Acknowledgement of the Kaurna people as traditional owners and custodians of the Adelaide Plains
Welcome to the PHC Research Symposium, 2010

> Co-investigators
> Research partners in case study services
> Overseas investigators
> Those interested in PHC and its development and evolution in Australia

Aims of Symposium

> Present work in progress as part of dissemination of the research findings (especially interviews program logic)
> Encourage discussion and debate about PHC and how it is implemented
> Contribute to action research part of the project and so discuss the future research plan and see if adjustments are required
> Obtain an international perspective on CPHC against which to judge Australian experiences
Context
> Internationally renewed attention on PHC as foundation of health systems
> Chronic disease epidemic and cost reduction as drivers of reform
> Federal government has a significant health reform agenda – designed to move management of PHC to Federal level – shape unclear – Medicare Locals - GP Super clinics
> Different system in each jurisdiction – so 8 health systems in Australia
> NT – intervention, CTG funding
> SA Health – currently experiencing a round of reorganisation – regions established about 3 years ago have been reshaped into Adelaide Health Services with three regions
> Menadue report still shaping reform and has a strong focus on PHC – also Health in all Policies focus
> SA Government budget 2010 – significant cuts – impact on health still to be seen

PHC is a “keyword”
> “Some important social and historical processes occur within language, in ways which indicate how integral the problems of meaning and relationships really are” Raymond Williams (1976, p. 22)
> Keywords usually have a range of meanings and these are influenced by both their historical beginnings and by people who use words in different ways
> Words that involve important ideas and strongly held values are particularly prone to transformation and different interpretations of meaning
> Certain uses of words bind together certain ways of seeing and thinking about the world in general

South Australian Community Health Research Unit
PHC is complex.....

Challenges for SACHRU team

> Complexity of PHC as a concept and practice and contested meanings
> Maintaining our relationship with 6 PHC services and staff involved in the study – each service has some common factors but also unique context and shape
> Keeping up with the shape and pace of reform when we are outsiders to the process
> Being aware of other research in Australia and overseas and determining implications for our research
> Keeping sight of aim of seeing PHC services in their entirety not as “slices” of activity
> Ensuring we make the most of our various partners .......

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