

## **Faculty of Health**

# **Review of the NSW Centre for Rural and Remote Mental Health**

## **TERMS OF REFERENCE**

### **The proposed TOR for the review are:**

- To evaluate the progress and quality of CRRMH's research, education and service development program, with reference to its contractual obligations and international and national benchmarks.
- To evaluate the effectiveness of the CRRMH's organisational structure and management processes in enabling CRRMH to achieve its goals.
- To assess the quality, feasibility and resource requirements of CRRMH's future directions in enabling to achieve its goals.

### **Background to the Review:**

The Centre for Rural and al Health (CRRMH) has been operational since 2001, established under an initial 5 year grant from NSW Health to the University of Newcastle, to undertaken research and education to inform and support service developments in rural and remote NSW.

CRRMH was funded for a second 5 year period (2006-2010) with a focus on continuing work in the core strands of research and education which were set out in the initial contract objectives. These include continuing to develop the CRRMH's role as a leading rural mental health research group, developing training and support programs in collaboration with NSW Health to support the implementation of new service initiatives in rural areas, to increase the CRRMH's presence across rural areas, build further collaboration with Aboriginal Health organisations and maintain effective links with rural communities.

NSW Health also provided CRRMH with additional funding for three years (July 2006 to June 2009) to enable the Centre to enhance its research and education capabilities, and to undertake a range of service development projects focusing on a range of service development and planning matters including rural emergency

mental health care; Aboriginal mental health; innovative treatment methods for co-existing mental health and substance use disorders; focus on early intervention for mental health problems and mental health promotion; rural mental health workforce; fostering partnerships and collaborations, including innovative ways of integrating mental health care services; the needs of the farming sector; responding to major community wide stressors; providing effective communication and links for NSW Health with key rural community organisations on mental health issues, and providing direct academic support of networks of rural mental health clinicians.

Both contracts require CRRMH's progress against the agreed key performance indicators to be formally evaluated by a comprehensive external evaluation to occur and report during 2008. The review will evaluate the performance of the CRRMH against the outcomes indicators agreed in the contractual arrangements, and provide recommendations concerning the resource requirements for the remaining period of this contract and subsequent contract period beyond 2011.