



MEDIA RELEASE

Minister for Health and Ageing

Tony Abbott MHR

25 May 2007

ABB061/07

Grants for primary health care research announced

The Commonwealth Government has announced more than \$10 million in grants for primary health care research as part of the Government's Primary Health Care Research Evaluation and Development (PHCRED) Strategy.

The funding will provide \$6.3 million over four years in fellowships for 12 experienced researchers to expand their programs of primary health care research and \$3.3 million over three years for five grants to help build the evidence in primary health care research. A total of \$682,000 will also be provided to fund Monash University's Department of Rural and Indigenous Health under the Research Capacity Building Initiative (RCBI) until 2009.

The research work being funded covers a variety of topics relevant to primary health care, including improved prevention and management of diabetes, cardiovascular disease, respiratory disease and depression, promotion of healthy lifestyle behaviours to assist parents and their children in preventing childhood obesity and improved rural and remote health service delivery.

Monash University's Department of Rural and Indigenous Health is the newest addition to the RCBI, bringing the total number of university departments of rural health to be funded through this initiative to 11. The department is well placed to make a difference to rural health outcomes in Moe, in the Gippsland region of Victoria.

A list of those receiving funding through this announcement is attached.

For more information on the Primary Health Care Research, Evaluation and Development Strategy, see www.phcris.org.au/phcred/index.php

For more information call Mr Abbott's office on ph 02 6277 7220.

**PRIMARY HEALTH CARE RESEARCH EVALUATION AND
DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY**

RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS - \$6.3 MILLION

Senior/Mid-Career Fellow	Administering Institution	Grant Title
Prof Mark Harris	University of New South Wales	The prevention and management of chronic disease.
Prof Nigel Stocks	University of Adelaide	A collaborative research program in cardiovascular and respiratory disease.
A/Prof Geoff Mitchell	University of Queensland	Developing an evidence base for clinical palliative care and general practice on chronic and complex disease management.
Dr Grant Blashki	University of Melbourne	Psychological treatments delivered in primary care - specifically improvements in clinical care, integration and use of evidence in policy.
Dr John Furler	University of Melbourne	Chronic disease in general practice, focussing on diabetes and depression, and the role of general practice in addressing health inequalities.
Dr Lynn Kemp	University of New South Wales	The integrated provision of comprehensive primary health care services in early childhood.
Dr Marie Pirotta	University of Melbourne	Primary care women's sexual health.
Dr Jonathan Adams	University of Queensland	The relationship between general practice and the use of complementary and alternative medicine therapy and self-care in the community.
Dr Melina Gattellari	University of New South Wales	Optimising the general practice management of stroke risk.
Dr Emily Hansen	University of Tasmania, Menzies Research Institute	Prevention through behaviour change and effective management of chronic disease in primary health care settings.
Dr Willem (Pim) Kuipers	Flinders University (Centre for Remote Health)	Rural and remote primary health care service delivery and community-based rehabilitation.
Dr Judith Taylor	University of Adelaide (Spencer Gulf Rural Health School)	Community level factors that impact on community health development and health outcomes.

**PRIMARY HEALTH CARE RESEARCH EVALUATION AND
DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY**

PROJECT GRANTS - \$3.3 MILLION

Chief Investigator	Administering Institution	Grant Title
A/Prof. Hylton Menz	La Trobe University	A randomised controlled trial of a tailored podiatry intervention to enhance mobility and prevent falls in older people.
Prof. Elizabeth Waters	Deakin University	Environmental, socio-behavioural and biological predictors of early childhood caries: a rural birth cohort study.
Prof. Lynne Daniels	Flinders University	Positive feeding practices and food preferences in very early childhood - a primary care obesity prevention program.
Dr Karen Campbell	Deakin University	A randomised controlled trial to promote healthy lifestyle behaviours from infancy with the aim of preventing childhood overweight.
Dr Anushka Patel	The University of Sydney	A randomised trial of a "polypill" to improve guidelines adherence for vascular disease prevention in primary health care.