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DIRECTOR'S FOREWORD

Welcome to the Queensland Centre for Public Health (QCPH) 2001 Annual Report. The QCPH continues in its mission to promote and deliver high quality population health education and research programs in order to improve and maintain the health and well being of all people. During 2001 the Centre successfully negotiated a new Public Health and Education Research Program (PHERP) contract with the Commonwealth Department of Health and Ageing and a new partnership agreement between the three universities. The grant will provide financial assistance to the Centre for the next five years to facilitate and enhance the quality, innovation and delivery of public health education, training and research in Queensland.

As part of the new funding contract, the QCPH has undergone comprehensive strategic planning for 2001-2005 to map its mission, vision and strategic aims and objectives in line with the PHERP objectives and Queensland Health (QH) Performance Indicators. The strategic planning meetings have facilitated an increased rapport between Consortium members and have initiated a review process on the future focus of the QCPH. Queensland Health (QH) and the Queensland Public Health Forum have been invited to have membership on the QCPH Planning and Review Committees. Their collaboration and input to the QCPH Business Plan and Strategic Plan ensure that the public health education, research and training agenda is linked to stakeholders' needs.

The QCPH continuing education activities in 2001 included five major events, some of which were in collaboration with industry and the profession. The QCPH Seminars in 2001 had an industry focus and targeted a wide multidisciplinary and intersectoral audience. All events were well attended with excellent participation and feedback from industry.

In Memoriam

This year we lost a dear friend and colleague, Dr Eberhard Wenzel. Eberhard, from Griffith University, made many important contributions to our educational program and inspired many students with his commitment and enthusiasm. Eberhard was a tireless advocate for public health education nationally and internationally. He will be sadly missed.

DIRECTOR'S FOREWORD

The continuing education activities included the Monthly Lunchtime Seminar Series, a large audience Seminar following the MPH Orientation, a Joint Breakfast Seminar with the Australian College of Health Service Executives (ACHSE) and a joint seminar with the Women's Health Queensland Wide Inc.

In November the Public Health Association (Qld) co-hosted the MPH Information Evening with a Seminar following. During the evening the MPH 1999 PHA Dissertation Prize was awarded to Louisa Collins and the MPH 2000 PHA Dissertation Prize was awarded to Cate Cameron. We look forward to developing further links with industry and the profession to enhance the Centre's response to their professional development needs.

Significant progress was made in 2001 in developing and enhancing cooperation with other universities in Queensland with a public health interest. The QCPH has had specific dealings with three Queensland universities outside the Consortium. The Director of the QCPH is now a member of the James Cook University (JCU) Consultative Committee.

Following discussions with the Australian Catholic University (ACU) the Centre held a Research Training Day for ACU academic staff to develop research supervision skills. A meeting with staff from the Sunshine Coast University (USC) involved discussions about opportunities for collaboration in research and teaching. The collaboration is intended to promote public health within USC and assist in furthering their public health research training agenda. Professor Rod Simpson the former Director of the QCPH and Head of Public Health School at Griffith University has left our Consortium and is the new Dean of USC. We wish Rod well in his new position and look forward to new developments in collaborative research and training opportunities in the future.

Professor Andrew Wilson will be taking over as Director in 2002; the last year of the QCPH Directorate at the University of Queensland. I wish Andrew well in this exciting time of change, review and new developments for the QCPH. His academic experience and expertise from industry will provide complementary input to the existing QCPH structure.

Associate Professor Peter O' Rourke

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

2001 has been a very busy and productive year for the QCPH. The Centre would like to acknowledge the organisations and individuals who provide the various means of valuable support which enables the QCPH to exist.

Academic staff from the three universities have, in addition to their considerable teaching, research and supervision loads, made a significant commitment to strategic planning and review committees and sub-committees in 2001. Their contribution to the Centre and its future planning is to be acknowledged.

Also experiencing heavy workloads are our administration staff. Their diligence and commitment to their work, students and academic staff is to be commended.

The Public Health Education and Research Program (PHERP) Phase Three contract, the Department of Health and Aged Care (DHAC) continues to support the range of the Centre's activities. Particular thanks to Angela McKinnon.

The continuing support from Queensland Health is acknowledged; in particular the support of Dr John Scott.

John O' Brien, Dr Margaret Shapiro and Peter Anderson from the Public Health Association are acknowledged for their contribution.

Susan Chisholm, Project Officer for the Queensland Public Health Forum (QPHF) continues to be a valuable resource to the Centre.

Karen Forster at the Australian College of Health Service Executives (ACHSE) is acknowledged for her contribution to the joint ACHSE/QCPH Seminar.

Finally we thank Kathy Faulkner and Solei Gibbs from Women's Health Queensland Wide Inc. for their collaborative support in our joint seminar.

INTRODUCTION

The Queensland Centre for Public Health is the joint initiative of Griffith University, Queensland University of Technology and the University of Queensland.

The consortium established Queensland's first Master of Public Health Program in 1991 and has been delivering post-graduate Public Health programs since that time. The Queensland Centre for Public Health was established in 1995 and has resulted in a sustainable and fully developed agency. The Management of the Centre Directorate rotates among the Consortium members every three years providing the opportunity for each institution to host the Public Health Programs in turn.

Currently, the Centre Directorate is based in the School of Population Health, University of Queensland, Herston from 2000-2002. After this time the Centre will be located at Queensland University of Technology, Kelvin Grove Campus.

The Centre is one of nine State/National level Centres that receive funding under the Public Health Education and Research Program (PHERP) of the Department of Health and Aged Care. The other two Queensland Centres which receive PHERP funding are the Australian Centre for International and Tropical Health and Nutrition (ACITHN) at the University of Queensland and The Anton Breinl Centre at James Cook University of North Queensland.

The aims of the PHERP initiatives are met through successful collaboration and partnerships with academic, government and non-government organisations.

The 2001 Annual Report highlights the achievements and activities of the Centre in addressing the State's public health education, training and research needs.

MANAGEMENT & GOVERNANCE

The management and governance structure of the QCPH altered with the new PHERP contract in 2001. The new structure of the governance committees allows key stakeholders greater opportunity to participate in the strategic planning, policy development and operation of the Centre. In addition the Consortium members agree to participate in, and to have regards to, the deliberations of the Queensland Public Health Forum.

