and the implications of each for the structure, planning and delivery of services. The implications of a public-private mix of health system funding is also covered, including: definitions of ‘public’ and ‘private’ and the factors that shape different health systems. Finally, structures of governance and accountability are also explored.

HPOL5008 Evidence into Policy and Practice (M Haines, L Russell – enrolment: 8)

There is a growing recognition of the importance of the evidence from research to inform the development and evaluation of health policy. Strengthening understanding of the links between evidence and policy and practice is a crucial element in the improvement of health systems. This unit equips students with skills to critically appraise policy proposals and to offer informed advice on making policies more effective by using evidence.

Students gain experience in techniques to assess evidence needed for policy development, including systematic and rapid reviews. Specifically, students learn how evidence can be used to:

- identify areas that require effective interventions;
- implement the most effective interventions; and
- monitor and evaluate outcomes.

The unit emphasizes the manner in which political processes and imperatives shape new policy approaches.

PUBH5032 Making Decisions in Public Health (J Gillespie and K Howard – enrolment 132)

This Master of Public Health core unit introduces students to the methods by which evidence is translated, used and abused when governments make decisions affecting public health. It surveys the main tools used by health economists and policy analysts, emphasizing the role of different forms of evidence and values for priority-setting and policy making.
Publications and Presentations

Peer Reviewed


- Chadban S; Howell M; Twigg S; Thomas M; Jerums G; Cass A; Campbell D; Nicholls K; Tong A; Mangos G; Stack A; Maclsaac RJ; Girgis S; Colagiuri R; Colagiuri S; Craig J. Cost-effectiveness and socioeconomic implications of prevention and management of chronic kidney disease in type 2 diabetes, *Nephrology*, Volume 15, Supplement 1, April 2010 , pp. S195-S203(1).
Publications and Presentations continued

- Chadban S; Howell M; Twigg S; Thomas M; Jerums G; Cass A; Campbell D; Nicholls K; Tong A; Mangos G; Stack A; MacIsaac RJ; Girgis S; Colagiuri R; Colagiuri S; Craig J. Prevention and management of chronic kidney disease in type 2 diabetes, *Nephrology*, Volume 15, Supplement 1, April 2010, pp. S162-S194(1).

- Chadban, S; Howell, M; Twigg, S; Thomas, M; Jerums, G; Cass, A; Campbell, D; Nicholls, K; Tong, A; Mangos, G; Stack, A; MacIsaac, RJ; Girgis, S; Colagiuri, R; Colagiuri, S; Craig, J. Assessment of kidney function in type 2 diabetes, *Nephrology*, Volume 15, Supplement 1, April 2010, pp. S146-S161(1).

- Boxall A-m. Reforming Australia’s health system, again, *MJA* 2010; 192 (9): 528-530.


**In Press**


**Submitted**


Publications and Presentations continued

- Lewis M. Alcohol control policy: politicians, proprietors and public health. *Medical Journal of Australia*
- Yen L, McRae I, Jeon Y-H, Essue B and Herath P. Self management: workforce participation and the need to assistance with self care for older Australians with chronic illness

**Industry**

- Leeder S. Health Reform and COAG, *RACP News*, Volume 30 No. 3 June 2010
Media - Print

- Russell L. Teacher program helps students race to the top, *Canberra Times*, 19 July 2010.
- Russell L. A high world ranking for our health care is a bit off colour, *Canberra Times*, 29 June 2010.

Media - Interviews & Quotes

- Parnell S, Cresswell A. Long-term treatment needed as both sides stall on health reform, *The Australian*, 26 July 2010. Professor Stephen Leeder and Mr Robert Wells are quoted in this article.
- Cresswell A. Bowel program needs rethink, *The Australian*, 5 July 2010. Kathy Flitcroft, MCHP Associate, is quoted in this article.
- Cresswell A. Health experts warn cuts a threat to Labor reform, *The Australian*, 1 July 2010. Professor Stephen Leeder is quoted in this article.
- Franklin M. Rifts open in Kevin Rudd’s health plan, *The Australian*, 22 April 2010. Professor Stephen Leeder is quoted in this article.
• Fyfe M. Rudd has the mandate but not the perfect plan, *The Age*, 18 April 2010. **Professor Stephen Leeder** is quoted in this article.

