UWA Faculty Research Day

CUCHR
Combined Universities Centre for Rural Health
School of Primary, Aboriginal and Rural Health Care

- Centre for Aboriginal Medical and Dental Health
- Centre for Rural and Remote Oral Health

- Combined Universities Centre for Rural Health

- Emergency Medicine
- General Practice
- Rural Clinical School of WA
University Departments of Rural Health (UDRHS)

• Designed in late 1990s as workforce strategy by the Commonwealth
• Addresses shortage of health practitioners in rural & remote Australia
• Student and health professional training programs delivered through established universities
• Program complements Rural Clinical Schools Program
CUCRH

• The only UDRH in WA
• Geraldton-based
• Predominantly covers the Midwest and Pilbara
• Administered through UWA
• Supports rural health placements for all 5 Perth universities
• Director: W/Prof Sandra Thompson
CUCRH

Strives to utilise tertiary training and research resources to improve and maintain rural, remote and Indigenous health.
WHAT WE DO

Our core business is threefold:

**Education**
- Promotion of health science careers
- Rural undergraduate experience:
  - multidisciplinary rural practicum placements,
  - experiential learning programs
  - cultural orientation training.
- Learning opportunities for
  - higher degree students
  - health practitioners
  - the community

**Research**
- Focus on redressing existing health inequalities
- Build research capacity in rural WA
- Support the rural and remote health workforce.
- Supports strategic planning and evaluation for community & health service agencies.
- Improve health of rural pops

- Multi-disciplinary
- Collaborative
- Evidence-based applied research & evaluation
- Quantitative/Qualitative
- Across levels of care

**Organisation**
- Work with local communities
- Various service activities including delivering expert briefings to government agencies and community organisations
- Build capacity of community organisations
- Contribute to community education and training programs.
Perth the hub for the dominant Hub-and-spoke model of Western Australia
Regional centres and Perth are the spokes to Geraldton hub

Geraldton: 20-25 staff (14 academic)
South Hedland: 3 staff
Perth: 5 research intensive staff

Staff professional backgrounds include:
- Medicine
- Nursing
- Physiotherapy
- Occupational therapy
- Speech Pathology
- Pharmacy
- Podiatry
- Public health
- Community development, social science, mental health
## Matrix of Types of Research Conducted at CUCRH

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Social Determinants of Health</th>
<th>Population Health Research</th>
<th>Clinical Research</th>
<th>Health Services Research &amp; Quality Improvement</th>
<th>Student and Professional Learning &amp; Development</th>
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<td>Aboriginal Health</td>
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<td>Rural vs Urban Research</td>
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<td>Chronic Disease</td>
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<td>Mental Health Research</td>
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Current Collaboration partners - examples

- WA Country Health Service
- Geraldton Regional Aboriginal Medical Service
- Midwest Aboriginal Organisations Alliance
- Medicare Locals
- Lowitja Institute
- School of Population Health, UWA
- Speech Pathology, ECU
- One21Seventy, Menzies School of Health Research
- Curtin University – AHERU, et al
RESEARCH - examples

ABCD National Research Partnership – CQI in Aboriginal Medical Services
Cardiovascular Disease Disparity in Aboriginal People (BAHHWA)
Evaluation of inter-professional education and clinical placements
More than Talk – an Aboriginal-non-Aboriginal Partnership for Action
Social marketing of tobacco in the Aboriginal community
CRE to Improve Indigenous Cancer Outcomes – DISCOVER-TT
Missing Voices:Communication disorders post-stroke/ acquired brain injury in Aboriginal people
Nurse-led primary health care intervention in families at high risk for CVD
Lower back pain self-management
Cultural Security: Improving Interactions between Health Professionals and Aboriginal people
Thriving in Transition - Supporting rural and other vulnerable students transition to university
Diabetic Foot Screening and Management of the high risk foot– a system’s approach
Academic infrastructure

• CUCRH offices Geraldton, South Hedland, Perth

• Student accommodation
  – 4 bedroom house in Mt Magnet
  – 12 apartments for short term accommodation in Geraldton

• Staff accommodation in Hedland

• EdSim centre - clinical and simulation facility (from July 2013)

• Geraldton: first rural roll-out of NBN
167 Fitzgerald St
Geraldton
Western Australia

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THANK YOU