The QCPH Directorate coordinates the administrative and academic activities of the Centre.

2001 Directorate

Director:Associate	Professor Peter O' Rourke
Deputy Director:	Sandi Pirozzo
Centre Manager:	Kathleen Lilley
Administration:	Denise Schultz/Diana Glynn Connolly

Board of Management

The former Executive Committee has been replaced by a Board of Management which includes the Director and Coordinators from each university and the Centre Manager. The Board of Management manages the formal award programs, the curriculum, teaching and student matters. It also acts as the Board of Examiners to the Centre. A Dissertation Review Committee reports to the Board of Management.

Chair:	Associate Professor Peter O' Rourke
Members:	Sandi Pirozzo Dr Eberhard Wenzel/Prof Des Connell Associate Professor Don Stewart Kathleen Lilley

MANAGEMENT & GOVERNANCE

Consultative Committee

The Consultative Committee has replaced the former Board of Management. The role of the Consultative Committee is to provide policy advice, support and direction to the Board of Management in relation to population health education, research and workforce needs, both nationally and regionally.

Chair: Associate Professor Peter O' Rourke

Members: Vicki Murphy
Dr John Scott
Dr Margaret Shapiro
Bryce Hines
Dr Peter Abernethy
Professor Ian Riley
Professor Brian Oldenburg
Professor Rod Simpson
Sandi Pirozzo
Associate Professor Don Stewart
Dr Stella Stevens
Alison Mott
Marcia Batista
Kathleen Lilley

Strategic Planning and Review

While the new contract does not provide for a Steering Committee, 2001 saw considerable consortium commitment to strategic planning and review. The membership at these meetings included all consortium academic members as well as industry representation. Sub-committees were formed to investigate issues related to curriculum development and external relations. In 2002 working groups with academic and industry membership will investigate population health training needs, development of better cross-institution and industry collaboration on teaching and research and the development of competencies for specific population health vocational areas.

STAFFING

Directorate

Director	Associate Professor Peter O'Rourke
Deputy Director	Sandi Pirozzo
Centre Manager	Kathleen Lilley
Administration	Diana Glynn Connolly / Vicki Roy (to 5.01)
MPH Coordinators	Dr Eberhard Wenzel/ David Maclaren/ Dr Stella Stevens/ Prof Des Connell (GU) Associate Professor Don Stewart (QUT), Sandi Pirozzo (UQ)

IPHERP Funded Personnel

Academic

Prof Andrew Wilson	Professor (UQ) (from 10.01)	100%
Sandi Pirozzo	Senior Lecturer (UQ)(IPHERP funded to 4.01)	100%
Dr Heather Eastwood	Lecturer	100%
Catherine Cameron	Associate Lecturer (UQ) (from 7.01)	16.5%
Dr Leigh Tooth	Research Fellow (UQ)	15%
Prof Des Connell	Professor (GU)	15%
Bronwyn Diprose	Associate Lecturer (GU)	100%
Sue Gargett	Lecturer (QUT)	100%

Administrative

Diana Glynn Connolly	Administrative Officer (UQ)	66%
Vicki Roy	Administrative Officer (to 5.01)(UQ)	25%
Sonya Wimmer	Administrative Officer (from 7.01) (UQ)	100%
DeniseSchultz	Administrative Officer (from 10.01)(UQ)	37.5%
Alison Butler	Administrative Officer (QUT)	50%

Program Academic Staff Funded from other University Sources and Other Personnel Associated with Curriculum Development & Delivery

GU	QUT	UQ
Prof Des Connell	Prof Brian Oldenburg	Prof Annette Dobson
Dr John Grootjans	Assoc Prof John Bell	Prof Paul Glasziou
Bronwyn Diprose	Assoc Prof Mike Capra	Assoc Prof Rod McClure
	Dr Diana Battistutta	Dr Chris Bain
	Dr Shilu Tong	Dr Fran Boyle
	Dr Elizabeth Parker	Dr Zandy Clavarino
	Peter Anderson	Dr Maria Donald
	John Anderson	Dr Philip Schluter
	Ian England	Dr Cathy Turner
	Dr Melissa Stoneham	
	Terry Farr	
	Tim Strickland	
	Grant Warren	
	Sue Wilson	
	Carol Windsor	

STUDENT DATA

Student Data as at 31 December 2001

- 41 students graduated with either a Master of Public Health or a Graduate Diploma in Public Health; 23 MPH students completed their Dissertation
- 259 students have completed the requirements for graduation from the Master of Public Health since 1991
- 75 students have completed the requirements for the Graduate Diploma in Public Health since 1991

Public Health Program - 2001 Enrolment Statistics

University	Female	Male	Total	O/seas	% Part Time*
New students					
GU	10	2	12	0	83%
QUT	13	4	17	2	88%
UQ	23	7	30	3	77%
Total New	46	13	59	5	81%
Continuing Students					
GU	5	2	7	0	100%
QUT	15	3	18	0	100%
UQ	37	10	47	3	100%
Total Continuing	57	15	72	3	100%
Total Students					
GU	15	4	19	0	100%
QUT	28	7	35	2	100%
UQ	60	17	77	6	100%
Total Students	103	28	131	8	95%

* Part-time data includes 3 students who were enrolled full-time for one semester of the year only.

RESOURCING

The major source of funding for the Queensland Centre for Public Health (QCPH) is from the Public Health and Education Research Program (PHERP) of the Department of Health and Ageing. The position of Centre Manager has continued to be sponsored by Queensland Health. In total the financial assistance for the QCPH in 2001 was \$501,507.24.

The new PHERP contract was negotiated with the Department of Health and Ageing in 2001 and provides funding for the QCPH from January 2001 until December 2005. The provision of PHERP funds provides the financial assistance to allow the QCPH to operate from a stable base, build on its strengths, meet industry objectives while fostering innovation to meet the emerging health education, research and workforce development needs. The PHERP financial support for the QCPH in 2001 was \$449,220.24.

Queensland Health continues to sponsor the position of Centre Manager. The Manager liaises between industry and academia, to ensure that public health programs and research are linked to industry needs. The grant from Public Health Services Division of Queensland Health for 2001 was \$52,287.

In addition, each of the three universities contributed to the operation of the Centre through provision of services in kind, namely academic time, services and facilities.

