Annual Report 2004

Developing a culture of research-aware and research-oriented practitioners

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Vision Statement
for Flinders Primary Health Care Research Evaluation and Development Program (Flinders PHC RED):

Developing a culture of research-aware and research-oriented practitioners

The Flinders University Primary Health Care Research, Evaluation and Development (PHC RED) Program aims to use a 'whole-system approach'\(^1\) to increase the research capacity of primary health care providers, consumers and students, and to provide leadership in developing a research-aware and research-oriented culture in primary health care.

Guiding Principles of Flinders PHC RED

1. Initiate and drive a change process that recognises the value of research and evaluation skills and the value of development of these skills in primary health care providers.

2. Develop, encourage and implement excellence in research and evaluation skills within Flinders University Department of General Practice, within the network of primary health care practitioners, within all stakeholder and consumer groups, as indicated in Figure 1, and within the training and educational facilities of the Flinders Medical School.

3. Contribute to primary health care service delivery and development by reflecting current and local priorities in areas of health, and to ensure that education and research opportunities reflect the needs of all stakeholders, including consumers, practitioners and policy-makers.

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Structure of the Report

This report describes the activities undertaken by Flinders PHC RED in 2004. The first section is an executive summary. The second section is the Annual Report against the Flinders University 2004 PHC RED Business Plan. The third section contains the pro forma provided by the Department of Health and Ageing (DoHA), which we have completed in point form, followed by a detailed account of the activities specified in the pro forma in narrative form. The forth section contains the 2004 Financial Report. Appendices A – G contain details as specified in the text and are provided as a separate volume.

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Executive Summary

Introduction

This summary outlines the significant achievements of Flinders PHC RED in 2004. For more detailed information, please refer to the narrative sections and appendices.

SARNet – the South Australian Primary Health Care Research Network

A major focus of Flinders PHC RED has been the continuing delivery of a new and innovative primary health care research network, SARNet – the South Australian Primary Health Care Research Network. SARNet is a research network which aims to support research and evaluation capacity building in all primary health care stakeholders. Through an electronic presence and through continued evaluation, SARNet is designed to provide programs, resources and strategic activities to suit the needs of its members.

The launch of SARNet was a great success with 80 members on our database as at December 2002. In 2003, the network gained momentum resulting in a membership of approximately 230 members. Most members reside in South Australia with a new focus of membership beginning through our connections in the Greater Green Triangle (GGT) with the University Department of Rural Health (UDRH). In addition, membership reach of SARNet is far greater than even the membership list suggests as some members have joined on behalf of an organisation and forward electronic mail via internal distribution lists and networks. In 2004 the direct membership increased strongly again to 380 members. A member survey investigating such indicators as baseline research capacity, research interests and training needs analysis was distributed in 2003. Results of the survey completed by 89 members are now being used to inform programs and activities organised by Flinders PHC RED. In 2004, we have been preparing the survey results for publication in 2005.

In addition to the evaluation training for Divisions outlined below, SARNet has provided a number of research training and networking opportunities in 2004 including half-day workshops on “Netting the evidence” and critical appraisal skills, a whole-day grant writing workshop for the Department of Health (Human Services Research and Innovations Program), and research topic discussion on the SARNet Online Discussion Forum, all of which have been highly successful.

Due to agreement to use underspend monies to increase the services and reach of SARNet in 2004, the PHC RED and SARNet websites and resources have been continuously developed. New
Executive summary cont.

sections of the website have been added such as the research & evaluation resources. Regular E-alerts are sent to members; and resources and links are kept regularly updated.

The SARNet Online Discussion Forum

In 2004, the development and management of the SARNet Online Discussion Forum has been a key role for the SARNet Research & Development Officer (KR). The Forum was launched in February 2004 in response to members needs extracted from the 2003 member survey, and features monthly themes, ongoing themes, and private discussion groups. Experts on chosen topics host and mentor a relevant research topic each month to stimulate initial discussion. Popular topics, such as "writing for publication" or "ethics applications for research projects" are transferred to ongoing themes. The private discussion group option offers member groups a more personal environment. Two private discussion groups, the “rural mental health group” and the “mentoring nurse leaders group” were very active in 2004. At the end of 2004, the forum had over 190 members. For 2005, we plan to provide a searchable online member database, including details of research and evaluation interests and areas of expertise. We anticipate that this function will facilitate communication and collaboration between researchers with similar interests.

Research and evaluation projects

Research and evaluation projects conducted by PHC RED Flinders in 2004 include the SARNet member survey, a national registrar research training needs analysis, a registrar supervisor survey, and a collaborative data collection concerning triage presentations in three rural hospitals.

Data from the SARNet member survey was collected in 2003, analysed in 2004, and findings are currently being prepared for publication in 2005.

To inform future directions and policy of the PHC RED program, we are currently evaluating outcomes of the PHC RED funding recipients (Bursary holders, Writing Grant holders, Research Fellows). Ethics approval was obtained in 2004 to interview funding recipients by an external researcher after completion of their project. We anticipate completing the evaluation in early 2006.

Seminar program

The fortnightly PHC RED research seminar program continued throughout the year, and attracted consistently good attendance and a wide range of speakers.
**Collaborations and grants**

We have continued to build on potential partnerships and forge new links in research. The multidisciplinary, collaborative NHMRC primary care research project grant awarded in November 2002 was transformed into a three-year full-time scholarship, which was granted to Ms Ann Alfred in May 2003 initially at Masters level. Associate Professor Liz Farmer is a Chief Investigator and PhD supervisor on this grant. Ethics approval was sought and granted for Phase 1 of the work. Ms Alfred has gained approval to upgrade her status to PhD in 2004 and the pilot work is nearly completed. Ethics approval has been granted in principle for the second phase of the work which will be an RCT.

Collaborative grant applications in mental health with other members of the state-based PHC RED teams and other investigators resulted in two further grants awarded, one from ARC and one from Rotary, which commenced in 2004, and are currently in progress.

We have contributed actively to the development of state-based collaborative ventures. In 2004 the supervision and responsibility for the State Coordinator continued by Flinders PHC RED. We played a major role in the highly successful State Research Retreat held in September 2004 where 18 of the 23 contributors were recipients of Flinders PHC RED / SARNet funding initiatives. Furthermore, Dr Raechel Waters played the major role in securing $20,000 from the State Government to assist on the rolling out of an initiative to provide indigenous researchers with skills training in 2005 / 6.

Associate Professor Liz Farmer has played a key role in a successful tender for the National Primary Care Collaboratives Program, participating in a new consortium (PDSA consortium) with major partners GGT UDRH and Flinders Consulting and has now taken up the position of Director of Training with the NPCC headed by Professor James Dunbar.

We have provided a two day intensive evaluation skills training workshop with the Hills Division on May 04 with a half-day follow up in December. South Australian Divisions of General Practice inc. (SADI) and Divisional staff from a number of South Australian divisions attend writing groups, SARNet events and are bursary holders. We continue to seek ways to offer targeted capacity building to Divisional staff in 2005 by continued involvement with Hills Division and by direct contact with our nominated Divisions, and to all South Australian Divisional staff and members who join SARNet.

Flinders PHC RED has continued a strong working relationship with the Department of Health (DH). We provided a second
successful (oversubscribed) whole day grant writing workshop in collaboration with DH to support the Human Services Research and Innovations Projects (HSRIP) grant round in March 04.

**Staff & Fellows**
Dr Kath Weston remains an active program consultant, with important input to the intellectual and strategic focus of the PHC RED work, co-author of publications and mentor to writing group participants. Our program manager Dr Raechel Waters was employed 0.7 FTE due to increased demand for SARNet services. Major roles include management of the Bursary program, mentoring, research into capacity building issues, and overall management of the Flinders PHC RED program. Both staff made outstanding contributions to the program in 2004. Dr Karen Salisbury continued as PHC RED Fellow at 0.1 FTE and Ms Naomi Priest started her Fellowship.

After interview, two RDP positions were established in late 2004 for Ms B Beacham and Ms N Priest, both of whom will complete their 12 month 0.5 positions in 2005.

Dr Rehana Dutton continued her 0.5 FTE Research Registrar position funded by GPET until July 2004.

Rollover funding was also used to support demands for SARNet services. Dr Karin Ried worked at 0.5 FTE as SARNet Research and Development Officer, Ms Tuesday Udell as SARNet Coordinator and Mr Tim Seeley as SARNet Information Technology support officer. Without this funding, we would be unable to meet demand. All of these staff provided dedicated and outstanding service in their new roles.

**SARNet Bursary & Writing Grant holders**
SARNet Bursary applications have steadily increased in number and quality. Individual and team based SARNet Bursaries have become a key plank in the induction and support of early career researchers in many primary care disciplines. Preparation of applications is a mentored process and takes up significant staff time. All applications are then assessed competitively by a five member panel according to capacity building and quality criteria. Due to directing some underspend to increased bursary funding, twelve new Bursary recipients have built their research capacity with Flinders PHC RED during the year, taking our total number to 25. Final reports of completed bursary projects in 2004 are included in this Annual Report (Appendix D4). We are particularly excited about the output of the SARNet Bursary granted to the Mentoring Project of Nursing Students. As a result of the bursary project 22 high standard posters were produced (Appendix D4.08) and are now presented on the SARNet Website (Bursary Holders Showcase). A letter of thanks was received from the School of
Nursing & Midwifery, Flinders University (Appendix D4.08). Forward commitments have been made for one new Bursary recipients to be funded in early 2005. We remain in a position where we are unable to fund or mentor all the suitable bursary applications.

Five SARNet Writing Grant projects were successfully completed in 2004 and included peer-reviewed journal articles (Appendix D5). A number of Writing Grant holders received significant mentoring support by PHC RED staff.

**Dissemination**

Two 'Writing for Publication' peer mentoring groups continued in 2004, one for the Flinders PHC RED team (including our Fellows, Registrar and PhD candidate) and the other held at SADI comprising members from SADI and regional Divisions. Meeting monthly, and mentored by Associate Professor Liz Farmer and Dr Kath Weston, these groups have been highly successful in increasing writing skills of members and have resulted in a number of articles in preparation for, or submitted for, publication in peer-reviewed journals, and conference abstracts for paper presentations and posters. In 2004 some peer-reviewed publications were through to submission and publication as well as a number of peer reviewed abstracts and conference posters and papers. By popular demand, we have started a writing group for the Department of General Practice staff and a new group at the Rural Doctors Workforce Agency.

