Directors’ Report

October 2010 - February 2011

Professor Stephen Leeder, University of Sydney
Mr Robert Wells, Australian National University
Table of contents

What’s New 1

Publications and Presentations 3

Events 8

Staff List 10
What’s New

- Stephen Leeder has been appointed Chair of the Western Sydney Local Health Network Governing Council. In response to the national health reform agenda, from January this year 18 NSW Local Health Networks replaced the existing eight Area Health Services. Menzies Centre Associate, Associate Professor Annette Schmiede, has also been appointed to the Northern Sydney Local Health Network Governing Council.

- Associate Professor Ruth Colagiuri, in her role as Vice-President of the International Diabetes Federation, was lead author of the document, A Call to Action on Diabetes. The document outlines the case for investing in diabetes and is currently being widely disseminated internationally. Ruth Colagiuri is also leading the articulation of the IDF Global Diabetes Plan which is in its final stages of development.

- The Menzies-Nous Australian Health Survey 2010 was launched in November 2010 in Canberra, and released in a series of Survey workshops held in other Australian capital cities. The release of the Survey received good media attention. The telephone survey asked questions about: satisfaction with the health system; support for health reform; access to health care services; and confidence in services. The Minister for Health and Ageing, Nicola Roxon, issued a media release in response to the Menzies-Nous Survey. Short reports from the Survey will be released over the coming months to continue public interest.

- An NHMRC Project Grant has been awarded for the project, The effect of a coordinated care intervention, Care Navigation, on the readmission rate of chronically ill patients at Nepean Hospital. The 4-year grant will extend the current work on the Serious and Continuing Illness Policy and Practice Study (SCIPPS) in western Sydney.

- The Menzies Centre for Health Policy submitted a response to the Department of Health and Ageing's Medicare Locals Discussion Paper on Governance and Functions. Drawing on the Menzies Centre's experience researching and working with hospitals, community health and general practice in Western Sydney and the Australian Capital Territory, the response focussed on the need for coordination and integration of care for people suffering from chronic illness and on developing policy and system interventions that would improve their outcomes.

- Dr Lesley Russell published a report last year on the commitment by all Australian governments to improve the lives of Indigenous Australians, and in particular provide a better future for Indigenous children. The report, Indigenous health checks; a failed policy in need of scrutiny, sparked debate and media coverage.

- Menzies Centre staff have written for and been interviewed by media extensively about the revised Council of Australian Governments reform program for Australia’s publicly funded health service. The Menzies Centre website details the media coverage and has been a useful tool to promote the Menzies Centre’s expertise in health reform and governance.

- Professor Steven Lewis had a very successful visiting appointment at the Australian National University and University of Sydney in November 2010. He delivered a number of seminars and workshops and was interviewed by the media following his presentations. He mentored the Centre’s early career researchers and postgraduate students and spoke to Centre staff about policy ideas and responses to the national health reform agenda.
What’s New continued

• Professor Stig Pramming (former CEO of the Oxford Health Alliance) was the Health and Sustainability Unit (HSU) Visiting Scholar for 2010. A number of successful meetings and events for his visit were arranged including: an SPH Roundtable on “Working with Industry”; a joint HSU - NSW PHAA seminar on “Where does health Fit in the Global green New Deal”; and participation as a key note speaker in the Australian Diabetes Council Policy Conference.

• Dr Oliver Herbert returned to Sydney in January 2011 to complete work commenced at the beginning of 2010. Dr Herbert is a specialist in Dermatology and Venerology with a sub specialization in Allergology. During his time at the Menzies Centre, Dr Herbert will be translating and analysing data collected from his extensive anthropological fieldwork on magic and illness in Madang Province, Papua New Guinea. His continued interest in health policy in PNG is the basis for his current research in public health, in cooperation with the Universities of Sydney and Bremen, Germany.

• Dr Jose Maria Valderas Martinez will be a visitor to the Menzies Centre from February to April 2011. He is an academic at the University of Oxford and is interested in the delivery of care for people with chronic conditions. Dr Valderas Martinez is leading the development of a health services and policy research group at the University of Oxford and during his visit will discuss how the Menzies Centre might collaborate with this group in the future.

• The Menzies Centre for Health Policy was deeply saddened by the death on New Year’s Day of Mr Michael Ward after a seven-year long illness that tested his resilience to the limit. His passing is a great loss to us but more importantly to his two young children whom he cared for valiantly and with good humour until the end. He was a man of astounding bravery and affection. Michael was a highly valued and perspicacious board member of the Menzies Centre for Health Policy since its inception in 2007. He was a key contributor to the successful NHMRC grant application that supports the Menzies Centre’s Serious and Continuing Illness Policy and Practice Study.