• Health Reform Debate, *ABC 1 Sydney*, 16 April 2010. Quentin Dempster interviews **Professor Stephen Leeder**.

• Cresswell A. Diagnosis: state of mediocrity, *The Australian*, 15 April 2010. **Professor Stephen Leeder** is quoted in this article.

• Gearin M. Medical trials in the spotlight, *ABC 7.30 Report*, 13 April 2010. **Professor Stephen Leeder** is interviewed in this story.

• Breusch J. Healthcare catches a new wave, *Australian Financial Review*, 6 April 2010. **Professor Stephen Leeder** is quoted in this article.


• Cresswell A, TKO yet contender drew blood, *The Australian*, 24 March 2010. **Professor Stephen Leeder** is quoted in this article.

• Metherell M. Lack of detail, hospital focus disappoint critics, *The Sydney Morning Herald*, 24 March 2010. **Professor Stephen Leeder** and **Mr Robert Wells** are quoted in this article.

• The Verdict, *The Age*, 24 March 2010. **Professor Stephen Leeder** is quoted in this article.


• The Drum Wrap: Rudd vs Abbott, *ABC The Drum*, 23 March 2010. **Professor Stephen Leeder** and Dr Jim Gillespie contributed to this article.

• Metherell M. PM slammed for slashing spending on mental health, *The Sydney Morning Herald*, 23 March 2010. **Dr Lesley Russell** is quoted in this story.

• Health Debate, *ABC 936 Hobart*, 23 March 2010. **Professor Stephen Leeder** was interviewed in this story.

• Health Debate, *Triple J Sydney*, 23 March 2010. **Professor Stephen Leeder** was interviewed in this story.


• NPC Rudd / Abbott debate. Commentary before and after the debate. *ABC News Radio*, 23 March 2010. **Dr Lesley Russell** was interviewed in this story.

• Health care reform in Australia and the US. *Sky News*, 23 March 2010. **Dr Lesley Russell** was interviewed in this story.

• Colvin M. Americans nervous about what health care bill will mean, *ABC PM*, 22 March 2010. **Dr Lesley Russell** was interviewed in this story.
Publications and Presentations continued

- Obama wins health care reform war, *ABC 666 Canberra*, 22 March 2010. **Dr Lesley Russell** was interviewed in this story.

- Barron J. Health care reform - expert says the process isn’t over yet, *ABC NewsRadio Sydney*, 22 March 2010. **Dr Lesley Russell** was interviewed in this story.

- Hall L. Hospital networks too small for services, *The Sydney Morning Herald*, 16 March 2010. **Professor Stephen Leeder** is quoted in this article.


**Online**


- Snips, snipes and even a laugh…the latest in health reform news, *Croakey*, 13 July 2010. **Dr Angela Beaton** and **Dr Justin McNab** contribute to this article with a summary of proceedings from the MCHP seminar Innovations in Care - Local Hospital Networks and the Health Reform Agenda.


- Problems with media coverage of health policy…and some suggested solutions, *Croakey*, 30 June 2010. **Professor Stephen Leeder** contributes to this article.

- What Pat McGorry and others are telling the Feds on mental health, *Croakey*, 21 June 2010. **Dr Lesley Russell** contributes to this article.

- Primary care VS primary health care? Who cares? (Part 2), *Croakey*, 17 June 2010. **Professor Stephen Leeder** and **Dr Lesley Russell** contribute to this article.

- Beaton A. What will health reform agenda mean for mental health?, *Croakey*, 4 June 2010.


