



Small Rural Health Services extension phase 2 project information sheet July 2005-June 2006

The Small Rural Health Services (SRHS) funding and accountability approach aims to facilitate greater funding flexibility to support the provision of the most appropriate mix of services for local communities. Whilst there is no requirement for SRHSs to make any changes to their service mix the SRHS approach provides opportunities where SRHS identify these. In order to support SRHSs in their consideration of service mix options and the identification of local need, the Rural and Regional Health Services Branch has funded the Australian Institute for Primary Care (AIPC) to provide introductory population health workshops to each Small Rural Health Service. These workshops are aimed at Board of Management members, CEOs and senior staff of Small Rural Health Services.

To assist SRHSs in the shift of activity towards primary and secondary prevention of chronic disease the Public Health Branch, Department of Human Services (DHS), has engaged the services of AIPC to conduct a pilot project with selected SRHS across the state (between 5-10 sites, up to 2 per region). This **SRHS phase two extension project** will build on the introductory workshops.

The Phase two program will focus on 3 main things:

- Scoping to get a better understanding of the role for SRHSs in population based health promotion interventions and in reducing health inequalities.
- Engaging with SRHS Boards and managers to identify, plan and implement change activities to support this population-based approach.
- Evaluating, documenting and disseminating understanding of the implementation of change, and develop recommendations to develop SRHS capacity for population based interventions.

The phase two project will be undertaken over 2005-06 and is supported by the 5 Regional (Rural) DHS offices, and the Public Health, Rural Health and Primary Health Branches of DHS.

The support provided by AIPC will be approximately 5 days of time per project site (one program per site), noting that each DHS Region will have a maximum of two project sites. However, DHS Regions may decide to allocate all available AIPC support to a single project. An action plan will be used to help facilitate the joint action between the DHS regional office, AIPC and the selected sites.

Other Workforce development opportunities

Please discuss with your DHS regional office contact about other health promotion and secondary prevention workforce training that is occurring in your region. One training opportunity that is particularly relevant for the project is the 5-day Health Promotion Short course. Also checkout the healthworks training and events calendar at <http://hnb.dhs.vic.gov.au/rrhacs/healthwk/healthwk.nsf/Home?open> for statewide info.

The Public Health Branch, DHS, has also negotiated with the Office for Training and



Tertiary education to conduct a research project to expand on the workforce skills planning component of the SRHS phase 2 through:

- Investigating the workforce skill needs of small rural health services in change management, and the planning and implementation of primary prevention/health promotion and secondary disease prevention interventions; and
- Undertaking a gap analysis between the identified needs and existing and proposed VET training packages and courses.

Further resources to help with planning, implementation and evaluation

- The Integrated Health Promotion resource kit (2003) section 5/6 downloadable from http://www.health.vic.gov.au/healthpromotion/resources_links/integrated.htm
- Planning for effective health promotion evaluation (2005) and Measuring Health Promotion Impacts – A Guide to Impact Evaluation (2003) downloadable from http://www.health.vic.gov.au/healthpromotion/hp_practice/eval_dissem.htm
Hardcopies are also available by contacting either your regional DHS office or Primary and Community Health branch at (03) 96168047.
- Evidence based health promotion resources for practitioners (asthma, nutrition, physical activity and health weight, oral health, adolescent health, falls prevention and child injury prevention, body image, cardiovascular disease & type 2 diabetes) are downloadable from http://www.health.vic.gov.au/healthpromotion/quality/evidence_index.htm
- More resources related to the determinants of health, evidence and effectiveness for local planning, planning and evaluation, health and wellbeing issues, training events and other resources can be found from the DHS Health Promotion website: www.health.vic.gov.au/healthpromotion

Contact information:

AIPC

Charles Livingstone
Senior Research Fellow
Australian Institute for Primary Care
Ph: 03 9479 5769
Mob: 0418 558 331
Email: c.livingstone@latrobe.edu.au

Barwon South West DHS contact

Sandy Austin
Ph: 03 5226 4690
Email: Sandy.Austin@dhs.vic.gov.au

Gippsland DHS contact

Greg Blakely
Ph: 03 5177 2526
Email: Greg.Blakely@dhs.vic.gov.au

Grampians DHS contact

Mary Quinn
Ph: 03 5333 6044
Email: Mary.Quinn@dhs.vic.gov.au

Hume DHS contact

Stephen Carroll
Ph: 03 5722 0974
Email: Stephen.Carroll@dhs.vic.gov.au

Loddon Mallee Region DHS contact

Dee Gilby
Ph: 03 5434 5913
Email: Dee.Gilby@dhs.vic.gov.au

Central DHS contact

Sue Heward
Ph: 03 94838486
Email: Susan.Heward@dhs.vic.gov.au