The University of Queensland, through the School of Population Health hosted the Directorate in 2001. Queensland University of Technology will host the Directorate from 2003-2005.

The Centre will continue endeavours to secure additional funding and other assistance from current and new sources to support and expand its education, research and collaborative activities.

Refer to page 35 for the QCPH 2001 Consolidated Financial Statement.

THE PUBLIC HEALTH PROGRAM

The objective of the Public Health Program is to prepare health professionals from a broad range of backgrounds, with knowledge and skills from a variety of disciplines, to define, assess critically and resolve public health problems.

The Programs are designed for health professionals interested in moving into the public health area, mid-career health professionals seeking advancement in their area of work and for clinicians wishing to broaden their range of expertise and /or move into management.

The Queensland Centre for Public Health provides students with access to staff, expertise and facilities of three metropolitan universities. Students are exposed to a range of public health perspectives through contact with other students from Australia and overseas. The Programs allow the flexibility to choose full-time or part-time attendance mode, and to alter mode mid-course. Where attendance at classes is difficult or geographically impossible, students are able to study through external or flexible delivery. All students have access to a mentor system whereby they can receive individual academic guidance throughout the Program.

The four core subjects of the Program include Epidemiology, Health Care Delivery Systems, Social and Behavioural Determinants of Health and Statistics. Each Consortium member convenes a core subject and has their own statistics requirement.

Students identify their area of public health interest which governs both the choice of electives and the selection of their future dissertation. They then develop a long-term plan that suits their professional commitments and the availability of relevant subjects. Students discuss their plans with the academic staff at the universities before selecting their home university.

MPH CORE COURSES

Introduction to Epidemiology (*University of Queensland*)

This course introduces the basic principles and methods of epidemiology. It is concerned with the identification, control and prevention of ill health in the community. It addresses aspects relating to the collection and interpretation of epidemiological data, issues of major public health importance both within Australia and overseas, and provides students with the essential skills for logical, scientific assessment of the health and medical literature.

Health Care Delivery Systems (*Queensland University of Technology*)

This subject offers an overview of the major components of the Australian health care system and the organisational, social, political and economic context within which it operates. It introduces essential conceptual frameworks which are fundamental to an understanding of the organisation of health care resources and of their outcomes.

Drawing from research, policy and practice, it introduces the guiding concepts of effectiveness, efficiency and equity as analytical tools to understand health care delivery, drawing from a wide range of behavioural and social scientific disciplines. It is concerned with the processes required to coordinate human, physical, economic, financial, and information resources in the health care system.

It is also concerned with the policies through which organisational, managerial and administrative decisions are articulated. It uses international comparisons to illustrate the applicability of the concepts of effectiveness, efficiency and equity. In summary, in this subject, health care delivery is examined from an organisational perspective with a view to its ability to solve existing problems, to prevent future problems and to promote good health.

Social and Behavioural Determinants of Health (*Griffith University*)

The course deals with the body of knowledge applicable to public health provided by the disciplines of social and behavioural science. Social determinants of health are seen as key factors impacting on living and working conditions conducive to health. The subject will offer a comprehensive analysis of lifestyles and living conditions conducive to health.

MPH CORE COURSES

Statistics for Public Health (*Griffith University*)

This course is planned for introduction in 2002 and includes the fundamental principles and practices of statistics. Students explore basic statistical concepts and methods, experience the art of statistical inference, examine the application of statistical techniques in public health, and critique statistical aspects of scientific reports.

Health Statistics (*Queensland University of Technology*)

The content of this unit emphasises both core and health-specific statistical methods in the health sciences. Students will be provided with substantial practical experience in the application and interpretation of the most common statistical methods to health data, and will also be made aware of data management principles in preparation for analysis. Rather than introducing a wide variety of statistical methods, this unit will be aimed at mastery of a few fundamental concepts. There will be a strong emphasis on applying concepts through critical reading and discussion of the literature and worked examples from a range of topic areas.

Introduction to Biostatistics (*University of Queensland*)

To be able to read, interpret the public health literature and to apply research findings in real life situations, an understanding of the basic principles and methodology of biostatistics is necessary. Moreover, to understand the underlying trends or important features of data, biostatistical analytical techniques are invariably required. This subject introduces some of these principles, methodologies and techniques. However, the field of biostatistics is large and rapidly expanding and so this subject is necessarily confined to the more established and commonly used techniques. In particular, the emphasis in this subject will be on reading and interpreting the results of statistical analyses as presented in figures, tables and text. The themes will be descriptive statistics, sampling methods, statistical inference, study design and methods of analysis.

2001 LUNCHTIME SEMINAR SERIES

- Date:** Thursday 15 March 2001 *Attendance: 50*
Speaker: Sophie Dwyer (*MPH 2000 PHA Prize nominee*)
Topic: **Integrating Public Health: models of local practice**
- Date:** Thursday 19 April 2001 *Attendance: 25*
Speaker: Cathy Turner (*PhD*)
Topic: **Mother's Psychosocial Wellbeing: a critical factor to improving childhood vaccination rates**
- Date:** Thursday 17 May 2001 *Attendance: 53*
Speaker: David MacLaren (*MPH 2000 PHA Prize nominee*)
Topic: **Indigenous Health and Health Care: lessons from a traditional Pacific people**
- Date:** Thursday 14 June 2001 *Attendance: 35*
Speaker: Cate Cameron (*MPH 2000 PHA Prize Winner*)
Topic: **Accommodation and Service Provision for People with Acquired Brain Injury: have we got it right?**
- Date:** Thursday 19 July 2001 *Attendance: 25*
Speaker: Lance Le Ray (*MPH*)
Topic: **Economic Evaluation at the Coal face.**
- Date:** Thursday 16 August 2001 *Attendance: 20*
Speaker: Trish Shuter (*M Phil*)
Topic: **Health Promoting Schools: a comprehensive approach**
- Date:** Thursday 20 September 2001 *Attendance: 30*
Speaker: Heather Eastwood (*PhD*)
Topic: **An Australian Overview of the Use of Alternative and Complementary Medicine: research and implications for public health practice and policy**

SEMINAR EVALUATION REPORT

QCPH continuing education activities in 2001 include five major events:

- Monthly Lunchtime Seminar Series
- large audience Seminar following the MPH Orientation
- joint Breakfast Seminar with ACHSE collaboration with Women's Network Queensland Wide
- collaboration with PHA for Seminar following the MPH Information Evening.