The PHC RED team has contributed very actively to the dissemination of our work at Flinders, and as part of the State Collaboration, at a state and national level. This includes peer-reviewed conference presentations (4), peer-reviewed conference posters (6), peer-reviewed conference proceedings (2), seminar presentations (11), contributions in *GPinfonet* in the University Initiatives section (4), and peer-reviewed journal articles 2 (+2 in press).

**National activities**

On a national basis, Associate Professor Liz Farmer has supported the Registrar Research and Scholarship Fund Committee of GPET, and in an active member of various Registrar Research Committees of GPET. She was also invited to facilitate and present at the three-day National GPET Registrar Research Workshop in Broken Hill. She has also represented PHC RED and primary care research issues as a member of the National Standing Committee-Research (NSC-R) of the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP). Co-location with PHC RIS has enabled a close and valuable liaison between the two groups.
Conclusion
The team has worked with vision and enthusiasm all year and we are proud of our results. Our team is highly skilled, flexible and innovative and dedicated to fostering success of the program. We thank Professor Louis Pilotto, Head of Department, Dr Ellen McIntyre (PHC RIS) and Dr Adrian Esterman (Flinders Centre Epidemiology and Biostatistics), who contribute to the executive group, and our Advisory group for their input and support of the program.

We believe that the success of SARNet could form a model suitable for consideration as a National initiative in 2006.

Looking forward to 2005
We look forward to an exciting 2005 with confidence. We anticipate a year of consolidation of activity, completion of a number of existing capacity building research and evaluation projects and continued development of the SARNet discussion forum. We will continue with our ‘whole system’ approach to capacity building in the region, building and developing interactions with our stakeholders, in collaboration with the Department of Health (DH) and the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing. In 2004, our primary focus will be to maintain innovative and responsive strategies and services for our SARNet research network, including promoting the new discussion forum. Through these activities we hope that many of our strategic objectives will be achieved. Our second focus will involve mentoring and supervision of our existing PHC RED Fellows, Bursary holders, doctoral candidate, and the ‘writing for publication’ groups.

We will relinquish hosting the coordinator for the SA PHC RED state collaboration for the next year.

Since November 2004, Dr Karin Ried has taken on the role as Program Manager, as Dr Raechel Waters resigned. Dr Ried will continue the management of the SARNet Online Discussion Forum in addition to the ongoing duties as Program Manager including the management of the SARNet membership, which has previously been the key responsibility of the SARNet coordinator.

In terms of challenges, the main risks in 2005 will be in retention of staff due to funding uncertainty, and managing demand for our capacity building services which is currently growing at a rate which exceeds our capacity to deliver on current staffing levels. In particular our staffing returns to 2003 levels as the underspend monies are finished. This is the prime reason why we have reduced the number of bursaries offered and will maintain but not increase training events.
Associate Professor Liz Farmer
Director Flinders PHC RED

Flinders PHC RED Staff 2004*

Director                        A/Prof Liz Farmer
Program Manager (to November)   Dr Raechel Waters
SARNet Research & Development   Dr Karin Ried
(to November)                   Ms Tuesday Udell
SARNet Coordinator             Mr Tim Seeley
SARNet IT Support Officer       Dr Kath Weston
Program Consultant             Ms Rae Burnley
Administrative Assistant        Ms Rae Burnley

Casual administrative support:
Dr Don Cameron, Ms Bev Karrafa, Dr Peter Fakler
*All staff have fractional appointments
Figure 1a: Flinders PHC RED capacity building strategies

Flinders University
PHC RED Program

Team Activities

Collaborations (State-Based & Interstate)
Research
Registrar training
PhD & Masters candidates
Research Fellows
Writing group

Web site
Training
Special Interest Groups
Research Bursaries
Writing group (SADI/Div’ns)
Information sharing
Mentoring

Increased capacity

SARNet
The Graph depicts the significant increase in PHC RED program activities from its beginning in 2000 to the end of 2004 assisted by additional staff in 2003/04.

Since the South Australian Research Network SARNet was launched in Nov 2002, its membership has increased to over 380 members in 2004.

A total of 33 SARNet Bursaries & Writing Grants have been mentored and supported at the end of 2004. Some Bursaries supported research groups totalling 53 funding recipients.

A total of 33 external capacity building events were delivered by the Flinders PHC RED team.

Only peer-review publications written and supported by PHC RED team members are depicted in this figure totalling 24.

The figure provides a good example how the PHC RED program has influenced capacity building in a small Department of General Practice.
Figure 2: Flinders PHC RED core staff and affiliations

December 31, 2004

Multidisciplinary alliances
Including
- Individual practitioners
- Divisions of General Practice / SADI
- Departments of Nursing & Midwifery
- Centre for Allied Health Research (UniSA)
- SA Community Health Research Unit (SACHRU)
- Australian Centre for Evidence-Based Clinical Practice
- DATIS

State-based collaboration
- Flinders University Dept of General Practice
- Adelaide University Dept of General Practice
- Spencer Gulf Rural Health School

Academic associations
- Flinders Centre for Epidemiology and Biostatistics
- PHC RIS

Fellows
- 2 appointments annually (0.1 FTE)

Students
- PhD candidate (NHMRC)
- Academic Registrar (GPET)

Bursary & Writing Grant recipients

Consumer groups
- Individuals, support groups and consumer organisations

Director (LF)
Program Manager (RW, KR)
SARNet Research and Development Officer (KR)
SARNet Coordinator (TU)
SARNet IT Support (TS)
Program Consultant (KW)
Figure 3: Communication strategies

SARNet & PHC RED websites
State-based collaboration website
PHC RIS website
Newsletters, eg SARNews, GPInfonet
Letters to individuals and groups
On-line discussion forum
Opportunities at training events, seminars, conferences, and SARNet events
Personal communications
Annual Report against pro forma (Commentary)

**Section 1. Participation in educational & network activities & programs**

The Flinders PHC RED team undertook a variety of education and network activities and programs for primary health care practitioners and researchers in South Australia in 2004. The expanding client base of Flinders PHC RED was detailed on our database and enhanced through continuing active promotion of SARNet, the South Australian Primary Health Care Research Network. Capacity-building activities were based on the needs of practitioners and other members of SARNet identified from the Member ‘Needs Analysis’ survey administered in 2003.

1.1 **Continued consultation with advisory group**

The Flinders PHC RED team is committed to involving its advisory group in the development of the program. In 2004, the advisory group met twice and provided valuable contributions to the PHC RED team (Appendix A1). Specifically the committed provided valuable suggestions regarding the enhancement of the relationship between PHC RED and other groups, such as rural practitioners (J Dunbar, GGT UDRH), Allied Health Practitioners (K Grimmer, Centre for Evidence Based Practice in Allied Health), Divisions (H Williams, Medical Director, Southern Division of General Practice) and Consumer involvement (F Baum, Director, South Australian Community Health Research Unit).

1.2 **Promotion and advertisement of research network (SARNet) and Flinders PHC RED**

The flagship of Flinders PHC RED is the South Australian Primary Health Care Research Network, SARNet. Capacity building strategies devised by Flinders PHC RED were actively advertised and promoted at all available opportunities including face to face events, the SARNet website and e-alerts. This was a successful strategy which yielded a 4.75-fold increase in membership of the network from 80 members in 2002 to 230 in 2003 to over 380 in 2004.

In February 2004, we launched the SARNet Online Discussion Forum. At the end of 2004, the Forum had 383 members with 13% from interstate.

Specifically, we promoted Flinders PHC RED, SARNet and the SARNet Discussion Forum at all training events (see Appendix E) and via the PHC RED and SARNet websites and e-
alerts (Appendices A3 & B2, respectively). Formal advertisement and dissemination of activities was achieved by articles in *GPinfonet* (see State Annual Report, Appendix E5), presentations at the GP&PHC conference in June 2004, namely “Evolution of SARNet, the South Australian Primary Health Care Research Network-phase three: the online discussion forum” (Appendix C2), a demonstration of the Online Discussion Forum by Dr K Ried at the State Research Retreat on 3-4 September 2004 and at the Regional Forum in Whyalla 31 September – 1 October 2004 (Appendix C2), a poster presentation at the National Division Forum (September 2004), entitled “Gateway to research and evaluation in general practice and primary health care – the role of PHC RED” (Appendix C2), a presentation at the GGT PHC RED launch in November 2004, (Appendix C2), and two articles in the peer reviewed PHC RED Conference Proceedings entitled “Linking Primary Health Care researchers in South Australia: a network strategy” and “Research Networks: Enhancing change in Australian primary health care” (see State Annual Report, Appendix A1). As an example of the effort put in to promotion, in total we estimate the discussion forum promotion by all direct means to have reached 2350 potential people (Appendix B3).

1.3 Promotion of SARNet and Flinders PHC RED activities

In addition to the promotion of activities outlined above (under 1.2), specific training events and funding opportunities were promoted via the ‘PHCRED-SA calendar’ and the ‘Training Page’ of the state-based website (see PHC RED State Annual Report, Appendix C1 and C2). In addition monthly e-alerts are sent to all SARNet members (Appendix B5).

1.4 Maintenance of SARNet membership database

In order to effectively accommodate the capacity building needs of SARNet members and PHC practitioners, we actively maintained the SARNet membership database. This enabled us to contact our members to survey their needs in order to understand the demographics of the Flinders PHC RED SARNet client base. Maintenance of our database was one of the key roles of the SARNet coordinator. This involves monitoring new membership forms (received by email, fax, mail, and via the on-line joining facility), welcoming new members, and ensuring all member details are current and accurate. From November 2004 onwards the new program manager (KR) has continued this role.

We were clearly meeting a need in the PHC community as shown by the huge growth in membership: at December 2004 there were 383 registered SARNet members. Demographics of these members are provided in Appendix B1. The increased membership base in Victoria reflects mainly the growing collaborative relationship between Flinders PHC RED and the Greater Green Triangle University Department of Rural Health. Other interstate
members (13%) have been attracted through the SARNet Online Discussion Forum. Figure 4 below shows the widely varying demographics of our membership as at 31st December 2004. SARNet clearly has a wide appeal across all strata of the PHC community, including students and consumers. Some members join on behalf of a group and act as a conduit to a wider audience. Therefore the reach of SARNet is greater than suggested solely on the membership.

