

Collaborative Research Hub

Principles of Partnership

A nexus between research and practice

Background

In November 2007, General Practice Queensland and Griffith University formed a partnership to support the development of a research-practice health agenda.

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed committing both organisations to the establishment of a *Collaborative Research Hub (CRH)* focusing on the translation of evidence into practice.

Following the signing of a MoU, a skill based CRH Steering Committee was established with representatives from General Practice Queensland, Griffith University and Queensland Health.

Principles of Partnership

The following principles underpin a collaborative approach to the development of the Collaborative Research Hub. These principles were agreed by the partnership and supported under the Memorandum of Understanding. They include:

- Acknowledge and honour the different “agendas”, goals or motivations for collaboration by openly clarifying agendas and identifying areas of mutuality and divergence.
- Define the roles of those involved in the collaboration and the decision-making processes to be used.
- Develop collaborative projects that are relevant to all parties, to health practitioners, to program and policy development, and which are undertaken in an environment that facilitates strong linkages between research expertise and practitioner relevance.
- Develop the collaboration based on mutual trust and respect by investing time and resources in building and maintaining the collaborative relationship and research activities, and which fosters creative approaches to resolving problems and identifying solutions.
- Identify the best process/methodology/strategy based on the issue, the intended outcomes and the nature of the collaborative project rather than on the preferences of any particular party. The parties, prior to the initiation of any particular project or activity, shall agree upon the terms and conditions of

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specific projects in writing. Any specific activity will be subject to mutual consent, availability of funds and approval of both parties.

- Be accountable to each other through transparent processes, fair use of funding, acknowledgement and recognition of each partner.
- Adopt a quality improvement approach to underpin the Collaborative Research Hub, to improve the collaboration and to learn from difficulties or challenges and successes.
- Develop appropriate and realistic expectations for collaborative activities and resource these sufficiently in both funds and time to ensure success.
- Focus on growth over time by engaging other parties in collaborative projects that share commitment to the principles of this collaboration.
- Disseminate findings in languages and formats that are appropriate for each party, including the development of products for multiple stakeholders and audiences.
- Use collaboration, engagement and consensus to guide the generation of knowledge, its translation into practice and the facilitation of systemic change that improves health in Queensland.




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a better
health
system**

Objectives

The following objectives were agreed by the partnership and supported under the Memorandum of Understanding. They include:

- To provide an environment that facilitates strong links between research expertise and practitioner relevance by exploring collaborative projects.
- To produce joint publications, apply for joint tenders and research grants and seek philanthropic or corporate funding opportunities.
- Identify and build the strengths of each party in relation to the translation of evidence into practice and policy.
- To develop, apply and support innovative and evidenced-based approaches to health service delivery and the management of health issues in the community.
- To build research capacity by supporting training, higher education and skill-development around evidence-based practice and expertise.
- To conduct and promote research that addresses gaps in knowledge in priority areas, builds the evidence-base and contributes to the primary health care sector.
- To examine and apply processes of knowledge transfer to practice and system reform.
- To develop resources, educational tools and conduct workshops that promote the implementation of evidence into practice, particularly at the local level.
- Provide a platform to build research strength, focus and collective knowledge that can be shared across all key stakeholders.



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