Michael will be remembered for his clever and caring insight. He was generous, tenacious and perceptive. He was a good friend and mentor to Menzies Centre staff and colleagues. Certainly his loss to us is profound. We will not see his like again.
Publications and Presentations

Peer Reviewed


• Lancaster P A. Causes of birth defects: lessons from history, *Congenit Anom (Kyoto)*. 2010 Dec 15. [Epub ahead of print]


• Cheung KK, Mirzaei M, Leeder S. Health policy analysis: a tool to evaluate in policy documents the alignment between policy statements and intended outcomes, *Australian Health Review*, 2010, 34, 405–413.


• Jowsey T, Gillespie J, Aspin C. Effective communication is crucial to self-management: the experiences of immigrants to Australia living with diabetes, *Chronic Illness*, 1742395310387835, first published on November 15, 2010.


Industry


• Leeder S, Beaton A. Public health must go beyond the village green, *Australian Doctor*, January 2011.

• Leeder S. In 2011, open your mind and say ‘Ah!’, *Australian Medicine*, January 2011.


• Leeder S. The morning after the night before: health reform post-election (Special Report), *Australian Medicine*, December 2010.

• Leeder S. Debt is a serious health hazard, *Australian Medicine*, December 2010.
• Russell L. Doctors use Formula One pit crews as a safety model, Australian Medicine, November 2010.
• Berend N, Leeer S. Sacs appeal: The fascination of lung function, Radius, November 2010.
• Leeder S. We can’t afford not to discuss the price of health, Australian Doctor, 19 November 2010.
• Gillespie J. Menzies Centre for Health Policy and the COAG National Health and Hospitals Network Partnership, The Bridge, Sydney School of Public Health, November 2010.

Media - Print
• Russell L. If UK can put mental health first, why can’t we?, Canberra Times, 22 February 2011.
• Leeder S. Agreement a positive step on slow road to change, The Age, 15 February 2011.
• Russell L. Advances in medicine for mental illness have stalled, Canberra Times, 14 February 2011.
• Leeder S. Lack of progress is hard to swallow: healthcare reform, The Australian, 5 February 2011.
• Russell L. Good death is a right: advanced care planning, The Australian, 15 January 2011.
• Russell L. Health care needs a big push to get back on track, Canberra Times, 6 December 2010.
• Russell L. When cheaper is the best medicine for everyone, Canberra Times, 23 November 2010.
• Russell L. Gridlock looms in Congress, Canberra Times, 5 November 2010.
• Russell L. Finally, prevention is back on health care agenda, Canberra Times, 29 October 2010.

Media - Interviews & Quotes 2010
• General News: Labor pains over implementing Australia-wide health reforms, Daily Advertiser, 21 February 2011. Mr Robert Wells is quoted in this article.
• Drape J. FED: Labor pains over health reform, Australia News, 18 February 2011. Mr Robert Wells is quoted in this article.
• Cresswell A. Almost a clean bill of health, The Australian, 15 February 2011. Professor Stephen Leeder is quoted in this article.

• Fear of the unknown, *Aged Care Insite*, 14 February 2011. **Dr Jim Gillespie** and the *Menzies-Nous Australian Health Survey 2010* are quoted in this article.

• Wells R. *ABC News 24*, 14 February 2011. **Mr Robert Wells** is interviewed.

• Channel 10. *6PM with George Negus*, 14 February 2011. **Mr Robert Wells** is interviewed.

• Cresswell A. Experts welcome funding changes, *Weekend Australian*, 12 February 2011. **Mr Robert Wells** is quoted in this article.

• General News: Labor loses GST health battle, *Barrier Daily Truth*, 12 February 2011. **Mr Robert Wells** is quoted in this article.

• Drape J. Government abandons GST-backed health plan, *Illawarra Mercury*, 12 February 2011. **Mr Robert Wells** is quoted in this article.

• Drape J. Health change: New plans for system, *Warrnambool Standard*, 12 February 2011. **Mr Robert Wells** is quoted in this article.

• Editorial: Gillard can afford to drop a cumbersome health deal, *The Australian*, 8 February 2011. **Mr Robert Wells** is quoted in this article.


• Batt N. When a death wish is desirable: end-of-life decisions, *The Australian*, 8 January 2011. **Dr Lesley Russell** is quoted in this article.

• Cresswell A. Surgery bonuses may lure bogus bookkeeping, *The Australian*, 9 December 2010. **Professor Stephen Leeder** is quoted in this story.

• What do Australians REALLY think of our health system? (not quite what the Minister told you), *Croakey*, 7 December 2010. **The Menzies-Nous Australian Health Survey 2010** results are quoted in this article.