Monthly Lunchtime Seminar Series

- 7 seminars held
- 2001 average attendance was 34, this is an increase of 50% when compared with 1999 (average 16) and 2000 (average 17) figures
- there was an average of 71% participant response rate to evaluations
- 80% reported that the relevance of the Seminar content was either very good or excellent
- 76% reported that their level of satisfaction with the event as either very good or excellent.

Large Audience Seminar 22 February 2001

- "Human Genome Project: addressing the public health issues"
- following the MPH Orientation Session
- 220 participants registered, with approximately 180 in attendance
- the Panel consisted of high profile speakers from the area of Genomics, Epidemiology, Ethics, Law and the Chief Medical Officer from MBFfeedback was overwhelmingly positive, indicating the need for future seminars with similar intent and design.

SEMINAR EVALUATION REPORT

Joint evening Seminar with Women's Health Queensland Wide 10 May 2001

- "A Critical Appraisal: Usefulness of Complementary Therapies for Midlife Women"
- attendance 70 health professionals, mainly general practitioners
- issues relating to effectiveness, safety, ethical and legal considerations were covered
- high level of satisfaction reported for content, relevance and usefulness.

Joint breakfast seminar with ACHSE on 13 September 2001

- "Managerial Epidemiology: Evidence Based Management".
- guest speaker, Associate Professor Steven Fleming visiting (QUT) from the University of Kentucky, USA
- attendance 156, evaluation response rate 35%
- high level of satisfaction for content and relevance

QCPH Information Evening and PHA Seminar 7 November 2001

- "The impact of childhood function and lifecourse socio-economic position on late middle age cognitive function" presented by Gavin Turrell was held following MPH Information Evening
- 89% of responses rated the Information Evening as good to very good attendance 30.

QUEENSLAND PUBLIC HEALTH FORUM

The Queensland Public Health Forum (QPHF) is a strategic leadership alliance of 18 organisations with a commitment to improving public health outcomes in Queensland, through a partnering approach.

QCPH representatives on the Forum:

- Associate Professor Peter O' Rourke is a Forum member representing the Universities in Queensland
- Associate Professor Peter O' Rourke is a member of the Social Determinants of Health Working Group
- Associate Professor Don Stewart is a member of the Research Working Group
- Kathleen Lilley is a member of the Communication Working Group

QPHF Achievements/Activities for 2001 included:

- The development and implementation of a Communication Strategy to communicate information that facilitates the achievement of QPHF priorities 2001-2003
- Launch of the QPHF website <http://www.health.qld.gov.au/qphf/>
- Establishment of a QPHF Social Determinants of Health Working Group and the identification of strategies to progress this area
- Establishment of a QPHF Policy on Support or Endorsement of Public Health Plans and Strategies
- Endorsement of the Queensland Tobacco Action Plan 2000/2001 to 2003/2004.
- Endorsement of the Queensland Skin Cancer Prevention Strategy (Queensland 2000/1 to 2004/5)
- Inclusion of QPHF in the Queensland PHERP agreements
- Participation of a QPHF representative on the QCPH Consultative Committee
- QPHF response to the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Strategy Draft for Discussion.

Following extensive consultation with industry groups, professional associations, non-government organisations, community groups and the public sector, in December 2001 the Queensland Public Health Forum released "Eat Well Queensland: Smart Eating for a Healthier State", the draft Queensland public health food and nutrition strategy for discussion and comment.

PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION (QLD) PRIZE

The Public Health Association (PHA) (Qld) has offered a plaque for the *outstanding thesis of the graduating class each year* as part of its continued support of the MPH Program. Each Consortium member nominates a thesis judged by that university as outstanding. A committee of three representatives from the Public Health Association assesses the thesis. It is judged on its potential impact on public health in Queensland, originality and innovation in addressing a public health problem, and overall presentation.

The 1999 and 2000 PHA Dissertation Prizes were awarded at a Seminar hosted by the PHA following 2001 MPH Information Evening. The 1999 Prize was awarded to Louisa Collins (QUT) for her dissertation titled *An Economic Analysis of Cardiac Rehabilitation Programmes in the West Moreton Health District*. The 2000 Prize was awarded to Cate Cameron (UQ) for her dissertation titled *Long Term Care of Younger People with Severe Acquired Brain Injury: Appropriateness of Aged Care Facilities*. Cate presented her research at the June QCPH Lunchtime Seminar Series and has an article published in the Australian and New Zealand Public Health Journal, June 2001.

Award winners since 1993 are:

Jane Paterson (UQ) “ A partial analysis of the Queensland Health and Diet Survey 1998/1999 resulting in an investigation for some Queensland Centres”

Dr Alun Richards (QUT) “ An analysis of the use of MS Contin (Slow-Release Morphine Sulphate), between 1990 and 1993 in Queensland”

Wendy Pilkington (QUT) “ An economic appraisal of the implementation of a proposed policy on childhood immunisation in Queensland”

Barbara Westwood(GU) “ Public Health Reporting and the Media: A Pilot Study”

Nancy Hoyes (QUT) “ The Child Health Service, Youth Health Program: An Evaluation of Clients’ Perspectives of Primary Health Care Services in State Secondary Schools”

Pip Youl (UQ) “ Melanoma in Queensland Adolescents”

Louisa Collins (QUT) “An Economic Analysis of Cardiac Rehabilitation Programmes in the West Moreton Health District”

Cate Cameron (UQ) “ Long Term Care of Younger People with Severe Acquired Brain Injury: Appropriateness of Aged Care Facilities”.

COLLABORATIVE ACTIVITIES & RELATIONSHIPS WITH INDUSTRY

Dr Cordia Chu, Senior Lecturer from Griffith University has had considerable involvement with industry during 2001. Her activities have included:

- Consultant and Research Adviser, All-China Women's Federation and the Ford Foundation
- Consultant, WHO – Office for Western Pacific and Ministry of Health, Vietnam
- Consultant, Research Adviser & Collaborator, The All-China Women's Federation and the Ford Foundation
- Senior Consultant and Project Leader for A Case Study of the Integrated Model for Child and Family Health Services, West Moreton Health District, Queensland Health

Des Connell as a Visiting Professor held two short courses in Asia during 2001

- 'Use of probabilistic risk assessment for evaluation of the effects of contaminants in Hong Kong' at the City University of Hong Kong
- 'Environmental Health Risk Assessment' at Leigang University, Hangzho, China.

