

MEDIA RELEASE



Centre for
Rural & Remote
Mental Health

Thursday, 17th December 2015

CRRMH signs agreement with International Foundation for Integrated Care

The Centre for Rural and Remote Mental Health (CRRMH) has officially joined forces with the International Foundation for Integrated Care (IFIC) to develop an Australian Collaborating Centre promoting Person-Centred and Integrated Care.

As the official Australian Collaborating Centre, the CRRMH is committed to working together with IFIC to develop projects or initiatives of mutual benefit as befits global leaders in the field of integrated care.

The focus of the Collaborating Centre's work includes facilitating education, training and advocacy, recruiting PhD students to deliver research and development projects, contributing to the [International Journal of Integrated Care](#) and facilitating special events such as a major event in Sydney next year ahead of the 16th International Conference on Integrated Care in New Zealand.

CRRMH Director, Professor David Perkins said integrated care is about reversing current trends in processes and policies to be more centred around patient care rather than the provider.

This reversal will ensure specialised care for the patient and a change in the current system which treats problems separately rather than together.

"For example if someone is treated for a physical ailment and they also present with a mental illness, it makes sense that they should be treated for both issues at the same time, said Professor Perkins.

"Integrated care is a major feature of the Commonwealth Government's response to the National Report on the Efficiency and Effectiveness of the Mental Health Services in Australia.

"Governments across the world are recognising that over-specialisation is expensive and doesn't necessary meet the needs of patients and their families," said Professor Perkins.

The CRRMH will also be working closely with Primary Health Networks who are now responsible for providing locally-based integrated mental and physical care.

About IFIC

IFIC is a network that crosses organisational and professional boundaries to bring people together to advance the science, knowledge and adoption of integrated care policy and practice. As a 'movement for change', the Foundation seeks to achieve this through the development and exchange of ideas among academics, researchers, managers, clinicians, policy makers and users and carers of services throughout the World.



CRRMH Director Professor David Perkins with CEO, International Foundation for Integrated Care (IFIC) Nick Goodwin.

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