Strengthening Australia’s Generalist Primary Care Workforce

Dr Lucio Naccarella*, Professor Peter Brooks*, Professor Jane Gunn**
*Australian Health Workforce Institute, The University of Melbourne & The University of Queensland
**Primary Care Research Unit, Department of General Practice, The University of Melbourne

Conclusions & Implications

• The consultations have identified key researchable areas to underpin the strengthening of Australia’s primary care workforce. Dr Lucio Naccarella is keen to hear from individuals and organisations interested in finding out more about AHWI and becoming involved in the GenPCW research program of work.

• AHWI and GenPCW provides the opportunity for students to undertake research at undergraduate (placements) or at postgraduate level (Ma, PhD) on the topic of health workforce generally or on the topic of strengthening a generalist primary care workforce.

• For further information please contact: Dr Lucio Naccarella, PhD, The Australian Health Workforce Institute, The University of Melbourne. l.naccarella@unimelb.edu.au Web: https://www.ahwi.edu.au

GenPCW Background

A systematic literature review of the place of generalism in the 2020 primary care team concluded:

• health care systems based upon a generalist primary care workforce underpinned by generalism will be well equipped to deliver cost-effective, equitable and accessible health care.

The review identified three policy options to strengthen Australia’s generalist primary care workforce:

➢ increasing the importance and status of primary care generalists;
➢ enhancing educational content and settings that strengthen a generalist primary care workforce; and
➢ building and transferring evidence about strategies that strengthen generalism in the 2020 primary care team.

Methods

➢ Over 40 key stakeholders have been contacted. Of these 23 have been consulted (3 policy advisors; 7 primary care organisations; 6 academic GPs; 6 practitioners; and 1 consumer representative). Participants were asked about:

➢ current and future primary care policy workforce reforms relevant to GenPCW
➢ research questions for strengthening a generalist primary care workforce.

➢ Consultations were analysed using thematic analysis

AHWIs vision is to deliver Australia health workforce sustainability by 2020 by:

• Ensuring maintenance of health workforce data
• Mapping future health systems;
• Developing innovative education models; and
• Working with jurisdictions to develop workforce policy.

Strengthening a Generalist Primary Care Workforce

Key findings: Researchable Themes

SUPPORTING TEAM-BASED CARE
HOW TO SUPPORT GENERALISTS IN TEAM BASED PRIMARY CARE?

BALANCING HEALTH SYSTEMS
HOW DO WE BALANCE GENERALIST AND SPECIALIST HEALTH CARE SYSTEMS?

PATIENT PERSPECTIVES
WHAT DO PATIENTS PERCEIVE, UNDERSTAND AND EXPECT FROM GENERALISTS?