Griffith University, School of Public Health has continued to work closely with Local and State Government and other agencies to facilitate the development and implementation of Municipal Public Health Plans, using a *Healthy Cities Framework*. In 2001 Planning Processes were conducted by Senior Lecturer Peter Davey and Associate Lecturer Zoe Murray in Bundaberg City (Councillor Mary Wilkinson and Greg Savage), Kolan Shire (Councillor Jim Mullet and Darryl Brooks), Logan City (Councillor Darren Powers and Gill Mansfield), Hervey Bay City and Maryborough City (Roger Feeley and Jeff Bachi) and Cooloola Shire (Kerry Roulf).

The project has developed partnerships between Local Government and Queensland Health through the work of Robyn Clark (Health Promotion, Central Office), David Logan (Acting Manager Brisbane South Public Health Unit), Mal Price (Regional Manager) and Darren Hauser (Senior Health Promotion Officer Wide Bay Public Health Units). Plans are being implemented at a local level with community and agency input.

Griffith University and Queensland University of Technology are working collaboratively through the QCPH on a *Review of Community Public Health Planning Processes in Queensland*. The Review will identify the common principles and relative strengths and weaknesses of planning models. The project is facilitated by Senior Lecturer Peter Davey (GU), Associate Professor Don Stewart (QUT) and Kathleen Lilley (QCPH) working in partnership through the Centre. Robyn Clark is managing the project from Queensland Health and Helen Spork has been engaged as the Research Officer. The project commenced in December 2001.



STUDENT DISSERTATION

A priority of the Centre is the promotion of research. As part of the requirements for the Master of Public Health Program, students undertake a research dissertation which is intended as a practicum. This is usually undertaken on an individual basis.

The Program expects the level or standard of a MPH dissertation to lie between that of an honours thesis and that of a research master thesis. It is expected that the dissertation will form the basis of a paper publishable in a major public health journal (eg. Australian and New Zealand Journal of Public Health).

Topic and Supervision

Academic staff of the Centre guide students in regard to the appropriateness and development of their Dissertation topic.

The Centre acts as an agency for external service providers seeking assistance with research. There are many projects in the community and within Queensland Health which may be suitable for a dissertation.

Work-place mentors with appropriate qualifications may co-supervise a dissertation. The Centre provides mentor training and academic support for this process.

Dissertation Format

Dissertations may take various forms:

- analysis and interpretation of a pre-existing data set of known good quality
- individual solutions to small-scale practical public health problems identified by the organisation as a key priority area
- development of a detailed research proposal which could include a literature review, critical appraisal and piloting of proposal methodology critical review of an issue of major public health importance.

2001 DISSERTATION SUMMARIES

Candidate: Linda Aun
Supervisors: Sandi Pirozzo, Helen Longbottom

Evaluation of Diabetic Management Strategies in a Primary Health Care Centre

Type 2 diabetes is a major health problem in Australia because of the associated complications and long-term management problems. Strategies to reduce the burden of disease involve early detection and management of risk factors. This study was conducted to assess the adherence to diabetes management guidelines in a general practice in Brisbane. The medical records of 112 type 2 diabetic patients were reviewed. The outcome indicators measured were number of visits, frequency of blood pressure measurements, specific lipid and HbA_{1c} tests requested, and their control status, annual assessment referrals, diabetes treatment prescribed and documentation of diabetes care. The findings indicate that for the majority of the outcome indicators the general practitioners adhered to their current practice guidelines but adherence was less for specific lipid tests. Recommendations made by the researcher include the use of uniform definitions for documenting variables such as exercise and reference range of pathology results and she emphasized the importance of documentation in diabetes care.

Candidate: Robyn Brown
Supervisor: Adele Green

Naevus Prevalence and Associated Factors in Young Brisbane Children

Queensland's population suffers the highest incidence rates of malignant melanoma in the world. The major non-environmental risk factor for melanoma is the development of multiple melanocytic naevi, and childhood exposure to sunlight is thought to be associated with naevus development. This study was conducted to examine the relationship between the number and size of melanocytic naevi and factors such as phenotype, sunlight exposure, and levels of solar protection. One hundred and ninety children aged from 1 to 3 years were selected from nine Brisbane childcare centres for the purpose of this study. Data were collected on child's phenotype and naevus prevalence by clinical examination, and on sunlight exposure and protection measures whilst at childcare. The results suggest that the development of naevi on the skin of very young Caucasian children is, like other age groups, influenced by phenotypic characteristics and modified by exposure to sunlight.

Candidate: Sithara Chuchotesakulwong,
Supervisors: Rod McClure, Peter O' Rourke

The Incidence and Distribution of Serious Motor Vehicle-Related Injury in Brisbane

The information available on the incidence of hospitalised injuries and the spectrum of injuries that are sustained by the various road user groups are fairly limited. This study aims at describing the nature and extent of the car and motor cycle-related injury in Brisbane. Four sources of data were used: the Queensland Trauma Registry (QTR), the Australian Transport and Safety Bureau, Queensland Transport and 1996 Population Census Data from ABS. Results showed that, in 1998, in Greater Brisbane, 978 people were hospitalised with car and motor cycle-related injuries. Motor cycle-related injuries constituted a disproportionately major component of the problem. This information may be used as a basis for planning and provision of emergency medical services and acute care of patients. The author emphasized on the need for further exploration of the strategies to prevent and more effectively manage motor vehicle-related injury in Australia. Extrapolation of these findings may encourage such preventive activity in other countries (for example Thailand) where motor cycle use is proportionately much higher than in Brisbane.

Candidate: Diane Cowley
Supervisor: Elizabeth Parker

A Public Health Care Approach to Hypertension: 24 Hour and Home Blood Pressure Monitoring in the Community.

