

INTERGENERATIONAL HEALTH

CONCEPT:

CHILD AND ADOLESCENT

PSYCHOLOGICAL HEALTH

AND WELLBEING COMPONENT

Participants

- 🌿 Professor Michael Sawyer (mental health & population health)
- 🌿 Assoc Prof Peter Baghurst (mental health & population health)

Participants (cont)

- ☛ Professor Jozef Gecz (neuroscience)
- ☛ Professor Richard Clark (neuroscience),
- ☛ Professor Maria Makrides (nutrition)
- ☛ Professor Philip Slee (education & learning)

Participants (cont)

- 👉 Professor Jenny Couper (child physical health)
- 👉 Professor Philip Darbyshire (child physical health)
- 👉 Dr Nicola Spurrier (child physical health)

South Australian Context for Research relevant to Young People

- ☛ Three universities with research programs
- ☛ Strong off-campus research programs
- ☛ Numerous research reviews
- ☛ Limited linkages between grant-funded research programs

South Australian Context (cont)

- ☛ Limited local infrastructure and financial support for programs
- ☛ Limited career paths for scientists and clinician/scientists
- ☛ Potential for strong academic and service linkages

Proposal Assumption 1

- New knowledge will most likely be generated at boundaries of traditional disciplines and between academic and service sectors

Proposal Assumption 2

- More effective knowledge generation if there is a research management structure which balances opportunity for individual creativity and coherent agreed direction for the whole program

Proposal Assumptions 3 & 4

- SA has advantages for conducting research which requires cooperation of service and academic sectors
- Utilisation of new knowledge requires organisational structures which can embrace both the academic and service sectors

Proposal Assumption 5

- ✿ Research which has local benefits can also generate new knowledge of international significance

Proposed Research Themes

- ☛ Population & Mental Health
- ☛ Childhood Nutrition
- ☛ Neurosciences
- ☛ Child Health and Wellbeing

Mental Disorders

- ☛ Amongst the most common conditions experienced by young people
- ☛ Many onset in childhood or adolescence
- ☛ Impose a substantial personal and financial burden
- ☛ High rates of comorbidity

1. Population & Mental Health Program

- Develop and evaluate interventions designed to reduce the prevalence of mental disorders & their impact on individuals, families and communities

2. Childhood Nutrition Program

- Nutrition is a key building block necessary to achieve optimal growth and development
- Dietary deficiency of a specific nutrients in early life can have life long consequences

Childhood Nutrition (cont)

- ✎ Although nutrition alone is unlikely to be solely responsible, nutrition interventions are relatively cheap and safe
- ✎ Significant opportunities for collaborative interventions

3. Neurosciences Program

- Key element of international efforts to understand brain dysfunction from early stages of development through to the disorders of ageing
- Emerging developments in genomics and functional neuromarker identification

Neurosciences Program (cont)

- Both neuromarkers and genomics information has begun to be incorporated into the template for the next version of Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM V)

4. Child Health and Wellbeing Program

- 🐼 Approximately 10% of children and adolescents suffer from chronic disorders

Child Health and Wellbeing Program (cont)

- Need to develop methods to ensure that new research findings are rapidly and effectively translated into practice

Child Health and Wellbeing (cont)

- ☛ Many researchers in this area in South Australia are dually employed as clinicians & academics
- ☛ Significant opportunity to examine different approaches to facilitate translation of research findings generated in academic settings into service practice

Conclusion

🐸 SA is experiencing declining birth rate, high rates of social disadvantage, and many young people with both mental health and educational problems

Conclusion

- ✿ Young people with these problems are very expensive for the education and health sectors to manage, and they represent a major loss of human capital for South Australia

Key Requirement for Success

- ☛ Success and loyalty requires infrastructure and organisational support which increases chances of success for individual research groups