



Country SA News June 2021 Edition



Message from the Chair

After 15 years of involvement with Divisions, General Practice SA, Australian General Practice Network, Country North South Australia Medicare Local and six years as Chair of Country SA PHN (CSAPHN) I feel the time has come for me to step aside and empower a new approach at governance level for the organisation. As such, I am resigning from the position of CSAPHN Chair, effective June 30.

Having been CSAPHN's Chair since the organisation's inception I have been very proud to be a part of and watch it grow and flourish. I believe we can all be very proud of what we have achieved. In particular, our capacity for securing solid funding, community focussed planning and our robust commissioning processes have all served country South Australians well.

In all that we do and consider, we have always strived to get the best primary health outcomes possible for rural and remote South Australia.

CSAPHN met the unexpected challenges presented by COVID-19 with incredible agility. We bent and flexed to create innovative ways of continuing to work towards closing the gap in health inequity in country South Australia.

Moving forward, I think our Local Health Cluster model has potential as a unique useful community footprint. The opportunity for communities to be involved at the grassroots level and to have their own voice is one of the great strengths of the Primary Health Network model more broadly. Into the future it would be pleasing to see more community members taking up this opportunity to be involved in shaping their community's primary health future. And pleasing to see those spearheading the clusters to continue to provide leadership necessary for this to happen.

I would like to give thanks to all who have assisted me in my role as Chair. I would like to pay particular thanks to CSAPHN staff and Board members for their support and input over the years and in particular, to make mention of CSAPHN Chief Executive Officer, Kim Hosking. I have highly valued and much appreciated Kim's personal encouragement, guidance and direction.

I am handing over the position of Chair to Dr Simon Lockwood, who was elected with the full and unanimous support of the Board. Simon has been a Roxby Downs GP since 2000, he sits on the Council for the Australian Medical Association South Australia as a rural representative and as a representative for the AMA on the National Council of Rural Doctors. Simon is also actively involved in medical education as an educator for the University of Adelaide Medical school, as an examiner for the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners. He is GP Clinical Editor for the Health Pathways South Australia program and a member of the Rural Generalist Pathway Steering Committee SA Health. I am confident the organisation is well placed for the future and in very good hands.

Best wishes
Dr Alison Edwards

Mental Health Lived Experience Engagement Network (MHLEEN) Forum Brisbane

Last month Country SA PHN funded two Community Health Workers from Skylight Mental Health, Tim Wrightson (Limestone Coast) and Debra Whiting (Murray Mallee) and a lived experience community member Sandy Lovell to attend the Mental Health Lived Experience Engagement Network (MHLEEN) Forum in Brisbane, hosted by Brisbane North PHN.

MHLEEN is made up of people employed by all 31 PHNs in identified lived experience roles and/or other roles requiring engagement from project officer level through to management and executive level.

Tim Wrightson said that the forum was very worthwhile and educational – giving delegates like himself working with communities, a rare insight to the role of PHNs and the network of other organisations that work towards better outcomes for people living with mental health issues and/or illness.

“We listened to guest speakers on site and via zoom, about the research work and studies conducted into a variety of Mental Health issues, and Federal Government funding programs and allocation plans,” said Tim.

“Speakers included Christine Morgan CEO Mental Health Commission, managers of organisations such as the Black Dog Institute, and current Support Workers with Lived Experience who work in similar roles to myself.”

As a national step towards sustainability and voice, MHLEEN reached out to delegates to see if they would be interested in being on a national register to participate in regional, state and national activities MHLEEN has been and continues to advocate for – including opportunities for capacity building. Tim has since nominated to be a Lived Experience Advocacy Delegate (LEAD) to PHNs.

“The forum itself was very educational and gave staff like us, at grass roots level, a rare insight into the role of PHNs and the network of other organisations that work toward better outcomes for people living with mental health issues and/or illness,” said Tim.

“In my opinion the conference was very worthwhile and would have suited Skylight employees from a variety of levels. I was quite honoured to have been selected and would like to thank Edward and Heidi (from Skylight) and Kelly Smith at Country SA PHN for the opportunity to attend.”



