



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

Dear Consortium members,

I recently had the opportunity to visit Dr Jodie Hillen, our Research Fellow based at ARIIA. Jodie is currently leading the literature review for Research Theme 3, a key component of the Consortium's work. It was wonderful to see where Jodie is working, meet members of her team, and learn more about the innovative work being undertaken at ARIIA. I was in South Australia for my father's 100th birthday celebration, which provided the perfect opportunity to catch up in person while I was there. While we regularly connect online, there is something particularly valuable about sitting down face-to-face to discuss how things are progressing, both professionally and personally. During the visit, I also had the opportunity to meet with Consortium member Stacey George, Professor of Healthy Ageing, Support and Care, who holds a conjoint position between the Adelaide Primary Health Network and Flinders University. Our conversation reinforced the importance of bringing together researchers, health service organisations and policymakers to ensure that our work remains relevant, practical and focused on improving primary care outcomes. The visit was a valuable opportunity to strengthen relationships, gain a deeper understanding of the local context, and reflect on the collaborative spirit that underpins the Multidisciplinary Primary Care Consortium. I left encouraged by the excellent progress being made and excited about the opportunities ahead as we continue to build a strong evidence base for multidisciplinary primary care.



Planning is underway for the second annual Consortium Think Tank. I am pleased to announce that Professor Jennifer DeVoe from the Oregon Health & Science University will be giving a keynote at the Think Tank. Professor DeVoe will be speaking on "Building the Evidence to Advocate for a Multidisciplinary Care Team That Meets the Needs of the Population Being Served". We are also pleased that First Assistant Secretary, Primary Care Division Mark Roddam from the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing will be joining us for the day and updating members on the progress of national primary health reforms. The Strategic Think Tank also provides the opportunity for the Consortium to engage more closely with the Primary Health Networks. Richard Nankervis will be speaking on behalf of the Primary Health Network Cooperative on how the Consortium can continue to engage with PHNs. I look forward to seeing you all in Wollongong next month.

Best wishes,

Associate Professor Margo Barr



Register now! 2026 Strategic Think Tank Wednesday 22 July

The 2026 Consortium Strategic Think Tank will take place on Wednesday 22 July 2026 at the Innovation Campus at Wollongong University. 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.

If you have not already done so, please click [here](#) to register now.

Strategic Think Tank Program:	Speaker
22 July 2026 - Ocean Room, Innovation Campus, Wollongong University, Wollongong	
8:45 AM – 9:00 AM Registration	
9:00 AM – 9:20 AM Welcome Welcome to Country Dr Aunty Joyce Donovan Dharawal Elder	Liz Byrne <i>Consortium Communications Lead</i> Professor Michael Kidd AO <i>Consortium Lead Chief Investigator</i>
9:20 AM – 9:45 AM Keynote address <i>"Building the Evidence to Advocate for a Multidisciplinary Care Team That Meets the Needs of the Population Being Served"</i>	Professor Jennifer DeVoe Oregon Health & Science University
9:45 AM – 10:10 AM Progress of national primary care reforms	Mark Roddam First Assistant Secretary – Primary Care Division Primary and Community Care Group Australian Government Department of Health, Disability and Ageing
10:10 AM – 10:35 AM Working with the Primary Health Network Cooperative	Richard Nankervis CEO, Hunter New England and Central Coast Primary Health Network
10:35 AM – 11 AM Coffee break & group photo	
11 AM – 12 PM Research theme literature reviews & Consortium Knowledge Bank	Dr Sharon James, Dr Jodie Hillen, Ashmita Karki, Dr Catherine Stephen, Dr Sandra Davidson Consortium Research Fellows Associate Professor Margo Barr International Centre for Future Health Systems UNSW
12 PM – 1 PM Strategic panel	Professor Grant Russell Monash University Strategic Primary Care Research Group Chair Rebecca Sedgman Senior Policy Advisor, Australian College of Nurse Practitioners Strategic Primary Care Peaks Group Chair Members of the Strategic Consumer and Community Group Associate Professor Tracey Laba Principal Research Scientist Primary Care Division The Department of Health, Disability & Ageing
1 PM – 2 PM Lunch & informal networking	
2 PM – 3.15 PM Research theme discussions & future direction	Professor Lena Sancí University of Melbourne Professor Danielle Mazza AM Monash University
3:15 PM – 3:30 PM Closing remarks & commitments	Professor Michael Kidd AO <i>Consortium Lead Chief Investigator</i>



Help Us Grow the Consortium Through Affiliate Membership

The Consortium is introducing Affiliate Membership as a new way to expand our network and strengthen collaboration across research, policy and practice. Affiliate Membership provides a flexible pathway for individual researchers, clinicians, policymakers and organisations to engage with the Consortium and contribute to our shared goals. Affiliates can participate in research theme groups, attend Consortium events and workshops, contribute to publications and funding proposals, and engage in knowledge exchange activities. While affiliates do not hold governance roles or make financial commitments, they play an important role in broadening the expertise and perspectives within the Consortium.

As existing members, we encourage you to identify and promote Affiliate Membership to colleagues, collaborators and organisations who may be interested in contributing to the Consortium's work. Potential affiliates are invited to submit a short Expression of Interest outlining their expertise, alignment with Consortium priorities, and intended contribution. By welcoming affiliate members, we can expand our reach, strengthen multidisciplinary collaboration, and build new partnerships that enhance the impact of our research, policy and advocacy activities.

Further information about the Affiliate Membership process and eligibility criteria is available from the Consortium team. Please also see the link to EOI application and enquiry online form:

[Information and Affiliate member enquiry](#)

Suggested email if you want to send out an invite to someone you think is interested:

SUBJECT: Multidisciplinary Primary Care Consortium Information and Affiliate Membership enquiry

Dear,

Thank you for your interest in finding out more about and potentially becoming an Affiliate member/organisation of the MRFF funded Multidisciplinary Primary Care Consortium.

Affiliate membership within the Multidisciplinary Primary Care Consortium provides a flexible mechanism for both individual investigators and organisations to formally engage with the Consortium without assuming the full obligations of a Chief Investigator or an Associate Investigator or Partner organisation.

Becoming an Affiliate member includes contributing to research activities, collaborations, and knowledge exchange, and benefiting from access to networks, events, and shared outputs. Affiliate members or organisations will not hold governance roles or make financial commitments on behalf of the Consortium.

As an Affiliate member/organisation you will be:

- *added to newsletters and communication mailing list*
- *added to Consortium membership list*
- *able to join research theme groups*
- *invited to Consortium events and workshops*
- *able to contribute to publications or funding proposals (as appropriate)*

If you are interested in finding out more and/or becoming an affiliate member please complete the following survey link: [Information and Affiliate member enquiry](#).



AI-Enhanced Knowledge Bank for Multidisciplinary Primary Care

We are continuing to populate the AI-enhanced Knowledge Bank with key documents that Consortium members think are important. Thanks to the Consortium members who have already contributed key research papers.

By combining AI-enabled evidence synthesis with the expertise of researchers, clinicians and policy partners, the Knowledge Bank aims to support evidence-informed decision-making and strengthen the translation of research into improved primary care practice.

Early analysis has identified priority themes including care coordination and integration, equity and access, healthcare system change, and economic evaluation.

We encourage all Consortium researchers to submit their most influential and relevant publications to ensure the Knowledge Bank reflects the breadth and depth of multidisciplinary primary care research. Send a link or a pdf version to elizabeth.byrne@unsw.edu.au