

Prof. Peter Brooks, Interim Director, AHWI

Strengthening Australia's Generalist Primary Care Workforce

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Dr Lucio Naccarella, PhD

AHWI's 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.

Dr Lucio Naccarella, PhD received a 2-year fellowship at AHWI to develop a National Operational Action Plan to strengthen a generalist primary care workforce (**GenPCW**).

GenPCW Background

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

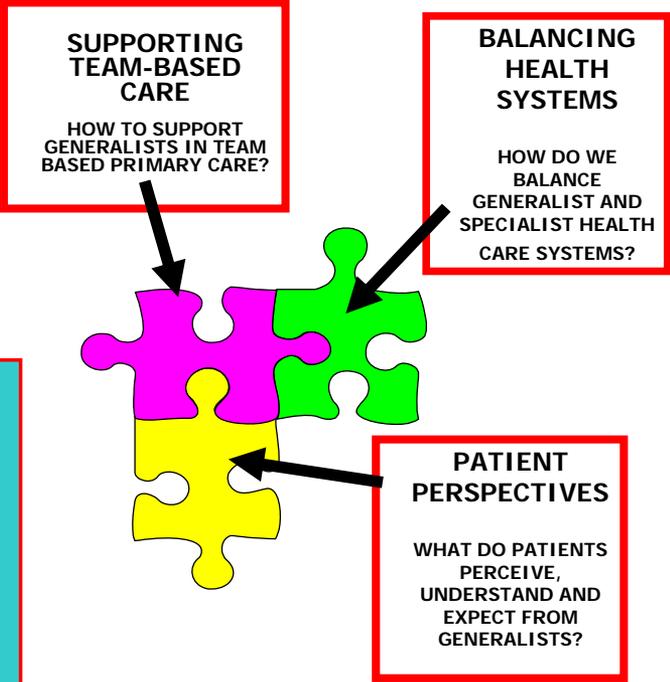
- *health care systems based upon a generalist primary care workforce underpinned by generalism will be well equipped to deliver cost-effective, equitable and accessible health care.*

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.

Strengthening a Generalist Primary Care Workforce

Key findings: Researchable Themes



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



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.
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