**Figure 4: SARNet member demographics in 2004**

![SARNet member demographic in 2004](chart)

- **Total membership:** 383
- **13% interstate**
- **Health practitioners:**
  - Research + project officers
  - Health service employees (incl. division staff)
  - Academics
  - Students
  - Managers+administrators (incl. government employees)
  - Other
  - **GPs+medical practitioners**
  - **Nurses**

**1.5 Launch, develop and maintain the SARNet Online Discussion Forum**

We developed the SARNet Online Discussion Forum in response to members needs extracted from the 2003 member survey. After months of preparation of the software and hosting in 2003, it was launched successfully in February 2004 at an invitational evening event attended by key stakeholders (Appendix C2a). Forum topics were initially based on special research interests stated by the members. During 2004, the forum has evolved to feature monthly themes, ongoing themes, and private discussion groups. Experts on chosen topics host and mentor a relevant research topic each month to stimulate initial discussion. Popular topics are then transferred to the ongoing themes. The private discussion group
option offers members a more personal environment. Only group members as specified by the group moderator can post and view messages in their group. Other topics displayed under monthly and ongoing themes are open to all forum members, while hidden to the general public. To set up a secure and safe environment for the Discussion Forum, we employed an IT support officer (TS). The everyday management was overseen by the SARNet Research & Development Officer (KR; Program Manager since November 2004). Since November, casual assistance for registration of new members has been provided by PF. In addition, the SARNet R&D Officer has liaised with the IT support officer to set up a searchable online member database, including details of research and evaluation interests and areas of expertise. The proposed availability of these facilities rated very highly in the response to the Member Needs Analysis survey and we hope to implement this for 2005.

1.6 Maintenance of SARNet and PHC RED websites
The SARNet and PHC RED websites are maintained by the SARNet coordinator and Program Manager (see Appendix B2 for SARNet website and A3 for PHC RED website). A key role in 2004 included collating resources and links to nationally and internationally available on-line resources to be built into the ‘Resources’ section of the SARNet website. This is a significant exercise, due to the volume of material available. Rather than simply providing links to all available resources, it is our aim to provide links to the most useful external websites. All available resources are therefore critically appraised prior to inclusion. The Resource section was provided for public access by mid-2004. Informal feedback suggests that this section is appreciated by members.

1.7 SARNet events
SARNet events in 2004 were provided in direct response to the needs and interests of SARNet members, as identified in the SARNet Members ‘Need Analysis’ survey. As a consequence, provided events were very well patronised. The half-day workshop “Netting the Evidence” (hands-on searching of electronic databases), firstly offered in 2003, was repeated twice in 2004 by popular demand in two locations (Appendix E). A second workshop on critical appraisal skills was also offered twice at two different locations (Appendix E3).

The HSRIP (Human Services Research and Innovation Program) grant writing workshop was repeated in 2004 in response to the 2003 success and in response to SARNet members who identified the importance of targeting training events in preference to generic up-skilling. This event was offered in collaboration with the State Department of Health SA (DH-SA) to
provide capacity building for new researchers who intended to submit a ‘New Researchers’ HSRIP application in the 2004 granting round. The event was facilitated by Flinders PHC RED and funded by DH-SA, providing a fruitful collaboration. The workshop was very well received, as indicated by the event evaluation (Appendix E1).

One key area of interest identified in the member survey was “Writing for Publication” workshops. After consultation with interested groups it was recognised that this type of activity required on-going support and peer-mentoring, which can not be achieved through a single event or short series of events. The need for capacity building in “Writing for Publication” has therefore been advanced in the form of two writing groups (Flinders PHC RED and South Australian Divisions of General Practice Inc). These groups were facilitated by LF who provided a mix of formal training in scientific and report-writing skills, mentoring of writing tasks at all levels of capacity together with essential peer-support and development of materials for dissemination. All members of the group are required to produce a piece of work that is tailored to their individual capacity level and as such may vary from a newsletter submission to a peer-reviewed journal article. These groups have been extremely successful in 2004 and we anticipate a significant increase in dissemination in 2005. Two further groups one based in the Department of General Practice was established in September 2004 and one in the Rural Doctors Workforce Agency (Appendices A4).

1.8 Articles, conference abstracts submitted
Dissemination is a priority area for the Flinders PHC RED team and was enhanced in 2004 by the continuation of the PHC RED writing group (described above under 1.7). In 2004 the PHC RED team contributed very actively to primary health care research and capacity building through numerous abstracts submitted to conferences and articles in relevant journals. Peer reviewed output directly related to PHC RED activities such as conference presentations and journal articles numbered 14 (Appendix A4a). This figure excludes some personal research outputs unrelated to PHC RED activities. See Appendix C1 and 2 for details and copies of disseminated materials. This suggests that our peer mentored writing group strategies are highly successful in securing demonstrated outputs. We will therefore continue these strategies in 2005. The strategies are discussed in an article accepted for publication in 2005 by Ried and Fuller (Appendix C1).

1.9 SARNet newsletter
As part of our dynamic process of disseminating information to practitioners and other primary health care researchers, Flinders PHC RED has recently commenced work on an
electronic quarterly newsletter, SARNews. In 2004, we have distributed two issues to members (see Appendix B4).

Section 2. Training for research skills acquisition

Flinders PHC RED was very active in promoting and providing opportunities for practitioners and others interested in PHC research and evaluation to acquire skills in these areas. The programs developed and provided were devised after assessment of local needs and were provided by skilled and experienced team members and affiliated colleagues.

2.1 Promotion of participation of individuals and groups in research and evaluation activities, and
2.2 Facilitated access to existing education and training opportunities, and
2.3 Provided education and training in research and evaluation through SARNet and Flinders PHC RED staff

SARNet was the predominant forum for promotion of various activities organised by Flinders PHC RED or existing education and training opportunities. An extensive list of available certificated training (e.g. Grad Cert, MSc courses) is provided on the SARNet website as a resource for SARNet members interested in pursuing further education (see Appendix B2). We provide details of local short courses on the training page of the PHC RED-state website (see PHC RED State Annual Report Appendix C2). SARNet events were provided in a range of areas, notably, accessing and appraising the published literature and writing grant application (see Appendix E for details). The significant level of expertise of the Flinders PHC RED team ensured the activities were of a high standard and well received, as detailed under 1.7.

LF provided research training workshops at the invitation of other PHC RED groups (Mt Isa) and at the GPET National Registrar Research Workshop see Appendix E4.

2.4 Supported and promoted state-based event

The state-based Research Retreat was the major capacity building event in 2004. The Research Retreat provided a supportive and non-threatening environment for early career researchers, in particular the PHC RED funding recipients. Flinders PHC RED played the major role in the highly successful event with 18 of 23 presenters being Flinders PHC RED / SARNet funding recipients. The event provided an opportunity for 35 delegates from rural and metropolitan South Australia and GGT to participate in presentation sessions, a capacity
building workshop on qualitative research methods, networking and mentoring. For details see the PHC RED State Annual Report.

2.5 Registrar research training needs & GP supervisor surveys

A feature of our overall strategy is to build a plan of evaluation and research opportunities into our activities in 2000 – 2005. In this way we hope to add to knowledge in a formal way about how to develop capacity building programs for the future. In 2004, Flinders PHC RED undertook research into registrar training needs, both at a local (SA) level and nationally through GPET. We did this research to address the serious gap in knowledge concerning registrar skills and aspirations in research. Ethics approval was obtained for the study in 2003 and the survey was administered via regional training providers in January/February 2004. This survey provides insights into the current 'research culture' of basic term GP registrars, thereby informing the skill-base and interests of future general practitioners. The SARNet team led by RW devised and administered the survey in collaboration with GPET. Our Coordinator (TU) and Program consultant (KR) were responsible for data entry and report writing for each participating regional training provider (RTP). The preliminary results of the survey were presented at the GP&PHC conference in Brisbane, June 2004 (Appendix C2). Appendix C3 shows the survey instruments. Publication of the findings is currently in progress.

Our research Fellow (KS) also undertook a companion survey of South Australian GP Supervisors as part of her work in 2004, also approved by the Ethics Committee. Results are in the data analysis phase. Appendix C4 shows the survey instrument.

2.6 Mentored research and evaluation activities

Mentoring has always been considered as a crucial step in the development of research-aware practitioners by the Flinders PHC RED team, and as an important capacity building strategy. Recipients of mentoring by Flinders PHC RED core team members fell into three main areas: i) PHC RED Fellows, Academic registrar & PhD candidate, ii) SARNet bursary and writing grant holders, iii) writing group members. Mentoring provided to individuals and groups under each of these categories is listed in Appendices D1-5 & A4. Specific mentoring activities in 2004 included preparation of ethics applications, conference abstracts, report writing and preparation of manuscripts for publication.

Mentoring responsibilities constitute a significant time commitment for the PHC RED team members and in 2004 the demand for mentoring, identified by the increased number of SARNet research bursary applications, could only be met by involving four core team
members (LF, RW, KR, KW). In 2005, the remaining core team will consist of three members (LF, KR, KW) who will guide ongoing bursary holders to completion. The reduced staffing and funding will limit the offering of additional bursaries in 2005.

2.7 Created and promoted funded opportunities to develop research capacity
Details of created and promoted opportunities to develop the research capacity of individuals are provided in Appendix D.

PHC RED Fellows: Two 0.1 FTE Fellow positions were funded for one general practitioner (KS) and one allied health professional (NP) to participate in research in the Department of General Practice for one session a week. Final or progress reports are provided in Appendix D1.

Academic Registrar: One academic registrar position was hosted by Flinders PHC RED in 2004. See Appendix D2 for final report.

NHMRC PhD candidate: The NHMRC grant awarded in Flinders University Department of General Practice in 2003 continued in 2004 by the PhD candidate AA. The PhD candidate is supervised by the Flinders PHC RED Director, LF. The Higher Degrees Committee approved progress and awarded PhD status for the remaining 18 months of the candidature. See Appendix D3 for progress report. AA remains our only PhD candidate in the wider Department.

