AGENDA ITEM 2: DIRECTOR’S REPORT

**Key Activities to March 2008**

- **2007 Election**
  - MCHP provided an “Election Policy Tracker” that was used and quoted widely;
  - MCHP made a submission in response to call from ALP Health & Hospitals Advisory Group;
  - MCHP frequent media commentary on election issues

**Events:**

- **26 March, 5:30pm Reality bites: Translating election commitments into health policies and programs**

**Commenced planning for:**

- **MCHP Public Health Policy Oration – 26 June 2008 – Guest Speaker, Mr Garry Banks. Mr Banks’ topic will be about future health costs and implications for policy. It will cover 3 main areas: 1. analysis of health cost pressures; 2. policy implications; 3. some reflections on current health reform agenda. Mr Banks will prepare a paper that can be distributed on the day and posted on our websites. Laura Vitler is preparing an abstract and promo document for distribution.**

- **The first of the proposed Menzies/Minter Ellison seminars (tentatively titled 'Health Conundrums') will take place in Sydney on 6 May at 5 pm. The speaker will be Sen Jan McLucas, Parliamentary Secretary for Health. She will talk about the gov’ts approach to health regulation of pharmaceuticals & technology. The event will be at Minter's office in the city & they will manage the administration & provide catering etc. Will be followed by a dinner for invited guests.**

**Education**

- Stephen Leeder contributes to the teaching of three subjects in the University of Sydney’s postgraduate health policy program. He also tutors in the University’s medical program.
Conferences/Presentations

- Presentation to the Australian General Practice Network Forum, Hobart. (November 2007)
- Presentation to the VicHealth Symposium. (February 2008)
- Participation in a meeting assembled by the Earth Institute and headed by Jeff Sachs, at the invitation of the Indian ministry of health to appraise, and comment upon, its rural health strategy. (March 2008)
- Meeting chair for the Global Forum for Health Research (London). The meeting involved investigators from India, China, Hungary, Argentina and Tanzania who are involved in a study that seeks to estimate the economic impact of heart disease and stroke on families. (March 2008)
- Panel chair at the ‘Business as Usual' Health Law Conference (March 2008)
- AFR Health Summit, ‘Consumer Involvement in Health Policy’ (March 2008).

Research-Serious and Continuing Illness Policy and Practice Study (SCIPPS)

- SCIPPS – see ‘Autumn Newsletter’, attached.

Governance

- See agenda Item 7.

Publications


**Submissions**

- Submission to the Special Commission Of Inquiry Into Acute Care Services In NSW Public Hospitals, March 2008
- Stephen Leeder is a Chief Investigator on three NHMRC project grant applications. One is looking at public health research and policy relevance, another seeks funds to extend the Childhood Asthma Prevention Study, and a third application is on the role of complementary and additional medical care (TCAM) in the management of patients with diabetes.
- Stephen Leeder has submitted an Expression of Interest for an NHMRC Australia Fellowship.

**Media/ public engagement**

- **Ministerial briefing note 1: To the next health minister**, *Crikey*, 6 November 2007
- **$2bn health fix to target admissions**, by Patricia Karvelas and Sean Parnell, *The Australian*, 16 January 2008. Professor Stephen Leeder is quoted in this article.
- **Politicians must change 'cheaper sandwiches' attitude**, by Mark Coultan, *The Sydney Morning Herald*, 5 March 2008. Professor Stephen Leeder is quoted in this article.