Photos of attendees at the MHLEEN Forum



Tim Wrightson, Skylight Mental Health

headspace Additional Funding

Country SA PHN is pleased to announce that five country South Australian headspace centres have been successful in securing Australian Government funding under the Demand Management and Enhancement Grant Opportunity. CSAPHN successfully tendered for this funding, demonstrating a level of need for the country South Australian centres in Berri, Mount Barker, Port Augusta, Port Lincoln and Victor Harbor. ([media release](#))

As part of this measure, \$4 million over four years will be allocated to upgrade the Port Lincoln satellite site to a headspace centre. CSAPHN would like to acknowledge the Federal Member for Grey, Rowan Ramsey MP for his advocacy for the Port Lincoln headspace centre upgrade. ([media release](#))

CSAPHN is glad to see such a positive outcome with the Australian Government funds now approved to these identified areas of need. CSAPHN looks forward to continuing to support headspace centres throughout country South Australia.



CHAT-GP: Improving Communication about Heart Disease Risk in General Practice

The Practice Support Team recently attended a training session on CHAT-GP to enhance support to general practices participating in the CHAT-GP Cardiovascular Disease (CVD) Assessment Trial.

Two South Australia regional practices are the first in Australia to participate in the trial which aims to improve CVD risk assessment. The program is supported through the Pen CS CAT4 Clinical Audit Tool to review monthly practice data on CVD risk assessment for eligible patients.

It provides the opportunity for the doctor to discuss with identified patients risk and management options, referral to lifestyle management programs and recommendation of CVD prevention medication.

For general practices wishing to participate in the trial please contact support@countryraphn.com.au and a member of the Practice Support team will contact you.



Keeping up-to-date with HealthPathways SA

"Keeping up-to-date with guidelines across the full breadth of general practice is a challenge for all GPs. HealthPathways SA is a quick and easy way to locate information on common clinical presentations and our team are dedicated to keeping the pathways and service information updated as we become aware of changes." Dr Katrina Couchman, GP Clinical Editor.

Maintaining currency and being up-to-date in health can often be a challenge for health professionals. HealthPathways SA strives to maintain accurate and quality information to support our clinical users.

Website content is continually being updated as evidenced based practice, clinical guidance and service information evolves. When our team of GP Clinical Editors and Clinical Coordinators are made aware of changes to guidelines or services, we respond swiftly to ensure accuracy of the pathways. Feedback (on clinical information or services) can be sent direct to the team by any user direct from the HealthPathways SA website.

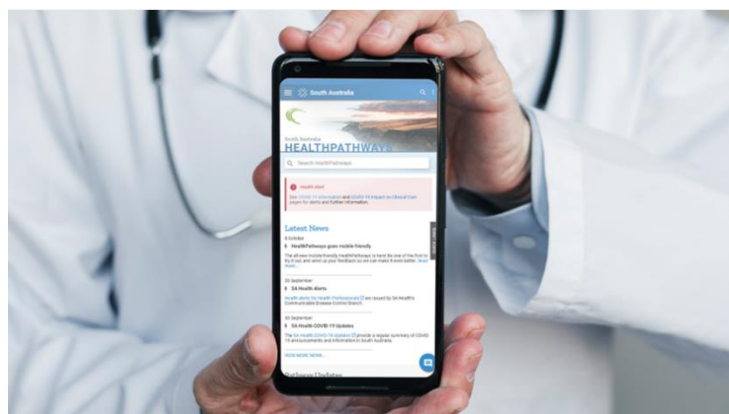
While the clinical team responds to updates as they emerge, all pathways follow a rigorous review process for currency, accuracy and quality at minimum once every 36 months. For many pathways such as those within our immunisation suite, revisions occur more frequently as immunisation schedules and information on vaccines change on a regular basis.

At all times, our South Australian based GP Editors are working with local Subject Matter Experts to both develop new clinical pathways as well as review and update existing content across a wide range of clinical areas including:

- Mental Health
- Child and Youth Health
- Ophthalmology
- Respiratory
- and many more...

For more information, or if you want to be involved, contact the [HealthPathways SA Team](#).

To find out what has been updated and what changes have occurred, jump onto HealthPathways SA <https://southaustralia.communityhealthpathways.org>



Participatory Community Project

Over the last two years UniSA, in partnership with the Mid North Local Health Cluster (funded by Country SA PHN), has undertaken two Participatory Community Projects (PCP) in the Orroroo Community. These programs have provided four Occupational Therapy (O/T) students the opportunity to spend time in a rural community undertaking a project as part of their training.

