

The Project

Reforming Health System Governance through Collaborative Commissioning

Supervisor(s)

Dr Carmen Huckel Schneider, Senior Lecturer, Health Policy / Deputy Director, Menzies Centre for Health Policy and Economics, Sydney School of Public Health, Faculty of Medicine and Health, University of Sydney

Professor David Peiris, Director, Global Primary Health Care Program (Better Care)/ Co-Director, Health Systems Science, The George Institute for Global Health/ Professor, Faculty of Medicine, UNSW Sydney

Dr Gill Schierhout, Senior Research Fellow, The George Institute for Global Health/ Senior Lecturer, UNSW Sydney

Description

A scholarship is available for a suitably qualified candidate to undertake a Masters by Research (1.75 years full time) or a 3.5 year full-time PhD, based at Menzies Centre for Health Policy and Economics, University of Sydney. If the successful candidates enrolls in a Masters by Research and receives an upgrade to PhD the scholarship will be extended.

Although Australia has a high performing health system, it faces widening inequities, large variation in quality of care, and unbridled growth in health care spending; now exceeding 10% of gross domestic product. This poses major challenges for health system sustainability and the prosperity of the nation more broadly.

A partnership has been created with the New South Wales Ministry of Health (NSW Health), Local Hospital Districts (LHDs) and Primary Health Networks (PHNs), the Consumers Health Forum (CHF) and leading health service researchers to develop, implement and evaluate **Patient Centred Co-Commissioning Groups (PCCGs)** which are new regional alliances between LHDs and PHNs.

Through an NHMRC partnership grant, the Menzies Centre for Health Policy and Economics is working with the George Institute for Global Health and other academic and institutional partners to co-design an evaluation of the initiative. The evaluation work targets various levels and domains, from the local (e.g. what activities are implemented under the initiative, their uptake by service providers, and impact on patient access and experience), through to the regional, and state-levels (efficiencies, changed ways of working, overall quality of care, system change).

The successful candidate will develop a project focusing **on health governance and systems reform** with respect to the collaborative commissioning program; with a focus on **local/state/federal relationships and the interplay between policy, vision and local implementation**. A full project proposal will be developed by candidate, and may include developing expertise in:

- theoretical approaches such as theories of change, public governance, public policy.
- Mixed methods evaluation
- interpretive analysis and process tracing
- complexity and systems science