SARNet Bursary holders: This strategy is a key plank of SARNet and is very successful, limited only by funding and staffing. In 2004 Flinders PHC RED awarded 12 research bursaries (to $5000). Bursaries were advertised via the SARNet website and E-Alerts. In October 2004 applications were accepted for bursaries to commence in 2005. Bursary applications are assessed by an expert five-member panel (PHC RED director and program manager, PHC RIS representative, the head of department and an epidemiologist). Only competitive applications with clear capacity building activities are funded. The number and quality of applications has increased with each funding round. Details of funded bursaries are provided in Appendix D4.

SARNet Writing Grants: To support the dissemination of PHC research and evaluation activities, six Writing Grants ($500) to provide protected time and mentoring were awarded in 2004. Writing Grants are advertised on the SARNet website and via the SARNet E-Alerts
and the submission date is open. Applications are assessed by the PHC RED Director and Program Manager. See Appendix D5 for details.

2.8 Peer support provided for preparation of manuscripts, articles and abstracts, and

2.9 Writing for Publication groups

On a national basis, the RED team provided expert reviewing of abstracts for the PHC RIS GP and PHC conference in 2004. LF has supported the Registrar Research and Scholarship Fund Committee of GPET, and is also an active member of various Registrar Research Committees of GPET including assessing and providing feedback on registrar research grant applications. As stated previously, a very successful initiative of the Flinders PHC RED team was the various strategies for peer support and mentoring for the preparation of manuscripts, articles and abstracts. These activities were undertaken through the various writing groups or direct mentoring activities. Associate Professor Liz Farmer and Dr Kath Weston provided the mentoring skills through their extensive experience in writing for publication. The peer support and mentoring activities were responsible for the successful preparation and dissemination of a number of abstracts and future articles (Appendix A4 & F3).

2.10 Promotion of NHMRC Training Fellowships and scholarships

NHMRC training fellowships and scholarships were promoted on the PHC RED website (see Appendix A3) and to qualified individuals. However no applications were received in 2004.

2.11 Seminar series

The PHC RED Departmental seminar series continued throughout 2004, attracting highly qualified speakers and providing an important forum for networking and establishing links between PHC practitioners and Flinders University. Attendees included Flinders University staff, Division staff, staff from other hospitals and visiting guests. See Appendix A5 for the 2004 seminar series schedule.

2.12 Eligible Departmental and PHC RED staff attended supervision workshops

Six current Departmental staff are qualified to supervise higher degree students.

2.13 Other workshops attended by PHC RED staff, fellows, bursary holders and students

As part of the ongoing development of PHC RED staff, fellows, students and bursary holders a number of external training workshops were attended. These included qualitative analysis,
reference management, questionnaire design, epidemiology and biostatistics, use of quantitative data in general practice, and project management. Providers included the Flinders University Staff Development and Training Unit, which now provides training to individuals external to the university, through an agreement brokered by Flinders PHC RED; the Flinders Centre for Epidemiology and Biostatistics, the GP&PHC pre-conference workshops (Brisbane, June), and the Australasian Evaluation Conference (Adelaide September).
Section 3. Development of research practices / services

Understanding the needs of primary health care practitioners and others interested in general practice research and evaluation has underpinned the development of our research practices and services. In 2004 Flinders PHC RED maintained its register of PHC groups and investigated the professional backgrounds and interests of SARNet members. These activities were important in order to develop activities effectively and to provide opportunities for collaborations and multidisciplinary research.

3.1 Promotion of SARNet membership to affiliated groups.

SARNet membership was actively promoted in 2004 to groups affiliated with Flinders PHC RED and resulted in a significant increase in member numbers. Membership was at 380 at the end of 2004. The groups affiliated with Flinders PHC RED are indicated in Figure 2 and represent a range of PHC activities and levels of research capacity. In 2004 the diversity of SARNet membership extended beyond the database of PHC groups developed in 2002. This was due to the ‘self-promoting’ nature of the network and the active involvement of SARNet members. For instance, the Health Consumers Alliance informed PHC RED that the SARNet E-Alerts they receive are forwarded all member organisations, thereby extended dissemination to an estimated additional 1000+ non-members. It is predicted that other organisations also forward SARNet E-Alerts and as such the diversity and number of individuals and groups that are receiving information on capacity building events and services is far greater than indicated by the membership base alone.

3.2 Professional backgrounds and interests of SARNet members

The Flinders PHC RED team regards understanding the client base as crucial to providing appropriate capacity building opportunities. A questionnaire was designed to determine the professional backgrounds of SARNet members (as at June 2003). The professional backgrounds or organisational affiliations of SARNet members, as of December 2004 are provided in Appendix B1 and Figure 4.

3.3 Multidisciplinary collaborations in research and evaluation

Formation of effective collaborations was identified as a key strategy in our capacity building model published in 2002. In 2004 development of multidisciplinary collaborations was again facilitated through SARNet. The SARNet member survey includes questions relating to interests of members and asked specifically whether the member would be interested in participation in a ‘special interest group’. The information was collated into topic areas and resulted in the formation of special interest groups. These data informed the creation of the SARNet On-line Discussion Forum in 2004. Other multidisciplinary collaborations continued
in 2004, notably around the NHMRC research project, which represents collaboration between chief investigators and associate investigators from a number of different professional organisations (see Appendix D3). In addition, events hosted by Flinders PHC RED and SARNet, as well as the provision of scholarships and bursaries provided many opportunities for collaboration. See for example the bursary awarded to the multidisciplinary, collaborative “Lymphoedema Action Group” (Appendix D4). Other bursaries have enabled a small group to work at a general practice level such as Hancock et al researching asthma care in a local general practice.

3.4 Sources of funding for multidisciplinary research promoted

Sources of PHC RED funding for multidisciplinary research were advertised through the SARNet website, and through E-Alerts to members. Additional sources of funding were advertised on the PHC RED-SA website, which is linked to the SARNet and PHC RED Flinders websites.
Section 4. Collaborative PHC research

Collaboration represents one of the major capacity building initiatives of Flinders PHC RED. Practitioners at all levels of experience and expertise are able to benefit from collaborations and involvement in multidisciplinary research projects.

4.1 Collaboration with state-based PHC RED initiatives

The state-based RED initiative is an important collaboration for Flinders PHC RED and represents a link to other PHC RED activities within the state. Flinders PHC RED continued to house the co-ordinator for the state-based collaboration in 2004 and has been responsible for the supervision and co-ordination of the collaboration. Members of Flinders PHC RED have attended all meetings of the state-based collaboration. Flinders PHC RED also played a major role in the development of the state-based PHC RED event, and contributed as a chief investigator (LF) to a collaborative PHC RED-state grant application on mental health. Successful grants from ARC and Rotary were received enabling the collaboration to commence pilot studies in 2004. LF and RW also co-authored a PHC RED-state poster publication at the GP&PHC conference in June 2004 (Appendix C2). LF, RW, and KW all contributed to the peer reviewed State Conference Proceedings with two articles. See PHC RED State Annual Report for details on state collaborative activities.

4.2 Opportunities provided for organisations to meet and discuss potential collaborations

In addition to the bursary system which strongly promotes collaborative applications, the SARNet Online Discussion Forum, launched in 2004, provides a platform for the establishment and support of collaborations (see Appendix B3).

4.3 Continued collaboration and development of relationship with regional Divisions, SADI. Involvement of PHC RED staff in collaborations, management

Flinders PHC RED continued and enhanced its strong relationship with regional divisions and SADI in 2004. Specifically, H Williams (SDGP Medical Director) sits on the PHC RED advisory committee (see Appendix A1), S White (SDGP CME officer) is a current SARNet bursary holder (see Appendix D4) and Division and state based organisation (SBO) staff attended the SADI writing group (Appendix F3). Meetings, attendance at training events, and other opportunities through 2004 indicate clearly the substantial level of collaboration. 2004 was also a year of active involvement with the Adelaide Hills Division. PHC RED team members and affiliates (LF, RW, KR, Dr A Esterman) conducted evaluation training in May (2-day workshop) and December 2004 (1/2 day workshop) to for Hills Division staff (Appendix F1).
At the state level Flinders PHC RED engages strongly with the State Based Organisation, South Australian Divisions Inc (SADI) through the provision of a monthly writing group, mentored and chaired by the PHC RED director. Flinders PHC RED (RW) also contributed to the PHC RED information seminar at the Divisions EO meeting at SADI in March 2004 (see State Annual Report, Appendix C3). Furthermore, RW & KR coordinated a scoping seminar at the EO meeting at Hills Division in September 2004 to plan coordinated evaluation training (see State Annual Report, Appendix C4). The Director, LF was invited to facilitate the SADI strategic planning day. SADI provides accommodation for the RED Advisory Committee meetings and state meetings and a close working relationship results in flow of advice and support in both directions.

4.4 Exploration of areas for further collaboration with and between rural groups

Flinders PHC RED actively explored and promoted further collaboration with rural groups. These included liaison with the Greater Green Triangle University Department of Rural Health through SARNet and consultations (see section 11.3 and Appendices G1 and G2), set up of private discussion groups in the SARNet Discussion Forum (e.g. Rural Mental Health Group), and support of the Indigenous Researcher Training Initiative for rural and remote Aboriginal communities in collaboration with the State (see State Annual Report).
Section 5. Research in practice

5.1 Employment of PHC RED staff
Employment of the PHC RED Director, Program Manager and Program Consultant was continued in 2004. Three additional appointments were made to the core staff, the SARNet Research and Development Officer, the SARNet Coordinator, and the SARNet IT Support Officer. These three new positions were funded by underspend as approved by the Department of Health and Ageing (see Financial Report for details).

5.2 Fellowships, bursaries and writing grants awarded
See earlier (section 2.7).

5.3 Local research and evaluation resources promoted and
5.4 Website presence of PHC RED and SARNet and associated links
Provided through SARNet, see section 1 above.

5.5 Physical resources secured
The following physical resources have been secured for the operations of Flinders PHC RED: a dedicated room for the PHC RED team including a small but separate office for the Director, desks (six), computers (six) plus associated hardware (printer, facsimile machine) and appropriate software. The PHC RED office area houses the director, the manager, SARNet research and development officer & state-based co-ordinator, the SARNet coordinator, a PhD student, two PHC RED fellows and a general practitioner registrar in one main room. Resources available currently equal demand.

