



## Australian Primary Health Care Research Institute

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# Initial Work Program - Stream Two

## Call for Participation incorporating amendments resulting from decisions of the Research Advisory Board Meeting, 1 June 2004

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### Preamble

The Australian Primary Health Care Research Institute (APHCRI) has recently been established at the Australian National University. Its mission is to *provide national leadership in improving the quality and effectiveness of primary health care through the conduct of high quality priority-driven research and the support and promotion of best practice*. It focuses on important sectoral questions relating to the organisation, financing, delivery and performance of primary health care, including its interaction with public health and the secondary and tertiary health care sectors. The Institute's Research Advisory Board has resolved that the priorities for the Institute's initial work program are:

- Innovation in State/Commonwealth relationships
- Innovation in funding arrangements for new or existing services/models
- Innovation in organisation and linkages within the Primary Health Care sector

In keeping with its mission and focus and these priorities, the Institute is seeking the participation of groups currently involved in primary health care reform and/or research in two streams of activity.

### Aim

The aim of **Stream Two** is to support a small number of research groups to develop proposals for substantive programs of research relating to the priorities for APHCRI's Initial Work Program.

Those supported under Stream Two will be eligible to submit proposals for APHCRI funding of substantive programs of research commencing in 2005. These proposals will be considered in the first half of 2005, along with other proposals for substantive programs of research, including any that result from Stream One of the Initial Work Program. The closing date for proposals for funding of substantive programs of research is **Monday, November 29, 2004** (see below). Substantive programs of research (Spokes) will be funded for up to 3 years and will need to produce new knowledge that will contribute to national primary health care policy relating to the Initial Work Program priorities.

## **Process**

The process for Stream Two involves: information workshop/s for potential respondents (see below); submission of an Expression of Interest; a selection process; and development of a proposal for APHCRI funding of a substantive program of research (see Table for summary).

Up to \$20,000 is available to support each program development. There could be **up to 6 program developments funded**, depending on the quality of the Expressions of Interest received.

## **APHCRI Staff – will not be applicants for funding under Stream Two**

The Research Advisory Board has determined that no APHCRI Hub staff (i.e. people employed by or contracted to the APHCRI Hub) will be applicants within Stream 2.

## **Information Workshop(s)**

One or more information workshops will be convened in response to interest from potential respondents, to share all information relating to the specific priority-driven research areas and to answer questions. The location of the workshops will reflect demand. If you are interested in attending an Information Workshop, please email Professor Nicholas Glasgow [director.aphcri@anu.edu.au](mailto:director.aphcri@anu.edu.au) with your address details by **COB Thursday, June 10, 2004**. Attendance at the Information Workshop will be at the potential respondent's expense.

## **Submission of Expressions of Interest**

Expressions of Interest should briefly and succinctly address the attached *Questions to be Addressed in the Expression of Interest for Stream Two*. It is expected that Expressions of Interest for Stream Two will be around 8 pages in length. Each should include an indicative estimate of the total budget and an indicative timeline for the proposed program of research. The closing date for receipt by APHCRI of Expressions of Interest for Stream Two is **5pm Eastern Standard Time, Monday, July 19, 2004**. They should be emailed to: [director.aphcri@anu.edu.au](mailto:director.aphcri@anu.edu.au) Late expressions of interest will not be considered.

## **Selection Process**

Expressions of Interest for Stream Two will be considered by an Expert Review Committee appointed by the Research Advisory Board. The Expert Review Committee will assess and rank the Expressions of Interest against the *Criteria for Assessment of Expressions of Interest for Stream Two* and make recommendations to the Research Advisory Board to fund up to 6 program developments, depending on the quality of Expressions of Interest received. The Research Advisory Board's decision will be announced on **Friday, August 20, 2004**.

