



National Multidisciplinary Primary Care Research, Policy and Advocacy Consortium Newsletter April 2026



Dear Consortium members,

Last month, members of our Consortium were invited to attend the National Primary Care Conference convened by the Australian Government Department of Health, Disability and Ageing in Canberra. I was joined at the conference by four of the heads of our five research centres, Associate Professor Margo Barr, and four of the MRFF-funded research fellows.

We were invited to host a workshop at the Conference on new models of multidisciplinary team-based primary care. The workshop was attended by more than 80 participants and highlighted a clear appetite for strengthening multidisciplinary team approaches in primary care. It was encouraging to see how there are growing opportunities to work together to further strengthen access to high-quality, integrated primary care across Australia, and to proactively address challenges. Attendees emphasised the need to deepen engagement with primary care stakeholders and ensure their input informs our ongoing research activity.

The workshop also highlighted strong interest from the nation's Primary Health Networks in continuing to strengthen collaboration with academic partners, including through our Consortium. We will invite all Primary Health Networks to participate in our Consortium's Strategic Think Tank being held in Wollongong on Wednesday, 22 July 2026.

Our Consortium's Strategic Consumer and Community Group has now been launched. Following expressions of interest sent out early this year, seven consumers have been selected by the Consumers Health Forum of Australia to join the group. At the first meeting of this group, there was keen engagement from members and an eagerness to get involved with the work of our Consortium. Following the Strategic Think Tank in July, members of this group will be holding a training workshop on co-design with our research fellows.

Finally, you will have noted our Consortium logo at the top of this page. This has been developed to reflect who we are as a national, multidisciplinary primary care research community. The branding draws on Australia's natural colour palette, incorporating tones of green and brown to represent the landscapes, communities, and diversity that connect our work across this country. It also helps to signal both our shared purpose and our growing reach, bringing together over 100 primary care clinician researchers, with national peak bodies, consumers, and other partners, all committed to strengthening Australian primary care through research collaboration.



Our Consortium website is planned to go live in June, providing a central hub for our research activities and opportunities for additional interested researchers to engage with our work.

Best wishes,

Professor Michael Kidd AO

Register now! 2026 Strategic Think Tank Wednesday 22 July

The 2026 Consortium Strategic Think Tank will take place on Wednesday 22 July 2026. We hope that all Chief Investigators and Associate Investigators, and representatives of peak professional and consumer organisations, can join us at the University of Wollongong on the day. Click [here](#) to register now.

Research Theme Groups

Just a reminder that each Research Theme is being led by the following research Centres with the relevant contact point set out below. These groups are just for this year and are designed to help inform the Consortium literature reviews which are being conducted by the research fellows.

Theme	Centre	Contact
Theme 1: What MDT-based primary care models optimise health outcomes, workforce satisfaction and experience of care?	CRESTRA	Ashmita Karki - ashmita.karki@menzies.edu.au
Theme 2: What are the key components of high quality comprehensive, accessible and equitable MDT-based primary care?	PROACT	Dr Catherine Stephen - cstephen@uow.edu.au
Theme 3: What outcome measures can be used to compare the effectiveness of different models?	ARIIA	Dr Jodie Hillen - jodie.hillen@flinders.edu.au
Theme 4: What is the cost effectiveness, feasibility, scalability, acceptability and sustainability of different models of MDT-based care across primary care settings?	MAMP	Dr Sandra Davidson - sdav@unimelb.edu.au



Theme 5: What is the best approach to implementing the key components of models of care in different settings?	SPHERE	Dr Sharon James - sharon.james@monash.edu.au
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Consortium Knowledge Bank

The Consortium Operations Team is establishing a Knowledge Bank to be a central repository of research on multidisciplinary team based primary care. This Knowledge Bank will be searchable via AI tools and will cover the five research teams. We encourage every Chief Investigator and Associate Investigator to showcase your preeminent or most relevant examples of research on models of multidisciplinary team-based primary care. Send a link or a pdf version to elizabeth.byrne@unsw.edu.au