A survey was mailed to three groups: patients, general practitioner (GP) and local medical officers (LMO), to determine whether community 24 hour ambulatory blood pressure monitoring (ABPM), home blood pressure monitoring and education in non-pharmacological treatments for hypertension would be considered a useful addition in the management of hypertension in the community by patients and General Practitioners. The survey questions attempted to determine the potential utilisation of community ambulatory blood pressure monitoring, home blood pressure and non-pharmacological education services. Most GP's and more than half of the LMO's were aware of the current hospital ABPM service and nearly all would use a community service if the service was available. Both patients and GP's would prefer to maintain a Primary Health Care approach. It is recommended that the Queensland Health Department develop and implement a community Hypertension Primary Health Care Model.

Candidate: Elizabeth Craig
Supervisor: Chris Bain

Growing to Term: The Determinants of Low Birth Weight Among Indigenous Babies in an Urban Queensland Community

This hospital records based study examined risk factors for low birth weight (<2500g), preterm birth (<37 weeks gestation) and intrauterine growth retardation (< 10th percentile for gestational age) among 672 infants born to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander mothers at Brisbane's two largest obstetric units in mid-1999. For this population the rate of low birth weight was 9.6% and while there was no difference in rates of preterm birth, rates of low birth weight were 10% below and rates of IUGR 20% below national Indigenous averages. While the major determinants of IUGR were socioeconomic (eg. employment, education), the major determinants of prematurity were obstetric (eg. premature membrane-rupture, pregnancy induced hypertension). Maternal education was the single most important predictor of smoking, alcohol consumption and recreational drug use, with rates declining dramatically as educational attainment rose. Thus the author concludes that socioeconomic factors and maternal smoking are the most important factors contributing to birth outcome in Brisbane's Indigenous community.

Candidate: Margaret Hogan
Supervisor: Nick Lennox

The Health of Children Attending Special Schools in the Gold Coast District, as Perceived by their Parents and Teachers

Children attending special schools have been identified as having unrecognised health problems and unmet health needs. This study was undertaken in 1999 to identify the health needs of the 262 children attending three special schools on the Gold Coast. The instrument used to collect data was the Child Health Questionnaire, PF50, a parent/proxy report that was developed in the United States and recently adapted for Australian use. Results showed that in all but one of the CHQ PF50 scales, parents/carers perceived their children's health status to be lower than that of the Australian normative data. Teaching staff expressed confidence in dealing with students with a wide range of conditions but expressed concern about basic health issues such as hygiene and nutrition. They identified access to a nurse and written material as the resources that would assist in the management of children in their care. The author suggests that the findings of this study can be used as a basis for planning more appropriate preventive and support programmes for the students, teachers and parents/carers.

Candidate: Stephen Lambert
Supervisor: John Hay, Ken Clare

An Evaluation of the Prescribers' Course in HIV Medicine Offered by the HIV/AIDS Education Program of the Queensland Medical Education Centre

The *Prescribers' Course in HIV Medicine* provides training to medical practitioners who wish to become accredited to prescribe HIV antiretroviral therapies in Queensland. The course was developed in 1998 and till November 2000 seventy-five medical practitioners completed the course and 30 of them had successfully passed the assessment. This study evaluated the effects of participation in, and successful completion of the course on the management and treatment of HIV. Three evaluation tools were used: a survey of the medical practitioners who had completed the course; a peer review of the course; and an analysis of the existing evaluation data. The results showed that the content of the course was of an acceptable standard but areas for improvement included detailed pharmacology and renewing outdated information. The results further showed that, overall, the assessment was rigorous and at an appropriate level for the purpose of the course. The author concludes that although improvements are warranted, the course offers a strong and a solid foundation from which a course can be developed that is of the highest standard.

Candidate: Shareen Lata
Supervisor: Helen Longbottom

Reproductive Health Needs Assessment for Adolescent Women in Samoa

Reproductive health of adolescent women has an impact upon their health outcomes. Unplanned pregnancy may impede education and have emotional, social, and financial implications. Unprotected sex exposes women to the risk of sexually transmitted infections. This study aimed at describing the reproductive health information and service needs of adolescent women in Samoa. Both qualitative and quantitative research methods were used to collect data. Results showed that adolescent women did not have adequate or appropriate reproductive health education. Their understanding of sexually transmitted diseases, their mode of transmission and symptoms was fairly limited and only about one-third of the sexually active adolescent women were condom users. The author identified access to information and sex education as being the primary needs for the adolescent women in Samoa. She recommends that increasing knowledge through education may require inclusion of biological and psychological aspects of reproductive health in the school curricula.

Candidate: Sharni Lavell
Supervisor: Michael Dunn

A descriptive-exploratory study of client satisfaction with the pregnancy counselling service at the Brisbane clinic of Family Planning Queensland (FPQ)

A descriptive-exploratory research project was undertaken to identify the satisfaction levels of clients who are accessing the pregnancy counselling service offered by the Brisbane Clinic of Family Planning Queensland (FPQ). A convenience sample of 39 women attending the Brisbane Clinic of FPQ was recruited for the study over a period of three months. Participants provided data through a self-administered anonymous and confidential questionnaire following their clinic visit. Data were analysed at two levels with the presentation of descriptive statistics and the analyses of bivariate associations. Results indicate that in general the majority of participants are satisfied with the pregnancy counselling service provided by the Brisbane clinic of FPQ and are receiving the services and information they require.

Candidate: Lance Le Ray
Supervisor : Don Stewart

Economic Analysis of the "Lung Health" Program

A Comparative Costing analysis was conducted, comparing the cost of managing a cohort of patients with Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease in 1999 with that of a similar cohort in 2000, after the implementation of the "Lung Health" program, a comprehensive pulmonary outreach and rehabilitation program at Ipswich Hospital. Comparison was made between the two cohorts on the basis of the cost of providing symptomatic management to each cohort during the study period. Given the costs that were measured in this study, the total cost of the cohort managed via the "Lung Health" program was lower than the traditional management from the Ipswich Hospital perspective.

Candidate: Elaine Lynch
Supervisor: Chris Bain

Risk Factors Associated with Vancomycin-Resistant Enterococcus Colonisation

In Australia, emergent strains of Methicillin resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA) resulted in increased usage of vancomycin. Since the discovery of vancomycin resistant Enterococci (VRE) the threat of nosocomial infections, resistant to most antibiotic therapy, in the compromised patients has become a problem. This study examined the two VRE outbreaks in a Brisbane adult hospital in order to identify risk factors associated with the outbreaks. The method employed was review of charts of the known VRE colonised patients. Results showed that the risk factors for VRE colonisation were: old age with longer periods of hospitalisation, serious acute illness with serious underlying illness, proximity to another VRE case and antibiotic therapy.