• Hoffman L. Reform, cost dominate healthcare debate, *The Australian*, 13 November 2010. **Professor Stephen Leeder** is quoted in this story.

• Robinson N. Doctors reject indigenous preventive health scheme, *The Australian*, 4 November 2010. **Dr Lesley Russell** and the *Menzies Centre for Health Policy* are quoted in this story.

• Marich G. Poor response to Indigenous health check scheme, *ABC News*, 4 November 2010. **The Menzies Centre for Health Policy** is quoted in this story.
Online

- Leeder S. Why shouldn’t all Australians be subject to income management?, *Croakey*, 26 November 2010.
- Russell L. Beyond hospital bed tallies: let’s hear about some innovation in health care, *Croakey*, 19 November 2010.
- The AMA may be smiling but not everyone is happy about Government’s backdown on diabetes reform, *Croakey*, 16 November 2010. Mr Robert Wells contributes to this article.
- Russell L. Should the poor be able to spend their benefits on soft drinks?, *Croakey*, 11 October 2010.

Reports

Publications and Presentations continued

Conference Presentations

- Gillespie J. ‘Where are we up to in health reform?’, *Fairfield-Liverpool Association of Medical Practitioners/ Bankstown GP Division: Health Reform Update*, 4 November 2010, Bankstown.
Events

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 3rd S T Lee Lecture will be held in Sydney in 2011.

Past Events

The Great Election Debate: Public Health in NSW
Thursday, 24th February 2011, University of Sydney
The NSW Branch of the Public Health Association of Australia, in partnership with the Menzies Centre for Health Policy, and the NSW Branch of the Australian Health Promotion Association, presented The Great Election Debate: Public Health in NSW.

Guest Speakers:
• The Hon. Carmel Tebbutt, BEc MP, Deputy Premier, and Minister for Health, NSW
• Jillian Skinner MP, Deputy Leader of the NSW Opposition, Shadow Minister for Health
• Mr David Shoebridge MLC, Lead Green’s Candidate for the State Election

Discussion Moderator: Michael Moore, CEO, Public Health Association of Australia

International Developments in Health Systems: Addressing real issues or responding to fads and special interests
Thursday, 2 December, Australian National University

Panel:
• Professor Theodore Marmor, Emeritus Professor, Yale University
• Dr Kieke Okma, International health policy analyst
• Mr Robert Wells, Director, Menzies Centre for Health Policy (Australian National University)

Menzies Centre Oration: Value for Money in Health Care: Why It’s Hard to Achieve and What We Might Do About It
Wednesday, 10 November 2010, Australian National University

Guest Speaker: Adjunct Professor Steven Lewis, President, Access Consulting Ltd., Saskatoon, Canada; & Adjunct Professor of Health Policy University of Calgary & Simon Fraser University

The Case Against Health Insurance
Tuesday, 9 November 2010, Australian National University

Guest Speaker: Adjunct Professor Steven Lewis, President, Access Consulting Ltd., Saskatoon, Canada; & Adjunct Professor of Health Policy University of Calgary & Simon Fraser University
Events continued

Large System Transformation: What is it and can it be done?
Tuesday, 2 November 2010, University of Sydney

Guest Speaker: Adjunct Professor Steven Lewis, President, Access Consulting Ltd., Saskatoon, Canada; & Adjunct Professor of Health Policy University of Calgary & Simon Fraser University

Panel:
• Dr Paul Gross, Health Group Strategies Pty Ltd, Australia and Greater China
• Dr Richard Matthews AM, Deputy Director-General, Strategic Development, NSW Health
• Professor Cliff Hughes AO, Chief Executive Officer, Clinical Excellence Commission
• Adjunct Professor Steven Lewis

Discussion Moderator: Professor Stephen Leeder, Director, Menzies Centre for Health Policy.
Staff List

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

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
• Associate Lecturer: Beverley Essue
• Associate Lecturer: Anne Marie Thow

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: Andrey Zheluk
• PhD Student: Ashley McAllister
• PhD Student: Shauna Downs
• PhD Student: Deborah Schaler

Visitors:
• Dr Oliver Herbert
• Dr Jose Maria Venderes Martinez

Health and Sustainability Unit:
• Director: Associate Professor Ruth Colagiuri
• Acting Executive Assistant and Program Manager: Jeanie McKenzie

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

Blue Mountains Eye and Hearing Study:
• Postdoctoral Researcher: Dr 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
Menzies Centre for Health Policy
D02 Victor Coppleson Building
University of Sydney
Phone: +61 2 9036 5412
Fax:+61 2 9351 5204
Email: mchp@sydney.edu.au
Website: http://www.menzieshealthpolicy.edu.au/