- Russell L. How the bean counters beat the policy wonks, *Croakey*, 18 May 2010. This article first appeared in *The Canberra Times*.


Publications and Presentations continued


Reports


**Conference Presentations**


• Leeder S. Local Hospital Networks: what will they mean for us?, *Department of Health and Ageing Seminar Series*, 14 July 2010, Sydney.

• Leeder S. RM Gibson Oration - Reform or reformation? The future for ageing health in the new health vision, *Australian Association of Gerontology (AAG)*, 30 June 2010, Newcastle.


• McRae I, Yen L, Gillespie J, Douglas K. ‘Patient affiliation with GPs in Australia – who is and who isn’t and does it matter?’ *Primary Health Care Conference* June 30 2010, Darwin.


• Gillespie J. Keynote Address, ‘Where are the Rudd Reforms taking us?’ *Australian College of Health Care Managers, NSW Annual Conference*, 21 May 2010, Sydney.


• Thow AM. Panelist - Nutrition, tobacco and alcohol; links with trade relations; implications of PACER Plus, *Trade and Health in the Pacific: PACER Plus – Should we be worried?*, 12-13 April 2010, Melbourne.

• Leeder S. Panellist - Ethical Challenges for Public Health: Ethics, Equity and Sustainability, World Congress of Internal Medicine 2010, 24 March 2010, Melbourne.

• Leeder S. Response to Rediscovering public health through global health, Redfern Oration delivered by Professor Richard Smith, World Congress of Internal Medicine 2010, 24 March 2010, Melbourne.


• Leeder S. Something’s rotten in the state of Australia’s health - our teeth, presentation at the Faculty of Dentistry Graduation Ceremony for Class of 2009, 19 March 2010.

• Leeder S. The Clinician’s Role in Policy to Reduce Morbidity and Mortality from Diabetes Mellitus, Novo Nordisk Diabetes Update, 26-27 February 2010, Shanghai, China.
The Menzies Centre for Health Policy delivers regular seminars that address contemporary health policy issues. The Menzies Oration and Emerging Health Policy Researchers Conference are regular features of the events program and attract widespread interest. The 2nd S T Lee Lecture will also be held in Sydney.

Past Events

Trade and its impact on health and development in the Pacific

Wednesday, 21 July 2010, University of Sydney

PACER -Plus is a new trade agreement being negotiated between Australia and 13 Pacific island countries, which has the potential to put ‘wealth before health’. This one day workshop was held to allow participants to learn more about PACER-Plus and what they could do to make sure Australian trade policy does not undermine sustainable development and the right to health in the Pacific.

Innovations in Care - Local Hospital Networks and the Health Reform Agenda

Tuesday, 6 July 2010, University of Sydney

Speakers:

- Professor Stephen Leeder, Director, Menzies Centre for Health Policy
- Mr Terry Clout, Chief Executive, South Eastern Sydney and Illawarra AHS
- Dr Nigel Lyons, Chief Executive, Hunter New England AHS
- Dr Leon Clark, Chief Executive Officer, Sydney Adventist Hospital
- Dr Narelle Shadbolt, Department of General Practice (Hornsby)
- Dr Barry Catchlove, Fellow of Senate, University of Sydney

Innovations in Care - Where is Mental Health in the Health Reform Agenda?

Thursday, 20 May 2010, University of Sydney

Speakers:

- Dr Lesley Russell, Menzies Foundation Fellow, Menzies Centre for Health Policy (A policy perspective)
- Dr Andrew Pethebridge, St George Hospital (An acute care perspective)
- Mr David Crosbie, CEO, Mental Health Council of Australia (A community care perspective)
- Barbara Hocking OAM, Executive Director, SANE Australia (A community perspective)
- Professor Gavin Andrews AO, Clinical Research Unit for Anxiety and Depression (CRUfAD), UNSW at St Vincent’s Hospital (Discussion Moderator)
Events continued

Upcoming Events

Emerging Health Policy Research Conference 2010

Wednesday, 11 August 2010, University of Sydney

The conference will showcase the work in progress of current doctoral and early career research workers.