Candidate: Allison Mackie
Supervisor: Peter O' Rourke

Factors Associated with Adherence of People Living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA) to Combination Antiretroviral Therapy

Non-adherence to combination antiretroviral therapy (CAT) among people living with HIV/AIDS presents a significant public health problem. This study measured the extent of adherence to CAT and identified factors associated with adherence in a sample of people living with HIV/AIDS at the Royal Brisbane Hospital (RBH) and AIDS Medical Unit (AMU). A sample of 73 patients from RBH & AMU participated in the study and self-administered questionnaires were used to collect data. Results showed that only 55% of participants were 100% adherent and 92% were >95% adherent to their prescribed antiretroviral therapy in the past month. Participants taking antiretroviral therapy for >2 years, who used a pill box to store their medication or were a patient of the RBH were more likely to be non-adherent. The author proposes a multidisciplinary model of care to promote adherence to CAT. Negotiation of a case manager, treatment goals and treatment plan have also been recommended to support the patient throughout the treatment experience.

Candidate: Damhnat McCann
Supervisors: Helen Longbottom, Michael Nissen

A Description of the Home Based Treatment and Characteristics of Children Presenting to Hospital with Acute Gastroenteritis

Acute gastroenteritis causes significant morbidity in Australian children aged less than five years causing a large number of hospital admissions. The majority of these hospital admissions can be avoided through appropriate home care. This cross-sectional survey conducted at the Royal Children's Hospital aimed at describing the home based treatment received by the children who presented at the hospital with acute gastroenteritis. Results showed that ORS was poorly utilised in the home based management. Inadequate and at times inaccurate information regarding fluid rehydration was given to caregivers, particularly by general practitioners. Education programs for both general practitioners and caregivers with the aim of increasing ORS usage have been recommended. Improved infection control is one of the means of reducing the spread of infection among children attending childcare centres. The author concludes stating that children at child care centres may be an appropriate target group for rotavirus vaccination when it becomes available.

Candidate: Annette Neill
Supervisors: Penny Webb, Brad McCall

A Study of the Epidemiology of and Potential Risk Factors for Meningococcal Disease in the Southern Public Health Unit Network, Queensland, 1998

Meningococcal disease is a serious infection and industrialised countries are experiencing an increase in both sporadic disease and outbreaks. This study aimed at describing the epidemiology of, and potential risk factors for invasive meningococcal disease in the Southern Public Health Unit Network (SPHUN) of Queensland. Questionnaires were used to collect data for the study. Results showed that the Southern Public Health Unit Network experienced a higher notification rate of meningococcal disease than the rest of Queensland in 1998. The burden of disease in SPHUN continues to demand considerable time and resources by public health professionals. Increased awareness is needed by general practitioners on the importance of administering intravenous antibiotics as soon as a case is suspected. The public health measures to warn of the risk to children exposed to tobacco smoke, and continuing efforts to improve socioeconomic status in the community, may assist in the control of this disease.

Candidate: Riana Nugrahani
Supervisors: Rod McClure, Peter O' Rourke

Falls Injury in Children Aged 0-14 Years

Among Australian children 0-14 years of age, injury is responsible for more deaths than any other condition, with falls being second to motor vehicles in the ranking of contributory causes. The study aimed at describing the frequency, distribution and determinants of falls-related injury in children aged 0-14 years and quantifying the characteristics of falls events which increase a child's chance of sustaining a severe injury. Data for this study were collected from the Queensland Injury Surveillance Unit. Analysis of the data demonstrated the large burden of falls injury in children, and provided considerable insight into the nature of the injury events responsible for the problem. The author suggests that the prevention of childhood falls injuries in the community could be encouraged by sustaining an evidence-based public policy. This would entail improving the provision of data at local levels to community intervention programs and establishing centralized data interpretation to support the government to decision-making capacity.

Candidate: S Petrony
Supervisors: Chris Bain, J Shelley

Management of First Trimester Pregnancy Loss in Victorian Public Hospitals

This survey was carried out at the public hospitals in Victoria in order to explore the comparative safety and efficacy of surgical and other methods in the management of first trimester pregnancy loss. Data were collected from the women who had experienced first trimester pregnancy loss in 1997 and attended one of the public hospitals in the State. Results showed that all the hospitals surveyed had the facilities for surgical evacuation and the majority of women attending these hospitals were treated surgically. Medical evacuation was available in 15% of the hospitals and only a small proportion of women were treated with this method. Expectant management was an option available to women in 70% of the hospitals, but was only used to treat a minority of women. As acute hospitals have policies that encourage short-stay and day surgery, the author raised questions about their suitability as providers of expectant management or medical evacuation. She concludes making some recommendations which include adequate training facilities for health workers; clear protocols; and adequate information and support for the women.

Candidate: Victoria Plows
Supervisor: Don Stewart

A study on the Health and Social Support for Filipino Migrants with Teenage Children in South East Queensland

The study is about determining whether the health and social support given by the government is appropriate to the culture of Filipino migrants with teenage children. To achieve the goals a review and analysis of literature was done. A qualitative approach involving in-depth interviews on a non-random sample of fifteen Filipino families having teenage children in Brisbane was conducted. The data was analysed, then conclusion drawn after verification. The study found that families who have relatives in Australia did not have problems accessing support services and stressed the importance of Filipino values compared to those without relatives. Also, Filipino teenage migrants who arrived in Australia after they were 12 years old, with a mixed family environment, encounter more problems than those arriving before 12 years old.

Candidate: Hilda Polome
Supervisor: Marie Louise Dick

Haemophilus Influenzae Type B Meningitis in Greater Brisbane Area: 1988-1998

Invasive Haemophilus influenzae type b (Hib) is an important public health issue resulting in about 250,000 deaths each year. The disease is preventable through vaccination. In Australia, Haemophilus influenzae conjugate vaccines (HCV) were introduced into the immunisation program in 1993. This study reviewed the admissions due to Hib meningitis at the Royal and Mater Children's Hospital from July 1988 to June 1998 to assess the impact of the vaccines. Results showed that the vaccines not only reduced the incidence of Hib meningitis but also markedly decreased the rate of the sequelae of the disease as well as antibiotic resistance to amoxycillin. The vaccines had an efficacy rate of about 80%. The author concludes that other countries may also benefit from introduction of Haemophilus influenzae conjugate vaccines (HCV) into their immunisation programs.

