

“Centre for Allied Health  
Research” workshop  
summary

# Summary

- Clear gaps in spectrum from research to practice in allied health
- Number of gaps that could be filled by a centre
- Multiple existing resources and skills - need to value add not replicate
- As yet unclear what the “IT” is

# Common themes

- Capacity building
  - Conduct and use work
- Big gaps in knowledge
  - Identify research agenda
  - Identify areas of need/prioritisation
- Networks
  - Connecting researchers, connecting clinicians with researchers, connecting professions
  - Need strong links

# Common themes

- Multidisciplinary/Interdisciplinary - focus on allied health but also extend beyond - big picture
- Brokerage between researchers
- Knowledge transfer knowledge brokerage
- Research culture Ownership

# Potential roles of centre

- Brokerage
  - Clinician - researcher, professions - patient
  - Knowledge brokerage and connection for collaboration
- Facilitate access and use of information
- Define research agenda

# Potential roles of centre

- Information gathering - collection or advocacy for gathering
  - Workforce
  - Research capacity and knowledge
  - Clinical data
- Web portal - multiple “consumers”
- Not replicate work by others
- Advocacy and communication for the allied health professions

# Goal

- Work to be done
  - Identify focus/scope - there is a need but the role needs to be defined
- Seed funds to support committee to develop formal proposal
  - Submit to stakeholders and potential funders
- Continued discussion

# Centre for Allied health Research

# Evidence and Evidence Gaps

- Premises and assumptions
  - Interdisciplinary
  - Focus on translation, brokerage rather than conduct research
  - Well networked
- Potential roles
  - Summit to set research agenda
  - Advocacy
  - Build Capacity - conduct and use
  - Build evidence base of pattern of care

# Research Priorities

- Mapping/stocktake of what exists in research capacity and knowledge
  - Focus on areas of need
- Capacity building
  - Recruitment database
  - Identify barriers (e.g. women/part time)
  - Link less well represented to other more successful teams
  - International focus networks
- Research culture
  - Voice at national bodies
  - Joint funded positions

# Evidence and professional training

- 4 government drivers
  - Workforce issues - what is it, where are the shortages - repository of information of workforce
  - Chronic care
  - Inter-professional education
  - Clinical training
- Use of evidence
  - Flow
  - How used
  - Relevance
  - Timeliness

# Information systems

- Agent for change
- Leader
- Repository
- Consumer ownership
- Deliver evidence and treatment advice
- Advocate for electronic recording of clinical data
- Allied health wiki

# Stakeholder

- Name for centre
- Ownership
- Trust/goodwill
- Clearly defined and shared purpose
  - stakeholder follow
- What is the gap the centre fills

# Resource issues

- Funding
  - Seed funding
    - Unclear what the “IT” is
    - Virtual centre or concentrated centre
    - Unclear amount and who
  - Establishment funding

# Governance arrangements

- Cochrane
  - Charity
  - Leadership elected from