## **Development of a Proposal for Funding**

Successful Expressions of Interest will be developed into proposals for APHCRI funding for a substantive program of research to commence in 2005. The closing date for these proposals is **5pm Eastern Standard Time, Monday, November 29, 2004**. They should be emailed to: [director.aphcri@anu.edu.au](mailto:director.aphcri@anu.edu.au) Late proposals will not be considered.

For further information contact Alison Humphreys, who is acting as APHCRI's Executive Officer, on (02) 6125-5606 or email: [executive.aphcri@anu.edu.au](mailto:executive.aphcri@anu.edu.au)

## **Questions for the Expression of Interest for Stream Two**

[Criterion 1]

1. Which of the priorities for APHCRI's Initial Work Program does your proposed program of research address?

[Criterion 2]

2. What important gaps in knowledge relating to organisation, financing, delivery and/or performance in primary health care does your proposed program of research address?

3. How will the answers to your questions contribute to innovation in national policy and/or practice in organisation, financing, delivery and/or performance in primary health care?

[Criterion 3]

4. What specific research questions do you propose to answer in order to address these gaps in knowledge?

5. How do you propose to answer these questions? Be specific. Outline both your proposed methods sources of data and approaches to analysis and interpretation.

[Criteria 4 and 5]

6. Which personnel from which organisations make up the proposed research team? What skills and experience does each bring to the proposed program? Briefly summarise the publication record for each. Who will be responsible for each aspect of the program of research?

[Criterion 6]

7. What is the indicative estimate of the total budget and indicative timeline for the proposed program of research?

## **Criteria for the Assessment of Expressions of Interest for Stream Two**

### **Criterion 1 Targets one or more of the priorities for APHCRI's Initial Work Program**

- State/Commonwealth relationships (eg involves an agreement between the Commonwealth and a state/territory that covers new, joint arrangements for the organisation, financing and/or delivery of primary health care services)
- Funding arrangements for new or existing services/models (eg involving actual or virtual fund-holding; capitated arrangements; blended payment systems)
- Organisation and linkages within the PHC sector (eg roles for nurses in primary health care teams; innovative primary health care ~ hospital linkages)

### **Criterion 2 Attempting to fill important gap(s) in knowledge**

The proposed program of research addresses important gap(s) in knowledge that could contribute to innovation in national policy and/or practice relating to organisation, financing, delivery and/or performance in primary health care.

### **Criterion 3 Scientific quality**

- Significance and innovation of the program, particularly the potential to extend and enhance the body of knowledge in primary health care;
- Clarity of research questions;
- Strengths and weaknesses of research design, including the application of appropriate methodology and approaches to analysis;
- Feasibility of the study, particularly as it relates to available data and infrastructure, and (if appropriate) documented adequacy of approaches to recruitment and retention of subjects.

### **Criterion 4 Track Record of Investigators**

- Suitability of the background and relevant skills of the proposed research team;
- Publication record demonstrates ability to publish in peer reviewed literature.

### **Criterion 5 Collaboration**

- Suitability of the composition of the research team in terms of inter-disciplinary partnerships and collaborations with emphasis on the capacity of the team to achieve the programs objectives;
- Clearly articulated roles and contributions of the team members.

### **Criterion 6 Budget and Timeframe**

The budget is reasonable and within the scope of APHCRI research funding. The program of research can be completed in up to 3 years.

## Summary of Process for Stream Two

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Date</b>
Call for Expressions of Interest for Stream Two	Friday, March 26, 2004
Information Workshop/s (if held)	June/July 2004
Closing date for Expressions of Interest for Stream Two	Monday, July 19, 2004
Expressions of Interest assessed and ranked by an Expert Review Committee against the <i>Criteria for Assessment of Expressions of Interest for Stream Two</i> . Expert Review Committee makes recommendations for funding to Research Advisory Board	July - August, 2004
Research Advisory Board announces decision to fund <b>up to 6 program developments</b>	Friday, August 20, 2004
Closing date for receipt of proposals for substantive programs of research to commence in 2005	Monday, November 29, 2004