

BOARD MEETING: 12 NOVEMBER 2007

AGENDA ITEM 2: DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Governance

- MCHP Board second meeting 23 July 2007 (Minutes attached)
- Menzies Fellow appointment, Dr Lesley Russell, approved by MCHP Board 23 July 2007

Research-Serious and Continuing Illness Policy and Practice Study (SCIPPS)

Report from the facilitator is in train which will assist with the planning for the next 6 months.

Other Research Activities

- **New Website Provides Information and Opinions on Health Policy Issues**

The Menzies Centre for Health Policy has established a website to provide information and opinions about current issues in health policy. In the lead-up to the 2007 election, the website also has information about health-related election commitments from the major political parties. The website is at <http://www.ahpi.health.usyd.edu.au/Menzies/hifs.php>

Election material is updated every few days and new policy material is added regularly. It is hoped that, over time, the website will become a valuable source of information and insights on health issues that will be consulted by policy makers, media and researchers.

Publications

- Stephen R Leeder, Susan U Raymond and Henry M Greenberg, The need for leadership in global health, *eMJA Rapid Online Publication*, 22 October 2007
- Lesley Russell and Stephen R Leeder, The Bettering the Evaluation and Care of Health (BEACH) program may be left high and dry, *MJA* 2007; 187 (8): 429-430
- Jennifer Smith Merry, James Gillespie and Stephen Leeder, A pathway to a stronger research culture in health policy, *Australia and New Zealand Health Policy*, 4:19, October 2007.(online).
- Thinking Outside the Poverty Square: the Millenium Village project, *Australian Medicine*, Vol 19.19, 15 October 2007
- Have We Created an Emergency in the ED?, *Australian Medicine*, Vol 19.16, 3 September 2007
- Leeder S, Thow AM, The Right to the Right Healthcare, *Australian Association of Developmental Disability Medicine Inc. Newsletter*, Issue 4, July 2007
- Robert Beaglehole, DSc, FRSNZ; Srinath Reddy, MD, DM; Stephen R. Leeder, MD, PhD, Poverty and Human Development - The Global Implications of Cardiovascular Disease, *Circulation*, 2007; 116; 1871-1873
- Lesley Russell Election 2007: The health workforce, *Australian Review of Public Affairs*, September 2007
- Bruce Armstrong, James Gillespie, Stephen Leeder, George Rubin, Lesley Russell, Challenges in health and health care for Australia, *MJA* 2007; 187(9): 485-489.



Submissions

In September the Federal ALP Health and Hospitals Advisory Group requested submissions that might help to:

- reduce avoidable hospitalisations and readmissions to hospital;
- reduce non-urgent accident and emergency presentations;
- reduce waiting times for those people who require essential hospital services such as elective surgery; and
- provide more appropriate non-acute care for older Australians.

The MCHP provided a submission with information in four broad categories relevant to the issues listed above.

1. Integrated care for older patients with complex care needs;
2. Home based care for patients with chronic illness after hospital discharge to prevent readmission;
3. Hospital in the home; and
4. Reducing the pressure on Emergency Departments.

Conferences/Presentations

Summary and the Way Forward, presentation at *Climate change and rural health, the challenge of climate change for health in rural and regional Victoria*, presented by the Climate Adaptation Science and Policy Initiative (CASPI) and the Menzies Foundation, 22 August, The University of Melbourne.

Media/ public engagement

- It's an emergency!, *On Line Opinion*, 3 October 2007
- Resource allocation at the root of prevailing inefficiency. *The Australian*, 8 September 2007
- Extended Interview, *The 7.30 Report*, 8 August 2007.
- Obesity no less a health priority than asthma or diabetes, *The Australian*, 7 July 2007.
- Diabetes demands proactive approach, *The Canberra Times*, 13 August 2007
- What are Howard's plans for hospitals?, *The Canberra Times*, 7 August 2007
- There's no room for complacency when dealing with disease, *The Age*, 6 August 2007
- Contrast is clear in health policies, *The Canberra Times*, 27 August 2007
- Critical eye on bird flu threat, *The Canberra Times*, 26 September 2007
- Home visits are not the cure for aged care, *The Canberra Times*, 2 November 2007
- Regular articles in crikey.com.au

Education

- Teaching contributions to:
- HPOL5002 Contemporary Issues in health policy Workshop 1: Writing a policy
- HPOL5003 Analysing health policy, Module 2: Politics and Policy
- Delegation of Indian health officials, July 2007: Introduction to the Australian health system.
- Delegation of Malaysian health officials, September 2007: Introduction to the Australian Health System in association with the ANU Crawford School of Government and Economics.



Events

- *Menzies Annual Health Policy Oration*

Monday, 17 September 2007, University of Sydney

Topic: Re-thinking the blame game: liberty, personal responsibility, and the challenge of “lifestyle diseases”

Speaker: Associate Professor Roger Magnussen, Associate Dean, Faculty of Law, University of Sydney

- *Emerging Policy Research Annual Conference*

Friday, 12 October 2007, Australian National University

The conference showcased the work in progress of current doctoral and post-doctoral researchers. Researchers working in all areas of health policy — including international health, health systems, history of public health, indigenous health, health economics and health promotion — were asked to submit an abstract.

Commenced planning for:

- *Conference of the Forum of Federations*

Tentative Dates: Monday, 7th and Tuesday, 8th April 2008

University of Sydney

We have been approached The Forum of Federations and South Australian Department of the Premier and Cabinet to co-host a conference on how Australia can best design and implement health policy.

The Forum is an international organisation based in Canada. Its purpose is to bring together practitioners and scholars of federal systems of government. Australia is one of 8 government partners of the Forum. Australia is represented by the Council of Australian Governments Senior Officials.

- Delegation of Chinese provincial health ministers to discuss rural health policy, 16 November 2007.

