

Policy & Practice Relevant Research Workshop

**Item: MBF Foundation – research priorities and
information needs**

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The Sixth Annual Collaborators' Meeting

Friday 25th September 2009

Health Dialog

Health Management

Bupa UK/Group

PHI and Wellness

Hospitals

Aged care

Care Services

Bupa Foundation

Bupa Denmark

Bupa China

Bupa Hong Kong

Bupa India

Bupa Thailand

Bupa Latin America

And the Caribbean

Bupa Arabia

Bupa Spain (Sanitas)

PHI, Hospitals, Wellness

Sanitas Foundation

Bupa Australia

MBF, HBA, MC

Bupa Care Services

MBF Foundation

Guardian Health Care



As part of our 'internationalisation', there are significant *opportunities for us to leverage Bupa global capability (incl the three Foundations) for wellness and health care innovation*



- Established by MBF in May 2005 as a charitable organisation **to help improve health outcomes for all Australians**
- Uses a portion of investment income each year and is totally independent from Bupa Australia
- The MBF Foundation Steering Committee leads the strategic process of investment in targeted initiatives, reviews new proposals, and manages and monitors the progress of current initiatives and activities
- Dr Christine Bennett – Chair of the MBF Foundation Steering Committee

MBF Foundation Focus and Objectives

The Foundation's current three areas of strategic focus are:

- wellness & obesity
- healthy ageing; and
- keeping healthcare affordable

And it invests each year in **partnerships and activities** in:

- health research (including research into health outcomes, health information, health policy and health financing and ageing);
- health education; and
- programs for leading healthy lives

- To date has committed over \$9 million to around 40 initiatives across Australia
- In 2008 invested \$4.5 million in partnerships and activities
- The Foundation regularly undertakes a national competitive Expression of Interest (EOI) process, focusing on its strategic priorities.
- The next EOI will commence **late October 2009**.

- **The 45 & Up Study - Policy in Action Program** – funded in 2007 as a 3 year program using data from the 45 and Up Study
- “To ensure the Study **rapidly produces** results from relevant research that will directly inform the development of health policy and provision of health services for older people in Australia -- maximising its value for policy and practice applications”
- **The MBF Foundation Policy in Action Roundtable** has been established to oversee/guide development of the Programs’ work plans and assist in translation of its findings into policy actions
- Annual open forum of invited senior policymakers, researchers and health service providers

- Theme areas for policy-relevant research using the Study's data:
 - Impact of behavioural risk factors on the use and costs of health services risk
 - Patterns of health service use and costs among people with chronic diseases
 - Risk and protective factors associated with common avoidable causes of hospital admission
 - Factors that influence the patterns of health service use and costs
- **To date 40 research projects have been approved**

- How does it work ? Collaboratively -
 - Identify high priority questions for policy agencies
 - Discuss potential research projects with appropriate organisations and research experts
 - Develop an agreed program of research
 - Conduct the research
 - Disseminate findings (rapidly)– peer reviewed journals and policy briefs/reports
 - Other communication outputs could include media releases, “soft “articles/publications, grant submissions, presentations to conferences etc

- Over 3 years, the Foundation will support at least **12 specific research projects developed by the Roundtable**
- In 2009, four programs of policy-relevant research have been identified:
 - Characteristics associated with having health Insurance
 - Obesity and hospitalisation
 - Appropriate use of health services
 - Maintaining independence

- Policy Brief (4-6 pages) development process:
 - Engage small group of experts on the issue – policy makers, providers and researchers
 - Identify key messages and findings
 - Why is this issue important ?
 - What does the research tell us ?
 - What are the implications for policy makers with this research ?
 - Where to from here – recommendations for relevant audiences eg local government, DoAH, health professionals (GPs), others?
 - **Dissemination of policy brief and other appropriate communications**

