

# Application Summary

<b>Application ID:</b>	APP1196912	<b>Application Year:</b>	2019
<b>Grant Type:</b>	Partnership Projects	<b>Grant Duration:</b>	4 years
<b>Peer Review Cycle:</b>	2019_Partnership_Projects_PRC3_funding_commencing_2020		
<b>Application Title:</b>	Community Health workers Extending Care in the Community		

<b>Administering Institution:</b>	University of New South Wales
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Participating Institutions:	Department
Swinburne University of Technology	School of Health, Faculty of Health, Arts and Design
University of New South Wales	Centre for Primary Health Care and Equity
University of Sydney	School of Pharmacy
University of Technology Sydney	Centre for Health Economics Research and Evaluation

## Research Team:

CI Role	CI Title & Name	Institution	Will CI be based in Australia?
CIA	Professor Mark Harris	University of New South Wales	Yes
CIB	Professor Parisa Aslani	University of Sydney	Yes
CIC	Professor Jean-Frederic Levesque	University of New South Wales	Yes
CID	Associate Professor Margo Barr	University of New South Wales	Yes
CIE	Doctor Anurag Sharma	University of New South Wales	Yes
CIF	Associate Professor Benjamin Harris-Roxas	University of New South Wales	Yes
CIG	Doctor Michael Wright	University of Technology Sydney	Yes
CIH	Professor Richard Osborne	Swinburne University of Technology	Yes

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**Guide to Peer-Review Areas:** Health Services Research, Ageing Research, Primary Care  
**Broad Research Area:** Health Services Research  
**Field of Research:** PUBLIC HEALTH AND HEALTH SERVICES - Health and Community Services  
**Research Keywords/Phrases:** community health care, hospitalisation, post-discharge, health literacy, migrant health

**Synopsis:**

This study addresses a major challenge of the health system in dealing with people with multiple long-term conditions and vulnerabilities. As well as suffering limitation to their own quality of life, these patients are at risk of hospitalisation and re-hospitalisation due to a range of problems including medication errors, poor self-management and limited access to care. This places a significant burden on the health system. Interventions have been developed to address these problems. However, they need to be adaptable to local needs especially populations with low health literacy and from culturally and linguistically diverse background. There are also limitations to the capacity of the existing professional health workforce to implement these interventions.

Community Health Workers (CHW) are a cost-effective way to help patients navigate the transition from hospital to the community and access ongoing care. The effectiveness and implementation of the various CHW models have not been adequately evaluated in the Australian context. Our investigators are experienced in dealing with the challenges involved in introducing CHWs into health care teams. With consumer co-researchers and our partners, we will co-design a model of CHW follow up and support care following hospitalisation. We will more clearly define the scope of practice and the training required for this to occur. We will then conduct a controlled trial to evaluate the implementation and impact of the model on health service and health outcomes.

For the first time, this study will provide evidence for the impact of CHW follow up of patients post-hospitalisation and define the elements that make it successful. With our partners and collaborators, we will disseminate our findings and resources to other services and translate them into policy, guidelines and standards for practice.