PARTY adds PANACHE: The PARTY keeps getting bigger!

New funding to evaluate Practice Nurse led Adolescent Health Clinics

The PARTY Project is pleased to announce that the Primary Care Research Unit within the Department of General Practice has been successful in securing new funding to expand its work in the area of practice nursing. The new Practice Nurse Adolescent Health Clinics for Health Evaluation (PANACHE) project is funded by the Australian Primary Health Care Research Institute, and will extend the work of the PARTY project by evaluating the impact of specific practice nurse led adolescent health care clinics in general practice.

Associate Professor Kelsey Hegarty, who is leading the PANACHE study explained, “We will be exploring the barriers, logistics and cost effectiveness of nurses providing youth clinics in GP surgeries.”

“Nurses are playing an increasingly important role in the delivery of services in general practice across Australia. PANACHE will help inform policy development in this important area of primary health care,” said Ass.Prof. Hegarty.

PANACHE will also ascertain the views of young people, parents and surgery staff about the acceptability of practice nurse led clinics in delivering health care to young people.

“This new funding provides an exciting opportunity for us at PARTY to create a more comprehensive picture of what works in adolescent health care, and how acceptable this is to young people, parents and general practice”, said Dr Lena Sanci, Principal Investigator of the PARTY Project.

Invitation to Parents of Young People to attend our November PARTY Focus Group

Thursday 16 November 2006
5.30—7.00pm
Department of General Practice
Ground Floor, 200 Berkeley Street, CARLTON.

The PARTY Project is seeking the views of parents of young people aged 14 to 25 years to assist with shaping the design of the Primary Care PARTY Project Pilot.

To RSVP please contact Verity Newnham at the PARTY Project
Ph: 8344 4630 or v.newnham@unimelb.edu.au

All participants will receive a $30 Coles-Myer voucher as a small token of our appreciation for their time and input!
INTRODUCING PARTY’S NEW HEALTH ECONOMIST

Janelle Seymour joined the Party project in August 2006 to lead the economics component of the study. Janelle is a health economist and has held previous appointments at the Centre for Health Economics Research and Evaluation (CHERE) at the University of Sydney and the Health Economics Research Unit (HERU) at the University of Aberdeen.

Janelle’s research interests lie in applied economic evaluation and health state valuation. She has conducted economic evaluations in a number of areas, including treatments for early stage breast cancer, worksite health promotion, imaging techniques for the diagnosis of stroke, antenatal screening and innovative techniques for the treatment of menorrhagia. Her long standing research interest has been in methods of health state valuation.

Making Dollars & Sense: PARTY’s Economic Evaluation

An important objective of the PARTY study is to evaluate the economic efficiency of the PARTY intervention.

“Economic interventions can have both immediate and long-lasting effects on well-being and the life course of young people,” explained Janelle.

The PARTY Project will evaluate both cost-effectiveness and cost-benefit.

Important resources that will be included in the costing are:

1. Costs associated with the system-level changes that each practice makes to become youth-friendly (e.g. the training required by practice staff (receptionists, practice nurses, allied professionals and GPs), plus expenditures on posters and leaflets etc);

2. Costs associated with the changes in clinical practice (e.g. the initial screen and its assessment, subsequent differences in the length or number of consultations, and referrals for specialist opinion or diagnostic tests), and;

3. Costs (savings) associated with changes in subsequent health service utilisation.

Apart from briefing herself on the intricacies of the complex, multidimensional PARTY study, Janelle has spent her brief time with the PARTY team building the foundation for the economic evaluation. This has included hitting the ground running and working on the PARTY Pilot being conducted in 2006.

For more information about PARTY’s economic evaluation, please contact: janelles@unimelb.edu.au (Mon—Wed)

DIARY ALERT:
The National Youth Affairs Conference:
‘Are we there yet?’ 1—2 May 2006

To register your interest and receive regular conference updates, please email conference@yacvic.org.au with the subject line ‘conference e-list’.

PARTY Pre-Pilot: Report on the Young Person’s Focus Groups and ‘Mock’ Telephone Survey

PARTY held a successful pre-pilot pizza and focus group session with 13 young people aged 15 to 24 years in October. The purpose of the evening was to consult with young people and collect their feedback on: the PARTY project design; the process for recruiting young people; filling in health risk screening tools; ‘youth-friendly’ consultations in general practice; and the use of motivational interviewing for high risk behaviours.

PARTY is currently conducting ‘mock’ telephone surveys with young people as part of our pre-piloting process. A second young people’s focus group is planned for later in the year.

For more information about youth participation opportunities within the PARTY Project, please contact Verity at vnewnham@unimelb.edu.au

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