5.6 State-based co-ordinator supervised and supported
See section 4.1.

5.7 Consumer involvement in NHMRC project
The NHMRC project examines consumer impact of menopause therapy information on decision making and knowledge and as such significant consumer involvement is built into this work. See Appendix D3 for progress report.
Section 6. Research grants & tenders

6.1 Employment of PhD candidate funded by NHMRC grant and state based collaborative research
See section 2.7.

6.2 SARNet Research and Development Officer and SARNet Information Technology Officer.
Employment of the SARNet Research and Development Officer and IT officer on underspend been of significant benefit to Flinders PHC RED activities enabling us to push out successful initiatives and commence new initiatives, see under section 1.5, above.

6.3 Involvement of PHC RED Director in collaborative tender application for NPCC
The Flinders PHC RED Director, LF, was invited to participate in the development of the Tender application for the National Primary Care Collaboratives Project of the Australian Government. LF participated actively as a member of the ‘PDSA Consortium’, formed especially for the application, contributing to the background and rationale, project planning, educational events, funding and staffing section of the application process and the shortlist interview. After successful tendering, the consortium established the National Primary Care Collaboratives (NPCC) Program which was funded in two phases for a total of just under $15m (Phase 1 from July 2004 to February 2005) with LF as Deputy Director. SARNet hosted the NPCC website in 2004 playing an important role in establishing the NPCC web presence.
**Section 7. Other support**

Other support to develop research and evaluation capacity building in primary health care included the following:

7.1 *Training on uptake of evidence into practice and critical appraisal skills*

Both our “Netting the Evidence” workshop and our workshop on critical appraisal (Appendix E2) were presented twice in 2004 due to demand.

7.2 *SARNet website links to evidence-based sources created; subscription to Clinical Evidence (BMJ)*

Resources and web links relating to evidence-based medicine continue to be added to the SARNet website in 2004 (see Appendix B2). In 2004 the subscription to Clinical Evidence (BMJ), available for general consultation, was continued but will be discontinued in 2005 as the resource is available from other sources.
Section 8. Scholarship holders

PHC RED and SARNet fellowships and bursaries represent funded opportunities for capacity building and provide direct experience and training in research and evaluation skills.

8.1 PHC RED Fellows, registrar, and
8.2 SARNet bursary recipients
See earlier (sections 2.7, 5.3, 6.2) and Appendices D1 & D4 (includes output).

8.3 NHMRC PhD candidate continued
See earlier (sections 2.7, 6.1) and Appendix D3.

8.4 RDP positions began
After interview, two RDP positions were established in late 2004 for Ms B Beacham and Ms N Priest, both of whom will complete their 12 month 0.5 positions in 2005.
Section 9. Research output, transfer & uptake

Flinders PHC RED was highly active in 2004 in contributing to capacity building resources and literature. In addition to publications and abstracts in preparation or submitted by PHC RED staff in 2004, the writing workshops and writing groups provided valuable advice and mentoring for other practitioners to complete manuscripts and reports.

9.1 Flinders PHC RED publications and presentations
See earlier (section 1.7) and Appendix C

9.2 Flinders PHC RED Research and Evaluation Resource Library
We have added key texts to our library, mainly in evaluation and writing skills. Resources on research and evaluation capacity building utilised by the PHC RED staff are catalogued via Endnote reference manager. All PHC RED staff and funded individuals have access to the catalogue. In addition, many electronically available resources are being compiled and are available via the SARNet website ‘Resources section’ in 2004 (see section 7.4 and Appendix B2).

9.3 PHC RED website, and
9.4 SARNet website
See section 1 and Appendices A3 & B2.

9.5 Flinders PHC RED Department of General Practice seminars
See section 2.11 and Appendix A5.
**Section 10. Research training needs analysis**

The key feature of all activities undertaken by Flinders PHC RED in 2004 was that they were developed to meet identified needs of practitioners and others interested in PHC research and evaluation. Surveys of SARNet members provided direction in 2003 and continued in 2004. A National research survey of general practice registrars & a state research survey of supervisors were undertaken in 2004 to inform national capacity building initiatives in 2005 (see section 2.5). We hope to attract funds to support the development of a national curriculum for registrars in 2005 – 6.

**10.1 SARNet: Needs-based activities and services**

See earlier (section 3.3).
Section 11. Other

11.1 PHC RED Advisory Committee meetings (Appendix A1) and PHC RED Business meetings (Appendix A2)

Regular committee meetings were held during 2004 and were crucial to the success of Flinders PHC RED. The Flinders PHC RED team focused on strategies for effectively increasing research capacity and ensured that progress, developments and plans throughout the year were discussed by the business team including representation of PHC RIS (EM).

11.3 National Meeting of PHC RED University initiative

The Director and Program Manager attended in the National Meeting of PHC RED University initiative in Canberra, November 9th and 10th, 2004.

11.4 Research and evaluation capacity building for primary health care sector of GGT UDRH

LF and KR provided a one week consultancy at the invitation of the Director of the GGT University Dept. of Rural Health covering both capacity building and a community development approach to health services research. See Appendices G1 and 2 for the full reports.

11.5 Evaluation of SARNet funding recipients

Ethics approval was obtained to undertake semi-structured interviews with funding recipients (Bursary holders, Writing Grant holders, Research Fellows) after completion of their project. Interviews are conducted by an external independent researcher; data entry will be anonymous. It is anticipated to complete the evaluation in early 2006 (Appendix C5).

11.6 Other contributions

LF has represented PHC RED and primary care research issues as a member of the National Standing Committee-Research (NSC-R) of the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP).
### Annual Report against pro forma (Table)

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>National Objective(s) as stated in 2004 Business Plan satisfied</th>
<th>Activities as specified in the reporting pro forma</th>
<th>Indicators as specified in the reporting pro forma</th>
<th>Overview of Performance/Results</th>
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<tr>
<td>✓ To develop the research and evaluation skills of primary health care providers, students and consumers (Objective 2)</td>
<td>1. Participation in educational &amp; network activities &amp; programs</td>
<td>Number of participants in workshops, CME modules, research network meetings, certificate courses &amp; educational programs</td>
<td>1.1 Continued consultation with advisory group</td>
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<td>1.4 Maintenance of SARNet membership database</td>
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<td>1.5 Launch, develop and maintain SARNet Online Discussion Forum</td>
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<td>1.7 SARNet events</td>
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<td>1.8 Articles, conference abstracts submitted</td>
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Flinders PHC RED program  
Summary report against specified indicators 2004 continued

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<td>✓ To raise the profile and quality of the Department of General Practice in research, evaluation and development (Objective 1)</td>
<td>2. Training for research skills acquisition</td>
<td>Number of workshops; educational activities and programs</td>
<td>2.1 Promotion of participation of individuals and groups in research and evaluation activities</td>
<td>Section 2 &amp; Appendices</td>
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<td>✓ To contribute to setting priorities for primary health care research and evaluation directions and policy at a national level (Objective 8)</td>
<td>2.3 Provided education and training in research and evaluation through SARNet and Flinders PHC RED staff</td>
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<td>2.11 PHC RED Departmental seminar series</td>
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<td>Composition of collaborative research teams especially the number of: Non-academic GPs Allied or community health, PHC Range of services, divisions, other organisations &amp; institutions involved in collaborative research programs Cross faculty involvement in collaborative research teams</td>
<td>4.1 Collaboration with state-based PHC RED initiatives 4.2 Opportunities provided for organisations to meet and discuss potential collaborations 4.3 Continued collaboration and development of relationship with regional Divisions, SADI. Involvement of PHC RED staff in collaborations, management 4.4 Exploration of areas for further collaboration with and between rural groups</td>
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<td>✓To contribute to setting priorities for primary health care research and evaluation directions and policy at a national level (Objective 8)</td>
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<td>✓To develop the research and evaluation skills of primary health care providers, students and consumers (Objective 2)</td>
<td>5. Research in practice</td>
<td>Number of non academics actively involved in research</td>
<td>5.1 Employment of PHC RED staff</td>
<td>Section 5 &amp; Appendices</td>
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<tr>
<td>✓To encourage a multidisciplinary approach to research and evaluation in primary health care (Objective 3)</td>
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<td>5.2 Fellowships, bursaries and writing grants awarded</td>
<td>Section 2.7</td>
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<td>5.3 Local research and evaluation resources promoted</td>
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<td>5.4 Website presence of PHC RED and SARNet and associated links</td>
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<td>5.6 State-based co-ordinator supervised and supported</td>
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### National Objective(s) as stated in 2004 Business Plan satisfied

- To raise the profile of research, evaluation and development in primary health care (Objective 1)
- To encourage a multidisciplinary approach to research and evaluation in primary health care (Objective 3)
- To develop and foster collaborative links with and between primary health care organisations (Objective 4)

### Activities as specified in the reporting pro forma

- **6. Research grants & tenders**
  - Relevant research grants applied for & tenders submitted; numbers of grants & total funding received for PHC research

### Indicators as specified in the reporting pro forma

- 6.1 Employment of PhD candidate funded by NHMRC grant
- 6.2 SARNet Research & Development Officer & SARNet officer
- 6.3 Involvement of PHC RED Director in collaborative tender application for NPCC

### Overview of Performance/Results

For commentary see Section 6
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>National Objective(s) as stated in 2004 Business Plan satisfied</th>
<th>Activities as specified in the reporting pro forma</th>
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<th>For commentary see</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>✔ To enhance the research, evaluation and development infrastructure for primary health care providers (Objective 5)</td>
<td>7. Other support</td>
<td>In kind support for research projects and programs from: Universities Health services Divisions Others</td>
<td>7.1 Training on uptake of evidence into practice and critical appraisal skills 7.2 SARNet website links to evidence-based sources created; subscription to Clinical Evidence (BMJ) 7.3 Agenda &amp; presentations for external PHC RED Evaluation (Dec 04)</td>
<td>Section 7 &amp; Appendices E2 B2 C2c</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### National Objective(s) as stated in 2004 Business Plan satisfied

- ✓ To raise the profile of research, evaluation and development in primary health care (Objective 1)
- ✓ To develop the research and evaluation skills of primary health care providers, students and consumers (Objective 2)
- ✓ To enhance the research, evaluation and development infrastructure for primary health care providers (Objective 5)

