

# **PHRN Training Consultation National Scoping Exercise Executive Summary**

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## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

### **INTRODUCTION**

The Population Health Research Network (PHRN) has been established to build a nationwide data linkage infrastructure capable of securely and safely managing health information from around Australia.

This report describes the consultation process and findings which will be used to define the parameters of a PHRN National Training Program. The National Training Program will provide the basis for a cohesive and integrated learning process within PHRN.

### **CONSULTATION**

Consultations with each of the PHRN Participants occurred over a three month period and were conducted by the Training Coordinator via teleconference or face to face meetings. A total of 60 representatives were consulted for their input.

The PHRN Participants were asked a range of questions about training including who required training, what type of training was required, whether there was existing training available and what the barriers to training within the PHRN were.

### **FINDINGS**

#### ***Objectives***

A range of potential objectives for the PHRN National Training Program were discussed during the consultation. The following objectives were identified as relevant in all consultations:

- Training new PHRN Participant staff how to perform their jobs
- Training PHRN Participant staff in the use of new technology
- Achieving improvements in PHRN Participant staff work quality
- Assisting PHRN Project Participants to meet Performance Indicators
- Training data users to utilise the data linkage infrastructure
- Equipping Human Research Ethics Committee (HREC) Members to review Data Linkage Research Applications

#### ***Target Group***

An extensive list of target groups for the National Training Program were discussed. Some target groups required training and some required education. The agreed target group for the National Training Program is listed below.

**Table: Target group by learning method**

<b>Training</b>	<b>Education</b>
HREC members	Data Custodians
Researchers	Evaluation Consultants
Data Analysts	Privacy Community
PHRN Project Participant Staff	Consumer and Community Members
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Management</li> <li>• Data Linkers</li> <li>• Corporate and Administrative Staff</li> <li>• Clerical Review Staff</li> </ul>	Committee Members
	Policy Makers
	Funding Bodies
	Key partners and stakeholders
Research Supervisors	University Solicitors

***Training Audit***

Work based learning was the most commonly reported training provided by PHRN Participants. Only two PHRN Participants had developed and delivered training workshops. All nodes were open and willing to share training they developed with other PHRN Participants. Few staff from Participant Organisations had attended training external to their organisation. From the 60 people consulted only three external training courses were identified that were data linkage specific.

There were four trainings that were considered essential training for all PHRN Participant staff. These were induction training, privacy training, consumer participation training and basic training on data linkage. Essential training for researchers and data analysts was similar with the addition of: basic research methods; administrative data; and applying for linked national data and HREC approval.

***Priorities***

Participant Organisations were asked to indicate which target groups and training topics they felt should be prioritised in the National Training Program. Listed below are the priorities provided by Participant Organisations in order of importance.

1. Data custodians – development of an information booklet covering general data linkage information.
2. Researchers – privacy training, understanding administrative data, roles and responsibilities of a researcher and accessing the PHRN Remote Access Laboratory.
3. Human Research Ethics Committee members – general data linkage information, key ethical considerations pertaining to data linkage.
4. PHRN Participant staff – technical training for all PHRN Project Participant Staff, training for new technical staff and consumer and community member participation training.

### ***Operational Limitations***

The consultation identified an extensive list of operational limitations. These have been grouped into the following categories.

- Inability to nationalise training - due to differences between nodes and states and territories in numerous areas including: Linking data; clerical review; governance; privacy laws and legislative framework
- Lack of suitable courses
- Data Linkage a specialist area
- Mode of delivery - Face to face workshops was the only mode of delivery available for Data Linkage specific training in Australia
- Limitations of PHRN organisational structure