These projects have included looking at small rural community needs for allied health services and how best to provide them and what makes health promotion activities successful in small rural communities.

This research involved meeting with as many members of the local Orroroo community as possible, engaging in community activities, and of course living in a rural community.

These reports are soon to be launched to the general community. People interested in hearing about these projects are invited to attend the launch on July 7 at the Orroroo Town Hall at 1pm. Light refreshments will be served. RSVP by July 6 to bchappell@countrysaphn.com.au or 0457 733 027.

For more information on the projects please contact Steve Richmond, Chair of the Mid North Local Health Cluster at mnlhc@outlook.com.



Ebony Leslie and Laura Magliaro (left to right)

Respect Me + You, Is Your Syphilis Check Up Due? Campaign Launch

Syphilis infections are on the rise in South Australia. In response to this concerning rise Aboriginal Health Council SA (AHCSA) and SHINE SA have collaborated to create the Respect Me + You, Is Your Syphilis Check Up Due? Campaign.

The aim of this campaign is to raise awareness of syphilis and encourage South Australians to reduce the spread of syphilis in three steps: test, treat and notify partners. This campaign includes digital advertising and resources including posters, postcards and other physical assets.

AHCSA and SHINE SA had the chance to officially launch this campaign on 3 June 2021, giving us the opportunity to reflect with our sector colleagues on the importance of reducing syphilis in South Australia.

The posters and resources designed by artist Rachael Anderson (pictured below) highlight the importance of staying connected and getting tested for syphilis.

This campaign has been supported by funding from Country SA PHN.

You can learn more about the campaign and resources available here:

www.shinesa.org.au/syphilis-campaign



Emergency Response Planning Tool (ERPT) Expression of Interest

Country SA PHN is providing funding for general practices within country SA to access and use the Emergency Response Planning Tool (ERPT).

What is the ERPT?

The ERPT is a cloud-based tool which assists general practices in better preparing for, responding to and recovering from the impacts of emergencies and pandemics.

The ERPT is managed by Healthpoint ANZ and was developed in collaboration with the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP).

How does it work?

The critical information entered into the ERPT is used to create an emergency response plan which is individually tailored to your practice, providing a roadmap to recovering from emergencies.

Maintaining an up-to-date emergency plan helps ensure the safety of your staff, the smooth recovery of your practice and reduces the risk of financial loss.

To ensure business continuity, the ERPT provides suggested contingency measures for staff so that, in the event of an emergency, they will know how to respond to:

- a pandemic
- loss of power supply to the practice
- disruption to water and gas supplies
- disruption to telecommunications systems
- loss of IT systems or data
- loss of business records
- complete or partial loss of practice premises
- loss of medical supplies, equipment and furniture
- loss or non-availability of key staff
- COVID-19 safety plan

For more information and registration of your expression of interest in receiving the Emergency Response Planning Tool (ERPT) please email support@countryrpsaphn.com.au and a member of the Practice Support Team will contact you to arrange access.



Pharmacists in General Practice

It was great to see the highly successful *Pharmacists in General Practice Project* being celebrated in this month's edition of *The Australian Pharmacist* in an article titled: *Why the Aboriginal health service values its GP pharmacist*.

Funded by Country SA PHN (CSAPHN) the innovative collaboration between the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) and CSAPHN integrated Pharmacists into General Practices in country South Australia with the aim of minimising the preventable harm caused by medication-related problems and ultimately enhance patient outcomes.

The project followed PSA research which found that every day in South Australia nearly 50 people (or about 17,500 a year) are admitted to hospital due to medication mistakes, at an annual cost of approximately \$98 million.

Since mid-2019 Pharmacists have been taking part in a range of activities under the project including: patient consultations; medication reconciliation and reviews; preventative health education; prescribing audits; MBS billing contribution; preventative healthcare; medicine information and staff education.

The Pharmacists in General Practice Project has been operating across six country South Australian locations: Angaston; Kapunda; Jamestown; Mount Gambier; Whyalla and Port Lincoln.

Kylie van Rooijen has been providing a range of services to Port Lincoln's Boston Bay Family Health Clinic. It's now wonderful that the Port Lincoln Aboriginal Health Service has also recognised the value of the project and that Kylie will have an ongoing role at the clinic due to the positive impact she's having on the patients and the practice.

