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This is the author's version of a work that was submitted/accepted for publication in the following source:

Germann, Jakki, Lim, David, McNamara, Leo, Osborne, Sonya, & Tippett, Vivienne (2014) Expanded scope roles in primary health – what makes them work? In *Rocking the Boat : 2nd International Primary Health Care Reform Conference*, 17 - 19 March 2014, Stamford Plaza Hotel, Brisbane, QLD. (Unpublished)

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Primary/ Secondary Care Integration: max 300 words.

Expanded scope roles in primary health – what makes them work?

Lim D, McNamara L, Osborne S, Tippett V

### **Introduction**

The demand for better integration between primary and secondary healthcare frequently leads to discussion about expanded scope of practice for nursing, paramedic and allied health professionals and the role these clinicians could play in facilitating improved access to timely and appropriate healthcare. From workforce perspective, expanded scope of practice has also been advocated as a mean of fostering workforce retention. Models of expanded scope roles in nursing and paramedicine have been trialled nationally and internationally in both acute and community care settings. Where they have been successful, trials have resulted in reduction in hospital presentation and admission; improved patient access and timeliness; and patient satisfaction. This paper will examine the characteristics of successful expanded scope programs.

### **Method**

Exploratory case-study analysis of successful integration of expanded health care roles across primary healthcare settings in rural Australia.

### **Results & Conclusions**

One size does not fill all. Successful models of integrated expanded health care roles in primary health care settings are built on stakeholder's capacity and preference; community need; and political will. Collaborative, congruent, multi-disciplinary care teams that prioritise patient-centred care within a dynamic primary care setting have merit and are more likely to foster flexibility and sustainability.