Candidate: Kelly Shaw
Supervisors: Peter O' Rourke, Geoff Mitchell, Natasha Posner

Diagnosis and Management of Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD): The General Practitioners' View

This study aimed at assessing the general practitioner's (GPs) understanding of, and their role in the management of Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD); their understanding of ADHD current practice, referral behaviour; and needs for information and training to enhance their role. Data were collected from 399 GPs practising in Queensland. Results showed that the GPs identified their role to be provisionally diagnosing ADHD, then referring to specialist to confirm the diagnosis and initiate management; assisting with monitoring progress; educating child and family regarding the disorder; and liaising with the school where necessary. Perceived barriers to increased GP involvement were: the time and resource constraints; concerns regarding abuse and addiction liability of prescription stimulants; the complex diagnostic issues involved in childhood behavioural problems; and, lack of training and education regarding ADHD. Given the rapidly increasing demand for ADHD services, the author suggests that, it is important to identify a service model that would facilitate effective GP involvement in ADHD care.

Candidate: Katrina Smith
Supervisor: Eberhard Wenzel

The effects of economic globalisation on health

Economic globalisation is one of the most important phenomena to arise in recent decades. This dissertation examines the effects of economic globalisation's worldwide impact on health, by a broad analysis of the development of free markets, and the discourse of capitalism. The contribution of economic globalisation to current environmental health, economic and social problems is also assessed.

The major findings of this research include the results of an analysis of divergent writers' perspectives about economic globalisation, and implications for public health policy formation. Writer's perspectives ranged from beliefs that economic globalisation is positive, to perceptions that it contributes to major problems, even leading to the probable extinction of life on this planet. This analysis found that the latter beliefs are most likely to offer a blueprint for the future, but social, environmental and economic problems will have to become much worse before serious change is considered.

Writer's suggested solutions for these problems are extremely divergent. Many, though, discussed inequities within societies as causing a number of social and public health problems. Accordingly, it is suggested that public health workers focus on inequities as 'common ground,' and that they gain skills in policy development. Other solutions, such as ecologically oriented taxation are also discussed.

Candidate: Mei Tang
Supervisor: Shilu Tong

Ross River Virus Infections in Queensland between 1984 and 1996

This study aims to investigate the features of notified Ross River Virus (RRV) infections in Queensland between 1984 and 1996, since Queensland is often described as having the greatest endemic activity of RRV in Australia. There were totally 23,438 notifications in Queensland from 1984 to 1996. Here, the distribution and incidence rates of the RRV infections by age and sex were investigated; the distribution of RRV infections among Coastal and Inland districts and the different regions of Queensland (Northern, Central & Southern) were also discussed; and the seasonal distribution of RRV infections was examined, too.

Candidate: Hiranthi Walpola
Supervisor: Chris Bain

Are Current Strategies of Tuberculosis Control Adequate to Meet the Challenge of Human Immunodeficiency Virus Coinfection?

This study is a systematic review of the published literature which aims at examining the effects of HIV infection on the epidemiology and control of tuberculosis (TB). Based on the findings of the review the author has made several recommendations for control of tuberculosis in this HIV era which include: enhanced partnerships for technical and financial assistance to low income countries with high HIV prevalence, augmentation of DOTS strategy with regard to case finding, management of smear negative disease and multi-drug resistant tuberculosis. In Australia, the author suggests, the most appropriate measures should include better surveillance of HIV and tuberculosis as well as co-infection; improved diagnostic practices and preventive therapy as well as improvement of migration screening strategies, risk group management and infection control.



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QUEENSLAND CENTRE FOR PUBLIC HEALTH

Consolidated Income and Expenditure Statement for 1 Jan. 2001 - 31 Dec. 2001

	Griffith University	Queensland University of Technology	University of Queensland	Centre Non- PHERP	Qld. Centre for Public Health Total
INCOME	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
carried forward [see notes 1 re UQ, 2 re QUT, & 3 re QCPH]	-42,818.54	0	93,976.07	49,174.28	100,331.81
PHERP funding [see note 4 re GU]	101,172.16	127,006.08	221,042.00		449,220.24
Qld Health				52,287.00	52,287.00
Other [see note 5 re GU]	52,000.00				
Total Income	\$110,353.62	\$127,006.08	\$315,018.07	\$101,461.28	\$601,839.05
EXPENDITURE	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Salaries					
Academic salaries	120,553.58	71,743.19	121,545.24		313,842.01
Administrative salaries		17,654.35	91,910.40	78,087.68	187,652.43
Sub Total 1	120,553.58	89,397.54	213,455.64	78,087.68	501,494.44
Administration					
Catering				482.42	482.42
Misc. expenses [see note 6 re QCPH]	32.42	4,199.59	5,842.80	10,096.78	20,171.59
Stationery/photocopying		4,942.61			4,942.61
Travel expenses	320.20	2,307.91	1,136.11	1260.89	5,025.11
Sub Total 2	352.62	11,450.11	6,978.91	11,840.09	30,621.73
Furniture & Equipment					
Furniture					
Equipment					
Maintenance costs					
Sub Total 3	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total Expenditure	\$120,906.20	\$100,847.65	\$220,434.55	\$89,927.77	\$532,116.17
NET SURPLUS/ (DEFICIT)	-\$10,552.58	\$26,158.43	\$94,583.52	\$11,533.51	\$121,722.88

Notes -

1. Surplus funds at the end of 2000 showed \$124,089.06 against UQ. This included funds for GU of \$18,477.16 & QUT of \$11,635.83 not transferred before 3.12.00. Carry-forward amount for use by UQ in 2001 = \$93,976.07 as shown
2. QUT was of the view that the signing of a new PHERP agreement covering 2001-2005 represented a separate financial commitment and thus have reported solely on the new grant funds in their statement.
3. This includes \$36,262.28 from Qld Health & \$12,912 from other sources.
4. Nov & Dec payments to GU processed in 2001 are included: \$18,477.16
5. School of Public Health special funding contribution towards offsetting previous deficit QCPH expenditure includes certain additional salary payments.

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