



AUSTRALIAN PRIMARY HEALTH
CARE RESEARCH INSTITUTE



INTEGRATION, CO-ORDINATION AND MULTIDISCIPLINARY CARE IN AUSTRALIA: GROWTH VIA OPTIMAL GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS

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POLICY CONTEXT

Australian governments, communities and health professionals are looking at new ways to deliver high quality health care services as traditional, fragmented models struggle to deliver appropriate, accessible care in the current environment.

The Council of Australian Governments and Commonwealth mental health initiatives will require interjurisdictional relationships that have not existed before. To sustain these reforms effective and integrated governance will be key.

KEY FINDINGS

- Emerging local examples have demonstrated a link between strengthened integrated governance approaches and improved local clinical/service outcomes
- A clear separation between governance and operational management is also a continuing theme in both systematic review and key informant interviews
- Careful measurement of the process, impact and outcomes of such activities is of key importance and often overlooked
- There are [three options for integrated health care governance](#), with a demonstrated ability to be sustained effectively in the medium term:
 - i. Creation of an incorporated body, with governance responsibility shared across integrating organisations and with resource allocation capability for a given population or region
 - ii. an incorporated body established by integrating organisations, with its own funding pool and with responsibility for defined areas of common business overlap
 - iii. a formal and agreed governance arrangement between organisations to 'share' resources in delivering services across a finite geographical area

For more details, go to the [three page report](#)

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