### Activities as specified in the reporting pro forma

- **8. Scholarship holders**

### Indicators as specified in the reporting pro forma

- Number of sponsored individuals who have received scholarships

### Overview of Performance/Results

- 8.1 PHC RED Fellows & registrar
- 8.2 SARNet bursary recipients
- 8.3 NHMRC Fellow appointed
- 8.4 RDP positions begun

### For commentary see

- Section 8
- Section 2.7, 5.3, 6.2
- D1 & D4
- 2.7, 6.1, D3
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>National Objective(s) as stated in 2004 Business Plan satisfied</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>✓To raise the profile of research, evaluation and development in primary health care (Objective 1)</td>
<td>9. Research output, transfer &amp; uptake</td>
<td>Number of presentations, publications, web and IT resources, educational resources &amp; guidelines based on research, changes to division projects linked to research</td>
<td>9.1 Flinders PHC RED publications and presentations</td>
<td>Section 9 &amp; Appendices</td>
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Annual Report against the 2004 Business Plan

Strategic Objectives 2004 as stated in the Flinders University 2004 PHC RED Business Plan

The Flinders PHC RED specific objectives as stated in the Strategic Plan² are to:

1. Raise the profile of research, evaluation and development in primary health care
2. Develop the research and evaluation skills of primary health care providers, students and consumers
3. Encourage a multidisciplinary approach to research and evaluation in primary health care
4. Develop and foster collaborative links with, and between, primary health care organisations
5. Enhance the research, evaluation and development infrastructure for primary health care providers
6. Raise the profile and quality of the Department of General Practice in research, evaluation and development
7. Help achieve an evidence-based culture in primary health care
8. Contribute to setting priorities for primary health care research and evaluation directions and policy at a national level

On the following pages, performance indicators and results for 2004 are detailed for each broad objective.

² Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing draft objectives
Objective 1.

To raise the profile of research, evaluation and development in primary health care

Strategic activities

- Continue to consult with the advisory group regarding the development of the Flinders PHC RED Program
- Continue to promote our research network (SARNet) to all primary health care practitioners, including allied health, consumers and rural groups

Performance indicators

- Results for 2004

  - Minutes of twice yearly advisory group meetings
    - See Appendix A1 for minutes for advisory group meetings held on February 10th and November 29th, 2004.
  - Maintenance of register of local and regional primary health care and consumer groups
    - Register maintained in conjunction with the State Collaboration
  - Continued advertisement of SARNet to all affiliated groups shown in Figure 2, with particular focus on allied health, rural groups and consumers
    - Advertisement of SARNet was achieved through a variety of media, including the monthly SARNet E-Alerts (Appendix B5), articles in newsletters (e.g. GPinfonet, see State Annual Report Appendix E5), in the conference poster presented at the GP&PHC conference (Appendix C2), in the presentation at the Regional Forum, Whyalla (Appendix C2), and in two peer reviewed articles in the PHCRED-SA Conference Proceedings (see State Annual Report Appendix A1).
  - Maintenance and updating of SARNet membership database
    - The SARNet membership database was continually maintained and updated with new membership in 2004. Data were collected relating to profession and location. See Appendix B1 for membership list at December 2004.
  - Maintenance and updating PHC RED and SARNet websites
    - The SARNet and PHC RED (Flinders) websites were maintained and updated throughout 2004. See Appendices A3 & B2 for copies of website pages.
  - Article to GPinfonet or similar submitted
    - Article relating to SARNet event was published in GPinfonet (see State Annual Report Appendix E5).
  - Conference abstract to GP&PHC conference 2004 submitted, and conference attended
    - 5 abstracts were submitted for oral & poster presentations (see Appendix C2 for copies of abstracts and posters). The conference was attended by all members of the PHC RED Team.
  - Article on primary care research issues for peer reviewed journal submitted
    - LF, RW & KW authored two articles published in the
Objective 1 cont.

proceedings of the peer-reviewed PHC RED Conference (RED Snapshots, Issue 2, see State Annual Report for details).

- **SARNet newsletters for electronic distribution continued**
  - Two newsletters “SARNews” were distributed to all members in September and December 2004 via SARNet e-alert and the SARNet website (Appendix B5). In addition, the inaugural edition was sent in hardcopy to approximately 200 members.

- **Additional activities**
  - Launch and development of SARNet Online Discussion Forum. The Forum was launched in February 2004. See Appendix B3 for a summary and website excerpts. The Forum had 191 members in December 2004.
**Objective 2.**

**To develop the research and evaluation skills of primary health care providers, students and consumers**

**Strategic activities**

- Continue to use our research network, SARNet, to promote the participation of individuals and groups in research and evaluation activities
- Continue to facilitate access to existing education and training opportunities, where relevant, in conjunction with the State-based collaboration
- Facilitate education and training in research and evaluation through SARNet and Flinders PHC RED staff
- Support and promote a state-based research and evaluation capacity building events
- Continue communication with local GPET consortia regarding improvement of registrar research training locally
- Mentor research and evaluation activities of individuals and groups
- Create and promote funded opportunities to develop research capacity at all levels including individual research bursaries, writing grants, student bursaries, PHC RED Fellowship positions, New Researcher Development Program Fellowships, General Practice Education and Training (GPET) Research Registrar, doctoral candidates
- Promote and facilitate Special Interest Groups for SARNet members
- Maintain SARNet Online Discussion Forum
- Continue *Writing for Publication* groups and initiate group for Department of General Practice (Flinders University) staff
- Promote national PHC RED / NHMRC fellowships and support any resulting applications

**Performance indicators**

- **Results for 2004**

  - SARNet membership
    - SARNet membership stood at over 380 at the end of 2004. See Appendix B1 for details.
  - Promotion of SARNet training events to SARNet and South Australian Divisions of General Practice Inc (SADI) through monthly e-alert.
    - See Appendix B5+B2 for monthly SARNet e-alerts and SARNet website excerpts.
  - Program of SARNet/PHC RED events and records of attendance
    - .....See Appendices E1-4.
  - Record of SARNet and Flinders PHC RED website use
    - Statistical counters were installed on the website during 2004. The SARNet home page received over 2000 hits (between Apr and Dec 04), which includes visits to the National Primary Care Collaborative (NPCC) website which was hosted by SARNet from August to Nov 04. The Flinders PHC RED website was visited over 260 times
Objective 2 cont.

- Number of SARNet members participating in Special Interest Groups
  - The SARNet Online Discussion Forum facilitates communication and collaboration amongst members with similar research interests and expertise. A searchable member database is currently being developed and will be rolled out in early 2005. (see Appendix B3 for summary of Online Discussion Forum)

- Record of Online Discussion Forum use
  - See Appendix B3 for details.

- Advertisement and record of the uptake of SARNet-funded and PHC RED opportunities (Research Bursaries, Writing Grants, Student Bursaries, Fellowship positions)
  - SARNet and PHC RED opportunities were advertised through the SARNet website and SARNet e-alerts (see Appendix B2+B5).
  - The number of Bursary holders and Writing Grant recipients continued to increase in 2004 compared to 2003. A total of 25 bursary holders and 10 writing grant holders have been mentored through SARNet. SARNet received five new applications for bursaries and one for a writing grant in Oct 2004. Two out of the four applications for bursaries were funded as bursaries, two were funded as writing grants, and one was unsuccessful (see Appendix D4+D5). Six bursaries continuing from 2002+03 were completed in 2004 (see Appendix D4). Fourteen bursaries awarded in 2003 are still ongoing. Two bursary holders withdrew in 2004. Six Writing Grants were awarded in 2004 and four completed their activity (see Appendix D5).
  - In collaboration with the School of Nursing & Midwifery at Flinders University, 23 nursing students were supported through a SARNet Bursary. The Bursary included a workshop on poster presentations (Appendix E5).
  - NHMRC PhD candidate, Ms Ann Alfred continued her work on the “The evidence-based consumer” The NHMRC grant was awarded to the Department of General Practice/PHC RED Flinders in 2003.
  - Dr K Salisbury continued the position of PHC RED fellow (0.1 FTE) in January 2004. N. Priest (a practising Occupational Therapist) commenced as PHC RED fellow (0.1 FTE) Feb in 2004.
  - PHC RED Flinders was awarded funding for two Researcher Development Program (RDP) fellows. B. Beacham and N. Priest commenced their placements in September 04.

- Description of outcomes of funded opportunities
  - Activities of 2004 Fellows, Bursary holders and Writing Grant recipients are summarised in Appendix D4+5.
  - SARNet and PHC RED training events held during the year attracted many participants. See Appendix E for list of SARNet events and associated numbers of participants.

- Completion of SARNet members’ research capacity and training needs study
  - The study was commenced in 2003 with the needs analysis survey sent to 232 members. Eighty-nine members had replied by
Objective 2 cont.

December 03. Data analysis was undertaken in 2004 and preparation for publication in 2005 is currently on the way.

- Completion of registrar research skills and attitudes study, in both regional General Practice Training Consortia in South Australia, and through GPET nationally.
  - The survey commenced in January 2004 and was administered to basic term registrars in participating regional training providers. Preliminary results were presented at the GP and PHC conference (Appendix C2) and results are now being written for publication.

- Establishment of mentor relationships with individuals and groups, on needs basis, numbers and description and outcomes of those mentored
  - Mentoring activities increased in intensity and demand from 2003 to 2004.
  - In 2004, mentoring by PHC RED core team members (LF, RW, KW, KR) was provided to 20 bursary holders and 6 writing grant holders (Appendix D4+D5).
  - The Flinders PHC RED writing group, established in July 2003, continued in 2004. The writing group consisted of eight members who meet monthly. For output of writing group see Appendix A4.
  - Collaboration between PHC RED team and SADI has resulted in the formation of a second writing group, facilitated by LF, which had a total of fourteen attendees. For output of the writing group see Appendix A4.
  - A third writing group with Department of General Practice staff and facilitated through PHC RED Flinders commenced in September 2004. The group has received interest from 10 staff with 6 attending regularly.
  - A new group at the Rural Doctors Workforce Agency held three meetings in 2004 and will continue in 2005.

- Documentation of output from Writing Groups
  - See Appendix A4

- Record of numbers of manuscripts, abstracts and articles published by PHC RED staff and Department staff in University approved database in 2004
  - See Appendix C1+C2 for all PHC RED disseminated output.
  - See Appendix C6 for DEST database of Department of General Practice output in 2004, compiled by Flinders University.
Objective 3.  