To read more about the success of *The Pharmacists in General Practice Project* and the impact Kylie van Rooijen's role is having please [click here](#).



Kylie van Rooijen (right) with RN Neil Dunning, discussing how to use a MediSachet roll
Photo from original story in the Australian Pharmacist by [Chloe Hava](#) - June 2, 2021

Health Coaching Sessions

Nurses working in general practice play an important role in improving the health outcomes of individuals and the community.

The Australian Primary Health Nurses Association (APNA) is inviting country SA practice nurses to register for the final of a series of six Health Coaching Sessions facilitated by Ms Kym Poyner. Kim is a Registered Nurse with extensive experience as a practice nurse and is the founder of MediCoach. These sessions are funded by Country SA PHN.

Part 6: Putting it all Together

Tuesday 29 June 2021, 7.00pm - 8.00pm ACDT

[Register Here](#)

A playlist of all previous sessions is [available here](#)

- Part 1: Self Determination Theory
- Part 2: Appreciative Inquiry
- Part 3: Powerful questions – Compassionate Communication
- Part 4: Motivational Interviewing
- Part 5: Smart Goal setting and readiness to change



SHINE SA: Enhancing Sexual Health in Country SA Program

SHINE SA's sexual health program in country SA (funded by Country SA PHN) has delivered a range of education opportunities, personalised support and provided information and resources. In 2021, we have aimed to raise awareness of sexual health topics in the community and deliver training support to health professionals. SHINE SA have engaged with health professionals for 1:1 support, deployed an online Implanon training course and created a suite of webinars.

Sexual Health Webinar Series

Recently SHINE SA produced the 'Your Questions Answered!' Webinar Series tailored to the requests of rural and regional health professionals. This series provides specialist sexual health advice on topics including an update on STIs and common syndromic presentations, Pelvic Inflammatory Disease, PrEP & PEP and HIV shared care.

Podcasts

SHINE SA's 'Sexual Health Matters – Clinical' podcast presents a series of episodes for clinicians to quickly update on topics such as chlamydia, IUD myth busting, STIs in pregnancy.

Our community focused counterpart, the 'Sexual Health Matters' podcast, candidly covers relationship and sexual health topics with a more conversational approach aimed at community members. Learn more: <https://shinesa.org.au/activity/enhancing-sexual-health-in-country-sa/>



Accreditation Webinars; The 5th MAP; and the ERPT - Your Tools and Me

Country SA PHN supports practices with 10 Webinars on the processes of Accreditation.

Then the 5th Map, an excellent tool, put together by SA local Practice Manager Keith Saggars. It summarises all the Modules, Criterion and Indicators of the 5th Edition RACGP Standards. This tool has been endorsed by the RACGP.

AND now, the newly published ERPT. An electronic planning tool for assisting general practices to better prepare for, respond to and recover from the impacts of emergencies and pandemics. This too, has been endorsed by the RACGP.

Jane Williams from the Practice Support Team is available one month prior to your scheduled accreditation date to walk you through the expectations of accreditation in line with the resources mentioned above.

For more information and registration of your expression of interest in receiving the tools please email support@country-saphn.com.au and a member of the Practice Support Team will contact you to arrange access.



Question, Persuade, Refer (QPR) Training

QPR stands for Question, Persuade, Refer – the 3 simple steps anyone can learn to help save a life from suicide.

QPR training will provide you with:

- Knowledge and skills to identify warning signs that someone may be suicidal.
- Confidence to talk about suicidal thoughts
- Connect them with professional care

What are the benefits for general practice staff to be trained in QPR?

- The training is free
- It takes less than 60 minutes to complete
- Staff receive a certificate of completion
- Online resources available
- Licenses remain active for three years
- You could save a life

If you live in country South Australia, you can access the training for free by using the code **CSA**. Enrol your staff today! [Click here](#)



The Breathless Patient – Education Event

Drug & Therapeutics Information Service (DATIS) have been providing educational events through-out regional South Australia funded by Country SA PHN.

Dr Peter Allcroft, Senior Consultant from Southern Adelaide Palliative Care, Southern Adelaide LHN, Flinders Medical Centre & Flinders University and Professor Debra Rowett from DATIS recently presented in Port Lincoln to over 50 health professionals.

