

CONVERSATIONS WITH APHCRI

CHRONIC DISEASE MANAGEMENT IN PRIMARY HEALTH CARE: FROM EVIDENCE TO POLICY

Professor Nicholas Zwar

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Wednesday 24 June 2009, 11am–12pm

Conference Room Three and Four, Level One, Scarborough House,
Department of Health and Ageing

Chronic disease is on the rise in Australia, which is placing an increasing burden on those affected, their carers and the health system. Many chronic diseases, such as arthritis, asthma and heart disease, are predominantly managed in primary health care and there are opportunities to provide chronic care more effectively.

Professor Nicholas Zwar's presentation will look at ways to improve self-management support, service delivery and decision support based on research into chronic disease management. In particular, he will discuss how the combinations of a multidisciplinary-team approach, including practice nurses, patient education and self-management support could be used to improve patients' health and quality of life.

Professor Zwar will also outline policy options for changing, and ultimately optimising, the skill-mix in the primary health care workforce. He will draw on lessons learned from international models - such as the US, UK, Netherlands, Sweden, Canada and New Zealand - to illustrate ways of improving the Australian primary health care system.

Professor Zwar is Professor of General Practice in the School of Public health and Community Medicine at the University of New South Wales. Prior to becoming an academic general practitioner, he was in general practice in the inner west of Sydney and was a medical educator for the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners Training Program. His research interests are chronic disease, chronic respiratory disease, smoking cessation and quality use of medicines. Professor Zwar is currently leading NHMRC funded research projects examining the impact of nurse and GP partnership for care of Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease and the effect of practice nurses offering smoking cessation support.

APHCRI full reports: http://www.anu.edu.au/aphcri/Domain/ChronicDiseaseMgmt/Approved_25_Zwar.pdf
http://www.anu.edu.au/aphcri/Domain/Workforce/Zwar_25_final.pdf

APHCRI key findings: http://www.anu.edu.au/aphcri/Domain/ChronicDiseaseMgmt/approved_1_Zwar.pdf
http://www.anu.edu.au/aphcri/Domain/Workforce/Zwar_1_final.pdf