“ASRI s: What are they and what is their importance to the Faculty of Health Sciences”

Roy G. Goldie
Faculty of Health Sciences

Understanding the Research Environment

- The Faculty’s long history of research funding success has been primarily founded on the NH & MRC Project Grants system and on 2nd tier grants
- However, our success has been sliding downwards over the last 5 years and we have in large part ignored the ARC as a funding source
- New signs of a turn around: 2005 NH & MRC grants up by 18% and income up by 38% = 73% of total University research income
- Can this be sustained? - the University still does not lead a CRC and has not had major success in Program Grants
- So what?
Understanding the Research Environment

- The funding paradigm has undergone fundamental change, with altered emphasis away from highly focused, small project funding (3 year time frame)

- Larger funding pools
  - emphasis on multi-disciplinary, collaborative research teams that can answer big questions across broad themes
  - shared infrastructure
  - Centres of Excellence, CRCs, Programs and Capacity Building Grants

- The Research Quality Framework is also presenting the Faculty and the University with a major new challenge (funding related to research quality & impact)

- Our Faculty and the University generally is now responding to this altered environment in the hope that we can achieve sustained success

Opportunity for an Improved Research Profile in Nursing & Midwifery: the ASRI agenda

ASRI = Area of Strategic Research Investment

ASRIs are:
- collaborative, cross disciplinary research collectives
- represent areas of distinctive research strength and/or opportunity for Flinders

What is the ASRI agenda trying to achieve?

ASRIs are mechanisms through which research effort is concentrated and reorganised to leverage multi-disciplinary expertise
- preferential research funding at the Faculty level
- impact on staff recruitment including senior appointments and scholarships
Research in Nursing & Midwifery and the ASRI agenda

Flinders Aboriginal Health Research Unit (FAHRU)
  Charlotte de Crespigny, Jan Paterson, Sandra Dunn, Pauline Glover, Helen Murray, Meri King, Lesley Cuthbertson,
Clinical Change and Health Care Research
  Charlotte de Crespigny, Jan Paterson, Sandra Dunn, Trudy Rudge,
    Patricia Mitchell, Didy Button, Anne Harrington, Meri King, Jane Neill,
    Tracey Siebert
Cancer Control Alliance
  Sandra Dunn (?), Paul Drew, Lee Gassner (?), Jane Neill (?)
Health and Society: Equity, Well-being and the Social & Economic Determinants of Health
  Charlotte de Crespigny, Paul Bennett, Jen Byrne, Jenny Donovan,
    James Heather, Julie Henderson, Alison Hutton, Ailsa N’haWinifreyda,
    Charmaine Power, Kerry Taylor
Social Monitoring & Policy Futures Network
  Deb King, Julie Henderson, Trudy Rudge (?)

What's wrong with this picture?

1. Charlotte and Sandra feature in 3 of the ASRIs, with Charlotte as co-leader of one. Jan, Jane and Meri are in 2 ASRIs, with low numbers in others

2. Time commitments are often on the low side

3. There are research active people missing from some of these ASRIs who might be expected to be members
Research in Nursing & Midwifery and the ASRI agenda

What opportunity is presented through these ASRIs?

1. Increase the number of research active staff in Nursing & Midwifery through membership of at least one of these ASRIs

2. Create new partnerships in strong areas of research that have not previously been explored in this School and co-author papers from these collaborations

3. Learn from the experience of being part of a Nationally / Internationally successful large scale, multi-disciplinary, collaborative research teams

Research in Nursing & Midwifery: A work in progress

This is a great platform, but further encouragement is needed!

We need a scheme to provided added impetus to research in N & M

The Faculty will provide funds, matched by the School targeting research in N & M.

Grants will be vetted by the usual process i.e. via the RC Grants sub-committee.

Only high quality applications will be funded for up to $10,000 for one year.

Non-funded applicants will receive feedback and allowed to re-apply to this new funding pool and applications again subjected to the usual peer review.

This plan needs to be endorsed by the Faculty Research Committee!