The topic “The Breathless Patient” educated general practitioners, pharmacists, physiotherapists, aged care workers and practice nurses on how to identify the reversible and non-reversible causes of breathlessness in patients, treatment options and strategies to manage patients in palliative care.



Dr John Williams Elected Vice President AMA (SA)

Dr John Williams a GP from Investigator Clinic in Port Lincoln will serve as South Australia's AMA Vice President. In filling the role, Dr Williams is believed to be the first vice president based in a country area.

Dr Williams has practised in many parts of South Australia, in the United Kingdom and has special interests in skin cancer and emergency medicine. A rural general practitioner in Port Lincoln for 16 years Dr Williams is a passionate advocate for mental health services. He believes mental health is a priority and is certainly a big priority for rural areas.

The association will focus across the state with the ongoing recovery from COVID-19 as the vaccination rollout continues. Dr Williams believes it will take a long time to get back to normalacy, the vaccination rollout is one of many important steps to recovery.



Port Lincoln Hospital Art Launch

Coinciding with National Reconciliation Week the official art gallery exhibition at the Port Lincoln Hospital was recently launched showcasing paintings acquired from local artists from the Eyre and Far North Local Health Network region.

The launch was opened by Verity Paterson, CEO of Eyre and Far North Local Health Network and the Welcome to Country was provided by Barngarla woman Emma Richards who is one of the local artists.

Information about the artists and the story behind the paintings are also on display.





Supporting Aged Care Residents with Chronic Conditions and Complex Care during COVID-19

webinar recording is now available. [Click here](#) to view.

Reforms to the Closing the Gap Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme Co-payment Program

(the Program) were announced on 12 June 2020, as part of the Seventh Community Pharmacy Agreement. More information can be [found here](#).

Clinician Portal for GPs available now: Easy referral and monitoring of symptoms

Developed with GPs, for GPs, this clinician portal allows direct referral of patients to MumMoodBooster where GPs can then track their progress. Register [here](#) to begin referring your patients.

Allied health professional instructional video for group therapy in Residential Aged Care Facilities

is now available. [Click here](#) to view the video.

New Education Resources | Medicare Digital Claiming

The Health Professional Education Resources Gateway has new education resources on Medicare digital claiming. [Need a digital claim deleted?](#) and [Digital claims we can't delete](#)

Heart Health Check Risk Assessment and My Healthy Heart Plan templates

are now embedded into the MyGPMTool (MGT). [Click here to find out more](#) about MGT and the Heart Health Check.



job postings

Nurse Manager and Treatment Room Nurse Positions Available

Waikerie Medical Centre is a well-established general practice in the Riverland. The practice supports GPs, GP Registrars, Interns as well as Flinders University medical students and offers a wide variety of scope for nurses working in rural general practice.

There is an opportunity for 2 experienced nurses to join the team. Registered and Enrolled nurses are invited to apply. Position 1 – Nurse Manager; Position 2 – Treatment room Nurse. Both positions are full time; job sharing will be considered for suitable applicants.

Are you a good communicator with a knowledge of triage, wound care and infection control, then this is the job for you. Support is available for necessary upskilling.

Current AHPRA registration and relevant checks as listed on the job specifications will be required.

Applications and requests for Job Descriptions to be emailed to the Practice Manager: mhahn@waikeriemedical.com.au or posted to Waikerie Medical Centre, Private & Confidential Attention: Practice Manager PO Box 396 Waikerie SA 5330. Applications close Friday 2 July 2021.

Registered Nurse Position Available

Southern Fleurieu Family Practice is an established general practice located in Yankalilla on the Fleurieu Peninsula and currently have an opportunity for an experienced Registered Nurse to join the team on a full-time basis.

Looking for an experienced general practice Registered Nurse with high level knowledge of triage; wound care; immunisations; cold chain management; infection control and sterilisation; ordering of medical supplies and vaccines; recalls and reminders; ear syringing; ECG; spirometry; health assessments; chronic disease management including preparation of GPMP & TCA; excellent interpersonal, organisation and time management skills.

Submit your application to pm@sffp.com.au attention to the Practice Manager.