To encourage a multi-disciplinary approach to research and evaluation in primary health care

Strategic activities

- Promote SARNet membership to affiliated groups shown in Fig. 2, utilising the range of Communication Strategies listed in Fig. 3
- Foster development of multidisciplinary Special Interest Groups, e.g. through online discussion forum
- Use SARNet events to provide opportunities to discuss multi-disciplinary collaborations in project and grant applications, and promote SARNet funded bursaries for multi-disciplinary groups
- Promote other funded research opportunities to multidisciplinary groups
- Actively promote partnerships of multidisciplinary groups in research as appropriate
- Investigate the feasibility of developing research practices

Performance indicators

- Results for 2004

  - Maintenance of register of primary health care groups to distribute SARNet information
    - Register was maintained in 2004 in collaboration with State PHC RED and information on SARNet was distributed as described under Obj. 1.
  - Description of disciplines represented in SARNet membership
    - A description of the professional backgrounds of SARNet members at December 2004 is listed in Appendix B1.
  - Progress of Special Interest Groups and/or multidisciplinary collaborations brokered through SARNet/PHC RED events or services (e.g. via online discussion forum)
    - Development of multidisciplinary collaborations has been facilitated through SARNet. Data collected through the member survey has initially informed the creation of popular topics in the SARNet Online Discussion Forum, which was launched in February 2004. The Discussion Forum has since evolved offering monthly themes hosted and mentored by an expert on the chosen topic. Appendix B3 summarises the activities on the Forum in 2004. Members are informed about developments on the forum via the monthly SARNet e-alerts and the SARNet website. The SARNet Forum also supports the set up of private discussion groups. Two out of four set up groups started activity in 2004. To facilitate and foster collaborations, a searchable member database including member’s research interests and expertise is currently being developed and will be rolled out in 2005.
    - The PHC RED PhD scholarship (NHMRC project ‘The evidence-based consumer’, see also under Obj. 2) is currently being undertaken within PHC RED/the Flinders Department of General Practice. It represents collaboration between chief investigators and associate investigators from a number of...
Objective 3 cont.

different professional organisations (see Appendix D3 for a list of investigators and their affiliations).

• Multidisciplinary collaborations were encouraged through offering SARNet bursary funding to multidisciplinary teams, as well as individuals (see, for example, the bursary awarded to the multidisciplinary ‘Lymphoedema Action Group’ or the ‘Health Consumer Alliance (HCA)’, Appendix D4).

• PHC RED (LF and RD, academic registrar) collaborated with the Rural Doctors Workforce Agency in an evaluation of their Nurse After-hours Triage Project. A presentation on the project was given at the GP&PHC conference in 2004 (Appendix C2). A SARNet Writing Grant supports the preparation of a publication in a peer-reviewed journal.

• PHC RED team members and affiliates (LF, RW, KR, A Esterman?) visited the Adelaide Hills Division of General Practice in May and December 2004 to conduct evaluation training for Division members (Appendix F1).

• Advertisement of sources of funding via SARNet website

• Sources of PHC RED funding were advertised through the SARNet website and through SARNet e-Alerts to members (Appendix B2+B5). Additional sources of funding were advertised on the PHC RED-SA website, which is linked to the SARNet and PHC RED Flinders websites.

• Research practices

SARNet bursary holders have included GPs and practices interested in fostering research involvement eg Drs Hancock (asthma) and Sanders (exercise / pedometers) see Appendix D4. Such practices could have potential as research active practices in the future.
Objective 4.

To develop and foster collaborative links with and between primary health care organisations.

**Strategic activities**

- Continue to facilitate and develop strategic collaborative links with affiliated groups as shown in Figure 2, in particular Divisions of General Practice, the Greater Green Triangle University Department of Rural Health (GGT UDRH), and with the State-based PHC RED Collaboration.

**Performance indicators**

- **Results for 2004**

  - Contribution made to the state-based collaboration links
    - During 2004, Flinders PHC RED has housed the co-ordinator for the state-based collaboration and has been responsible for the supervision and co-ordination of the collaboration.
    - Flinders PHC RED played a major role in supporting the state-based PHC RED annual event, the Research Retreat (see State Annual Report).
    - The Flinders PHC RED team (LF/RW) has attended all meetings of the state-based collaboration (see State Annual Report, Appendix D1 for meeting minutes).
    - Flinders PHC RED contributed as a chief investigator (LF) to a collaborative PHC RED-state grant application on mental health funded through an Early Career grant from the Australian Research Council and Rotary grant (see State Annual Report, Appendix E1).
    - LF and RW co-authored a PHC RED-state poster presentation at the GP&PHC conference (see State Annual Report, Appendix E3).
    - A presentation on the SARNet Discussion Forum at the Regional Conference “Our Region Our Future” in October 2004 in Whyalla resulted in the formation of a private discussion group on rural mental health. See Appendix B3 for Discussion Forum summary & State Annual Report, Appendix D2).
  
  - Program of SARNet event(s) with opportunities for organisations to meet and discuss potential areas of collaboration
    - See list of events which provided opportunities for networking – Appendix E.

  - Continued development of relationships with regional Divisions, South Australian Divisions of General Practice Inc. (SADI)
    - PHC RED Director organises and chairs the SADI writing group (Appendix A4).
    - LF, RW & KR offered evaluation training to the Adelaide Hills Division (Appendix F1).
    - All PHC RED coordinators and program manager (RW) contributed to the PHC RED information seminar at the Divisions.
Objective 4 cont.

EO meeting at SADI in March 04 (see State Annual Report, Appendix C3).

- RW & KR coordinated a scoping seminar at the EO meeting at Hills Division in Sept 04 to plan coordinated evaluation training for Divisions in 2005 (see State Annual Report, Appendix C4).
- Two bursary holders and three writing grant holders are Divisional or SADI Employees (see Appendices D4 & D5).
- Flinders PHC RED team members co-authored a poster presentation titled “Gateway to research & evaluation in general practice and primary health care – the role of PHC RED” at the National Divisions Forum in Adelaide in September 04 (Appendix C2).
- Members of regional Divisions of General Practice attended the launch of the SARNet Online Discussion Forum and PHC RED/SARNet training events (see Appendix E).
- Collaborations sought with and involvement of PHC RED staff offered to research and evaluation groups e.g. Divisions, SADI, number of opportunities identified and outcomes
  - See above
- Continued involvement of Southern Division of General Practice representative on Flinders PHC RED advisory committee and Department of Health representative at Flinders PHC RED advisory committee and state collaboration business meetings
  - See above, under Obj. 2
- Continued exploration of areas for further collaboration with and between rural groups including Adelaide Hills Division, the Greater Green Triangle University Department of Rural Health (GGT UDRH, VIC), and the CRC for Aboriginal Health (NT)
  - See above re: Evaluation training for members of the Hills Division of General Practice
  - See above for details of collaborations between Flinders PHC RED and Southern Division of General Practice (Obj. 2).
  - Head of GGT UDRH (Prof James Dunbar) sits on the Flinders PHC RED advisory committee.
  - Flinders PHC RED consulted GGT UDRH for the applications for funding under the University initiative of the PHC RED Research Capacity Building Initiative (RCBI) and for health services research in the GGT region (Appendix G).
  - SARNet membership and support was continued beyond South Australia, and included 13% interstate members in December 2004. Interstate members are attracted by the SARNet Online Discussion Forum and the affiliation between the GGT UDRH and Flinders University (Appendix B1 for details on SARNet membership).
  - The PHC RED core team (LF, RW, KW, KR) provided mentoring support for five SARNet Bursary and Writing Grant holders from GGT UDRH. Details on Bursary and Writing Grant holders are listed in Appendix D4+D5.
  - PHC RED Flinders was invited guest speaker at the PHC RED launch in GGT in November 2004 (Appendix C2).
Objective 4 cont.

- **Additional activities**

  - The Flinders PHC RED Director, LF, was invited to participate in the development of the Tender application for the National Primary Care Collaboratives Project of the Australian Government. LF participated actively as a member of the ‘PDSA Consortium’, formed especially for the application, contributing to the background and rationale, project planning, educational events, funding and staffing section of the application process and the shortlist interview. After successful tendering, the consortium established the National Primary Care Collaboratives (NPCC) Program which was funded in two phases for a total of just under $15m (Phase 1 from July 2004 to February 2005) with LF as Deputy Director. SARNet hosted the NPCC website in 2004 playing an important role in establishing the NPCC web presence.

  - The PHC RED Flinders team has been a major driving force behind the State Collaborative Indigenous Researcher Training Initiative (see State Annual Report, Appendix D1). PHC RED Flinders had initially been approached by the CRCAH in Alice Springs for support towards research training for Indigenous Researchers through a SARNet Bursary. PHC RED Flinders has since been successfully awarded a $20,000 grant from the Department of Health to support travel arrangements for the researcher training. The State Collaboration has since developed the Initiative further. At the end of 2004, phase 1 (consultations with rural and remote Aboriginal Communities) was still on the way (see State Annual Report, Appendix D2).
Objective 5.

Strategic activities

- Further develop infrastructure and resources e.g. access to written resource materials, books and papers, and advertise availability on SARNet website
- Offer PHC RED Research Fellowships, SARNet bursaries and writing grants
- Maintain and enhance PHC RED and SARNet websites, including links to relevant sources of national and international expertise and PHC RIS website
- Secure physical resources and space for PHC RED activities, if required
- Offer expertise to registrar research grants activities nationally by acting as member of GPET Registrar Research Committee on behalf of the National Standing Committee - Research [NSC-R] of the RACGP

Performance indicators

- Results for 2004

  - Continued employment of core PHC RED staff (Fig. 2). Specifically, Director, Program Manager, SARNet R&D officer, SARNet Co-ordinator, SARNet IT support and PHC RED Consultant
    - Employment of the PHC RED Director, Program Manager and Program Consultant was continued in 2004. Three additional appointments were made to the core staff, the SARNet Research and Development Officer (previously titled SARNet Coordinator), the SARNet IT Support Officer and the SARNet Co-ordinator. These three new positions were funded by the underspend as approved by the Department of Health and Ageing (see Financial Report for details). See Figure 2 for core staff and affiliations as at 31 December 2004.
  - Membership list and activities of SARNet as in Objective 1 & 2
    - See earlier.
  - Advertisement of local research and evaluation resources
    - Provided on SARNet website and via E-Alerts (Appendix B2 & B5) plus links to state-based collaboration website (State Annual Report, Appendix C2).
  - Numbers of Fellowships, Bursaries and Writing Grants awarded (see Objective 2 for outcomes)
    - See Appendix D
  - Website presence of PHC RED and SARNet and associate links
    - See Appendices A3 & B2.
  - Number and type of physical resources secured including space, computer hardware and software
    - A dedicated room has been provided for the PHC RED Team including a separate office for the Director. The PHC RED Office houses the program manager, SARNet research and
Objective 5
cont.

development officer & state-based co-ordinator, SARNet Coordinator, a PhD student, two PHC RED fellows and a general practitioner registrar. There are just sufficient physical resources, namely desks (six), computers (six) plus associated hardware (printer, facsimile machine) and appropriate software.

