

MEDIA RELEASE

Thursday 27 September 2007
For immediate release

NHMRC welcomes new NICS Fellowship leaders in health care

Four new leaders in Australian healthcare celebrated the completion of their NICS Fellowships at their graduation ceremony held Thursday 27 September in Melbourne, benefiting areas as diverse as rural emergency care, paediatrics, mental health and renal medicine.

NICS Fellowships offer a unique opportunity to health professionals who share a passion for ensuring the best available evidence is practised. Having identified an area within their own discipline where evidence exists but is not being applied in routine care, NICS Fellows are provided with support and mentoring to undertake an implementation project which addresses this gap and improves health outcomes for patients.

In acknowledging the importance of NICS Fellowships, the NHMRC's Chief Executive Officer Professor Warwick Anderson said "The NHMRC is committed to supporting future leaders in health care. NICS Fellowships are highly successful in not only developing experts in evidence implementation, but also in developing leaders to take this knowledge beyond their own programs to help others build a healthier Australia."

NICS Fellows graduating in 2007 are:

Associate Professor Steven Doherty, NICS Fellow 2004-2007, Deputy Director, University Department of Rural Health, Rural Clinical School, University of Newcastle, New South Wales
Project: *Increasing the uptake of guidelines in rural emergency departments*

Dr Claire Harris, NICS Fellow 2004-2007, Director, Centre for Clinical Effectiveness, Southern Health, Victoria
Project: *Promoting the uptake of evidence in paediatric care*

Dr David Pierce, NICS Fellow 2004-2007, Ballarat GP and Research Fellow, Department of General Practice, University of Melbourne, Victoria
Project: *Improving management of depression in primary care*

Dr Kevan Polkinghorne, NICS Fellow 2004-2007, Nephrologist, Monash Medical Centre, Victoria
Project: *Commencing haemodialysis with appropriate vascular access*

The National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) is Australia's peak body for supporting health and medical research. As part of the NHMRC, the National Institute of Clinical Studies (NICS) works to improve health care by getting health and medical research into practice.

For information about the NICS Leadership Program: www.nhmrc.gov.au/nics

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