



NHMRC

CREATE

The Centre of Research Excellence in Aboriginal Chronic Disease Knowledge Translation and Exchange

CREATE Bulletin

Issue 8, 30th January 2015

Welcome to our first CREATE Bulletin for 2015. In this bulletin you will find information on a number of priority projects that sit within three of our key domains. We are also pleased to announce that a range of capacity strengthening opportunities are becoming available in 2015, starting with the two Research Master-Classes that are advertised in this Bulletin. Other features in this bulletin include updates on the work of the Methodology Group, an introduction of two new staff members, and a profile of one of the CREATE partners, the Joanna Briggs Institute.

Leadership Group

The first Leadership Group meeting for 2015 will be held on Friday 13th March 2015. Representatives from the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health sector will gather in Adelaide to discuss the work of CREATE, which is currently focused on three domains - Funding, Health Promotion and Best Practice. The extensive capacity strengthening program for 2015 will also be discussed at this first meeting.

Funding Domain

Three funding projects, as prioritised by the CREATE Leadership Group, are currently underway.

Project one focuses on ways in which the Medical Benefits Schedule (MBS) can work for ACCHSs by: (1) improving billing rates; (2) establishing new MBS items; and (3) Developing evidence of the gap between current MBS rebates versus the actual cost of providing care in ACCHSs.

Project two analyses government expenditure on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health, and asks the question 'how much do governments spend, and where does it all go?' The aim of this project is to provide the evidence necessary for ACCHSs to respond to government statements regarding current and ongoing funding.

Project three utilises a systematic review to draw together quantitative, qualitative and economic evidence on the unique contribution that ACCHSs make to improving Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health. This work aims to inform government policy and budget allocations as well as Aboriginal healthcare sector data collection priorities.

For further information or to find out how to contribute to the work of the Funding Domain, contact Judith.Gomersall@adelaide.edu.au or Brita.Pekarsky@sahmri.com

Health Promotion Domain

In late 2014, the Leadership Group acknowledged the importance of health promotion for improving the health of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and requested that this be added as an eighth domain to the CREATE framework. Led by Dr Karla Canuto, this Health Promotion Domain has three primary aims;

- to synthesise existing evidence across a variety of health promotion topics,
- to translate this evidence into practice and/or policy; and
- to strengthen the capacity of the sector to assist organisations to design and evaluate their own health promotion programs.

Contact Us

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Over the next couple of months the Health Promotions Domain team will conduct a scoping exercise to identify existing health promotion evidence. This will be followed by the first systematic literature review, which will identify group-based physical activity programs for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander adults. Opportunities for individuals and organisations to contribute will be advertised via the CREATE newsletter.

If you would like any further information or are keen to be involved in the work of the Health Promotion Domain, please contact Karla Canuto at Karla.Canuto@sahmri.com

Best Practice Domain

Initial work within the Best Practice domain has focused on the development of a background paper describing existing models of care. A detailed work plan including a number of key objectives focused on identifying models of care for ACCHSs will be available shortly.

If you would like any further information or you are keen to register your interest in being involved in the work of the Best Practice Domain, please contact Stephen Harfield at Stephen.Harfield@sahmri.com

Capacity Strengthening Opportunities

Researchers within CREATE are currently developing a comprehensive capacity strengthening program focused both on understanding research and undertaking research, including systematic reviews and translating research evidence into policy and practice. A suite of training opportunities, from one- and two-day Master Classes (see advert opposite) to five-day comprehensive systematic review training, PhD positions and clinical fellowships, will be available in 2015.

Methodology Group

The CREATE Methodology Group was established in order to explore the strengths and weaknesses of systematic reviews as a methodology for knowledge synthesis and translation in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander healthcare sector. Its role is also to develop appropriate methods and tools to assist researchers when conducting systematic reviews and to determine the extent to which primary research is conducted in accordance with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander world views.

For additional information or to find out how to contribute to the work of the Methodology Group, please contact Karla Canuto at Karla.Canuto@sahmri.com, or Judith Gomersall at Judith.Gomersall@adelaide.edu.au.



Research Master-Classes

Wardliparingga Aboriginal Research Unit has developed two Research Master-Classes, which aim to strengthen the capacity of policy makers, managers and practitioners working within the Aboriginal Health sector to utilise research to improve healthcare for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. Two face-to-face Research Master-Classes will be made available in 2015:

- Undertaking Research**
for healthcare practitioners thinking of undertaking their own research
- Understanding Research**
for policy and decision makers wishing to work with researchers

**For more information, please email
Dr Carol Davy: Carol.Davy@sahmri.com**

New Faces at CREATE

We are pleased to announce that Dr Carol Davy and Dr Brita Pekarsky have joined the CREATE team.

Dr Carol Davy

Dr Davy is a Senior Research Fellow at the Wardliparingga Aboriginal Research Unit, SAHMRI, and has over 12 years experience in using both qualitative and quantitative methods to better understand the health needs of various populations. Carol will be responsible for overseeing the CREATE Research Program as well as contribute to research within the Best Practice Domain.



Dr Brita Pekarsky

Dr. Pekarsky is a health economist at Wardliparingga. Her involvement with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health started in 1997 when she worked on the evaluation of the Aboriginal Coordinated Care Trials. Her focus is on how we can improve the health of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people by improving how the sector is financed.



Organisational Profile: The Joanna Briggs Institute

The Joanna Briggs Institute (JBI) is one of the three CREATE partner organisations. This international not-for-profit organisation supports the synthesis, transfer and utilisation of evidence through identifying feasible, appropriate, meaningful and effective healthcare practices to assist in the improvement of healthcare outcomes globally. The JBI is different from other organisations which develop systematic reviews in that it focuses on the entire evidence-based healthcare cycle, from synthesising existing evidence and translating the results into a more useable format, to using these guidelines in the real world to effect positive changes in health outcomes. The JBI also has a strong educational program and offers training focused on understanding, identifying and collating evidence, as well as on how to use best practice evidence to improve service delivery.



THE JOANNA
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Better evidence. Better outcomes.

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