- Supervise and support the state-based collaboration coordinator in day-to-day tasks
  - See under Obj. 4.

- Additional activity
  - Successful application to the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing for roll-over funding for the position of SARNet Research and Development Officer, SARNet IT support Officer and SARNet Coordinator, as above (see Financial Report).
Objective 6. Strategic activities

To raise the profile and quality of the Department of General Practice in research, evaluation and development

- Continue to manage and support joint PHC RED and Department fortnightly research seminar program
- Appoint PHC RED Research Fellows and new Researcher Development Program fellows (if funding is successful)
- Advertise and support applications for RED initiated NHMRC Primary Health Care Postgraduate - Research Scholarships
- Contribute to supervision of PhD student, funded by joint Department of General Practice / Flinders PHC RED NH&MRC grant
- Encourage staff to publish in relevant literature and offer support to Departmental staff in completing manuscripts, articles, abstracts, competitive grant applications, scholarships and awards
- Improve supervisory capacity in Department for higher degree students
- Involvement of Department representative in National Priority setting and policy development arena

Performance indicators

- Results for 2004
- Seminar series organised within Department, nature of Program, speakers attracted and record of attendance
  - A successful seminar series was organised by PHC RED team
  - Attendance was, on average, 12-15 attendees per session, with attendance by members of the Department of General Practice, other Departments of Flinders University, and visiting national and international guests (see Appendix A5 for program).
- Numbers of PHC RED and New Researcher Development Fellows
  - Detailed under Objective 2
- Number of supported applications for PHC RED NHMRC Primary Health Care Postgraduate - Research Scholarships, if applicable
  - No applications were submitted in 2004.
- Progress report of NH&MRC-funded PhD student
  - Appendix D3
- See Objective 2 for documentation of departmental publication and other research outputs
  - Appendix C
- Attendance of eligible staff at supervision workshops and number of staff qualified to supervise higher degree students
  - Six Departmental staff are qualified to supervise higher degree students. One staff member took up this training opportunity in 2004 (KR).
- Participation of Department of General practice staff, specifically Department head, in national priority setting activities
  - LP attended APHCRI Board.
Objective 6. Cont.

- Additional activity in 2004

  - Workshops attended by PHC RED staff members, fellows, bursary holders and students
    - The following workshops, provided by the Flinders Staff Development and Training Unit were attended:
      1. Managing long documents attended by SARNet R&D Officer
      2. Microsoft Project attended by SARNet R&D Officer

  - The following workshops, provided by the Flinders Centre for Epidemiology and Biostatistics, were attended by the SARNet coordinator (TU) and the PhD student (AA)
    1. Introduction to Epidemiology
    2. Questionnaire design

  - Workshops presented at the GP&PHC conference (June, 2004)

  - PHC RED Research Fellow (KS) attended the workshop on "Communication for effective evaluation" by Robert Lake at the Australasian Evaluation Conference. The content was later reported to the PHC RED Flinders Writing Group.

  - PHC RED staff (LF, RW, KW, KR) attended the half-day interactive Qualitative Research Methods workshop at the State event, PHCRED Research Retreat on 3 Sept 04 (see State Annual Report).

  - Involvement in PBL tutoring (KR) of medical students organised by the Flinders Centre for Epidemiology and Biostatistics (FCEB) in August 04

  - PHC RED Flinders staff (RW, KR) joint the Flinders Centre for Epidemiology and Biostatistics (FCEB) in a NHMRC Capacity Building grant application (unsuccessful)
Objective 7. Strategic activities

To help achieve an evidence-based culture in primary health care practice

- Develop links to evidence-based sites through SARNet website
- Continue to provide SARNet training events
- Notify SARNet members of relevant capacity building opportunities offered by local providers including Australian Centre for Best Clinical practice (ACEBCP), South Australian Community Health Research Unit (SACHRU), Flinders Centre for Epidemiology and Biostatistics (FCEB)

Performance indicators

Results for 2004

- Invitation to Divisions to facilitate seminars and symposia on skills involved in using evidence in practice (see also Objective 2)
  - Telephone and face-to-face contact was made. However, none of the Divisions (Southern, Riverland, Limestone) took up the offer of seminars and symposia on EBP.
- Inclusion of training in evidence-based skills at SARNet event(s)
  - The half-day hands-on training session “Netting the Evidence” was presented twice to diverse audiences in Adelaide and Whyalla (see Appendix E2).
  - The half-day interactive workshop on critical appraisal was presented twice to diverse audiences in Adelaide and Whyalla (see Appendix E3).
- Program of SARNet events (see Objective 2)
  - Training events were part of the state training calendar and were advertised on the state website (see State Annual report).
- Website links from SARNet website to evidence-based sources
- Subscription to Clinical Evidence (BMJ)
  - Evidence-based practice resources and links were compiled by the SARNet Coordinator and added to the SARNet website in early 2004 (see Appendix B2 for website excerpts).
  - Subscription to Clinical Evidence (BMJ) was continued in 2004.
Objective 8. Strategic activities

To contribute to setting priorities for primary health care research and evaluation directions and policy at a national level.

- Maintain effective communication and liaison with PHC RIS regarding PHC RED issues
- Facilitate presentations from State and Federal Departments of Health in Departmental seminar program and at SARNet events to continue dialogue and mutual interaction regarding policy and research and offer such opportunities to SARNet members
- Contribute to Annual University PHC RED workshops and related initiatives

Performance indicators

Results for 2004

- Attendance of PHC RIS representative at PHC RED business meetings
  - PHC RIS representative (E McIntyre) attends the PHC RED business meetings (see Appendix A2 for meeting minutes).
  - Presentation by Department of Human Services (DHS) or Department of Health and Ageing (DoHA) representative at seminar series and/or SARNet event & Invitation for Jim Birch (CEO, DHS) to present on the Generational Health Review/ Research opportunities in primary health care
  - Relevant staff was invited but was not able to present in 2004. Invitations will be repeated in 2005.

- SARNet forum organised for discussion between State and Federal Departments of Health policy representatives and SARNet members
  - Membership in the SARNet Online Discussion Forum is open to State and Federal Department of Health policy representatives. Representatives from the Department of Health, Divisions of General Practice were present at the launch of the SARNet Forum in February 2004 (Appendix B3).
  - Representatives of the Department of Health and Ageing were present at the 2004 state event, the PHC RED Research Retreat in Sept 04 (see State Annual Report for details).

- Attendance at annual PHC RED University initiative meeting, contributions to meeting and related initiatives
  - PHC RED Director, Program Managers (RW & KR) attended, contributed and presented at the University initiative meeting, held in Canberra, November 9th and 10th.
  - KR sat on the program committee for the meeting.

- Continued representation of Flinders PHC RED at national forums including RACGP National Standing Committee – Research (A/Prof Liz Farmer)
  - PHC RED Director (LF) sits on the standing committee of Royal Australian College of General Practitioners and on the Registrar Research Committee of GPET and the Registrar Research Workshop Committee. KR participated in the teleconference on the Registrar Research Scholarship Fund (RRSF) Award
Committee on October 7th.

- LF facilitated and presented at the three-day National Registrar Research Workshop (GPET) Broken Hill (see Appendix E4).

**Additional activities**

- Evaluation of PHC RED funding recipients to inform PHC RED directions and policy
  - Ethics approval was obtained to undertake semi-structured interviews with funding recipients (Bursary holders, Writing Grant holders, Research Fellows) after completion of their project. Interviews are conducted by an external independent researcher; data entry will be anonymous. It is anticipated to complete the evaluation in early 2006.

- Peer review publication in the Australian Health Review to inform primary health care policy and practice
  - A journal article authored by KR (&JF) on the PHC RED experience supporting novice researchers in writing for peer review publication will be published in Feb 2005. (see State Annual Report for details)
Financial Report

The attached audited financial statement combines the income received in 2004 ($244,893.12) for Flinders PHC RED and the South Australian State Collaborative.

Included in the Flinders PHC RED 2004 expenditure is the 2003 carry-forward over $113,276.93. Formal approval to roll over the 2003 underspend was received in July 04 (letter dated 23 July 04). We note that there is a slight discrepancy in the total roll over approved ($111,745.73; approved 23 July 04), and the end of year 2003 balance ($113,276.93) reported by Flinders University accounts and referred to in your letter dated 26 May 04.

Please note that the 2004 expenditure includes commitments for our Researcher and Development Program (RDP) Fellows NP and BB, as funds were not available in 2004.

The attached financial statement does not include the final payment of $42,008 due in April 2005 (as per your letter dated 26 May 2004).
Financial Statement for the period 1 January 2004 to 31 December 2004

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<thead>
<tr>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Income</strong></td>
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<td>Carry-forward 31 December 2003</td>
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<td>Income received 2004 12@20407.76</td>
<td>244,893.12</td>
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<td><strong>Balance of funds as at 31 December 2004</strong></td>
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<td>($26,485.85)</td>
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Please Note: the Flinders University accounts are audited annually on a systems based approach by the State Auditor General’s Office.

Grants Officer 566-1015-004
Developing a culture of research-aware and research-oriented practitioners

Associate Professor Liz Farmer
Director

Dr Karin Ried
Program Manager

Dr Raechel Waters
Program Manager (Jan-Nov 04)

Dr Kath Weston
Program Consultant