Rural VR GP Adv Dip Obstetrics 0.8 FTE and VR GP Anaesthetics 0.8 FTE

Working as a GP on Kangaroo Island (KI) will allow you to combine the challenge and reward of working in a busy rural practice, with a great lifestyle in the perfect location. KI is just 25 minutes to Adelaide by plane, yet being an MMM7 area, lucrative rural retention allowances and incentives are available.

The clinic is currently staffed by 6 GP's (who also provide emergency on-call services to the KI Health Service), supported by 2 practice nurses, a practice manager and administration team, all with a commitment to providing high quality care to our patients.

At this boutique rural practice, we can offer a 3-4 day working week; up to 8 weeks annual/up-skilling leave for associate; a dynamic and supportive practice team; and combine the opportunity to practice your emergency and procedural medicine skills with a great lifestyle in the perfect location.

Essential requirements, FACRRM or FRACGP; Adv Dip Obstetrics (or equivalent) or VR GP Anaesthetics (or equivalent); and Emergency medicine experience

For more information, please contact our Practice Manager, Tanya Biddell on 08 8553 2037. Website www.kimedical.com.au



For more professional development opportunities go to
www.countrysaphn.com.au

North & West Region

**Depression Dilemmas - Port
Lincoln**

Saturday 23 October 2021 9.00am - 5.00pm

[Register Here](#)

Yorke & Northern Region

Trauma-related training for General Practitioners and GP practice clinics - Yorke Peninsula
October 2021 - Information to be released soon

Trauma-related training for Emergency Services Personnel and Volunteers - Yorke Peninsula
October 2021 - Information to be released soon

Trauma-related training for Emergency Managers and Supervisors - Yorke Peninsula
October 2021 - Information to be released soon

South & East Region

Foundation skills for working with people with Borderline Personality Disorder - Mount Gambier
Tuesday 29 June 2021
9.15am - 4.30pm
[Register Here](#)

Wound Closure Workshop - Mount Gambier
Friday 6 August 2021
8.45am - 4.30pm
[Register Here](#)

Metro Region

FPAA National Certificate in Reproductive & Sexual Health for Doctors - Royston Park
Monday 26 July to Friday 30 July 2021
9.00am - 5.00pm
[Register Here](#)

Cervical Screening Provider Course - Woodville
Tuesday 3 August 2021
8.30am - 5.00pm
[Register Here](#)

Australian Cardiovascular Rehabilitation Association SA/NT Showcase - Adelaide
Saturday 31 July 2021
8.30am - 6.00pm
[Register Here](#)

Mental Health First Aid Training - Royston Park
Thursday 9 September - Friday 10 September 2021
8.00am - 4.00pm
[Register Here](#)

Webinars

Mental Health Support for Aged Care Residents during COVID-19
Wednesday 7 July 2021
7.00pm - 8.00pm
[Register Here](#)

Diagnosis and Treatment of PTSD in Emergency Service Workers
Wednesday 21 July 2021
6.00pm - 9.00pm
[Register Here](#)

Allied Health Support for Aged Care Residents during COVID-19
Wednesday 21 July 2021
7.00pm - 8.00pm
[Register Here](#)

Diagnosis and Treatment of PTSD in Emergency Service Workers
Tuesday 27 July 2021
6.00pm - 9.00pm
[Register Here](#)

YOUR OPINION MATTERS

Same-Sex Attracted Australians' Perspective on Cultural Competence in Mental Health Services

The aim of this research project is to understand how mental health services can work with same-sex attracted people in a culturally competent manner. Specifically, it seeks to understand from the perspective of same-sex attracted people how counsellors and psychologists can implement cultural competence (defined as knowledge, attitudes and skills in working with same-sex attracted clients) in their clinical practice with same-sex attracted people.

Looking for participants

- willing to participate in psychology research
- willing to complete a 15 minute survey on the ideal traits psychologists and counsellors should demonstrate when working with same-sex attracted clients (you are not required to have accessed a psychologist or counsellor to complete this study).
- Survey [available here](#)

CONTACT US

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Country SA PHN acknowledges Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people as the traditional owners of this country throughout Australia and their connection to land, waters and community. We pay respect to them and their cultures, and to the Elders both past and present.

Country SA PHN gratefully acknowledges the financial and other support from the Australian Government Department of Health.

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