

ABSTRACT SUBMISSION AIC 2016: #11

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1. Title:

Insights into evidence use by Clinical Networks as health system stewards

2. Author(s):

Jade Hart, Centre for Health Policy, School of Population and Global Health, University of Melbourne

Professor Margaret Kelaher, Centre for Health Policy, School of Population and Global Health, University of Melbourne

Associate Professor Helen Dickinson, School of Government, University of Melbourne

3. Key words:

Clinical networks, evidence, stewardship

4. Abstract text:

a. Background and aims

The Australian health care system is fragmented, with variable integration between participants and a perception that policies do not reflect existing evidence. Clinical networks are an Australian State Government initiative which seek to overcome the challenges of fragmentation by performing a system stewardship role for a defined areas of focus. Stewardship involves oversight, development of a strategic vision, and steering of the health care system (World Health Organization, 2000). The use of evidence in decision-making and policy and the subsequent implementation of evidence-informed practices is central to this role. This raises the questions: what is evidence? And what does evidence use involve?

b. Methods

A series of key informant interviews will be conducted with clinical network representatives across several Australian States with an established clinical networks program. The interviews will follow a semi-structured format encompassing clinical network arrangements, processes, stewardship functions, and evidence and evidence use. A literature review has been conducted to inform approach.

c. Conclusion

This research seeks to provide insights into stewardship in the Australian health care system. It seeks to build a deeper understanding of the links between stewardship models, evidence use, and health policy processes in order to inform further efforts into the development of a conceptual framework.