

KEY MESSAGES

Building research capacity at The University of Notre Dame Australia, School of Medicine, Sydney, to improve chronic disease management

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Policy context

In July 2014 an agreement was signed between The Australian National University and The University of Notre Dame, Australia (Notre Dame) for the project 'Support for developing research capacity in Primary Health Care. This project aimed to build the primary care research capacity at Notre Dame by employing two post-doctoral research fellows, each appointed at 0.4 FTE, to specifically look at improving the management of chronic disease.

BUILDING RESEARCH CAPACITY

This project focused on management of osteoporosis in primary care and aimed to,

- > Strengthen links with local organisations in conducting joint research such as Murrumbidgee Local Health District (MLHD), Western Sydney Local Health District (WSLHD) and Murrumbidgee Primary Healthcare Network (Murrumbidgee PHN)
- > Develop skills, and improve capacity, within Notre Dame Rural Clinical School to undertake primary care health research
- > Build research output and develop grant writing capacity within Notre Dame

KEY POINTS FROM THE RESEARCH

- > Rural general practitioners and orthopaedic surgeons believe follow up systems for minimal trauma fracture (MTF) are poorly organised.
- > Rural orthopaedic surgeons believe it is important to follow up MTF patients for osteoporosis, but that it is not their role.
- > Rural orthopaedic surgeons believe general practitioners (GPs) should follow up MTF patients for osteoporosis.
- > Rural GPs agree that it is their role to follow up MTF patients for osteoporosis.
- > Residential retirement communities could be a key intervention point for primary and secondary prevention for osteoporosis.
- > Under-prescribing for prevention of osteoporosis in general practice is a significant issue and is associated with increasing comorbidities and age.

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