Participation in the Emerging Health Policy Research Conference will provide an opportunity to:

• discuss health policy responses to current local, national and global health challenges;
• hear about ‘in progress’ health policy research;
• discuss new ideas and identify opportunities for collaboration across disciplinary boundaries

Conference Day Program: 9 am - 4.30 pm

Opening Keynote Speaker: Professor John Shine FAA AO, Executive Director, Garvan Institute of Medical Research

Conference Sessions:

• Translating Knowledge into Policy and Practice
• Clinical Safety
• Women’s Health
• Improving Care Delivery
• Inequalities
• Regulate or Reform?
• Identifying Influential Actors in Policy Making
• Health Economics (Evaluations)
• Workforce Management

Panel: Health Policy in Action: taking advantage of international opportunities

Conference Evening Program: 4.30 - 6.30 pm

Sponsored by Industry & Investment NSW

Panel and Workshop: Research today improving health care tomorrow
Translating research and shaping policy for an agile self-improving health system

Panel Chair: Professor Mary O’Kane, NSW Chief Scientist and Scientific Engineer
Staff List

Directors
- Professor Stephen Leeder, The University of Sydney
- Mr Robert Wells, The Australian National University

Menzies Foundation Fellow: Dr Lesley Russell

University of Sydney
- Deputy Director: Dr James Gillespie
- Manager: Amanda Dominello
- Administrative and Research Officer: Yvonne Inall
- Events and Communication Officer: Diana Freeman
- Research Fellow (Health Policy) and Ian Potter Fellow: Dr Angela Beaton
- Research Fellow: Joel Negin

Research Students:
- PhD Student: Anne Marie Thow
- PhD Student: Surianti Sukeri
- PhD Student: Jennifer Hunter
- PhD Student: Adam Capon
- PhD Student: Angela Littleford
- PhD Student: John Hall
- PhD Student: Nittita Prasopa-Plaizier
- PhD Student: Andrey Zheluk
- PhD Student: Ashley McAllister
- PhD Student: Shauna Downs
- PhD Student: Deborah Schaler

Visitors:
- SCIPPS Visiting Fellow: Xiaohui Wang
- Research Affiliate: Oliver Herbert
- Dr Harikrishnan Sivadasan Pillai

Health and Sustainability Unit:
- Director: Associate Professor Ruth Colagiuri
- Acting Executive Assistant and Program Manager: Faith Papuni
- Senior Research and Evidence Manager: Dr Seham Girgis
- Research and Project Officer: Maria Gomez

Serious and Continuing Illness Policy and Practice Study:
- Research Fellow, SCIPPS: Dr Clive Aspin
- Research Fellow, SCIPPS: Justin McNab
- Research Officer, SCIPPS: Natalie Plant
- Program Support Officer, SCIPPS: Kate Corcoran

Blue Mountains Eye and Hearing Study:
- Postdoctoral Researcher: Julie Schneider

Australian National University
- Associate Director: Ms Laurann Yen
- Business Manager: Ms Marion Eluga

Serious and Continuing Illness Policy and Practice Study
- Senior Research Officer: Ms Tanisha Jowsey
Directors’ Report

The Menzies Centre for Health Policy is a collaborative Centre between The Australian National University and the University of Sydney. It aims to provide the Australian people with a better understanding of their health system and what it provides for them. The Centre encourages informed debate about how Australians can influence health policy to ensure that it is consistent with their values and priorities and is able to deliver safe, high quality health care that is sustainable in the long term.

The Menzies Centre:

• produces and publishes high-quality analyses of current health policy issues;
• delivers public seminars and education programs on a wide variety of health policy topics;
• undertakes comprehensive research projects on health policy issues.

For more information
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