

Establishment of Multi-Institution Centres of Research Excellence- tips for new players

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COMPARE-PHC and CRERRPHC are funded by the *Australian Primary Health Care Research Institute*

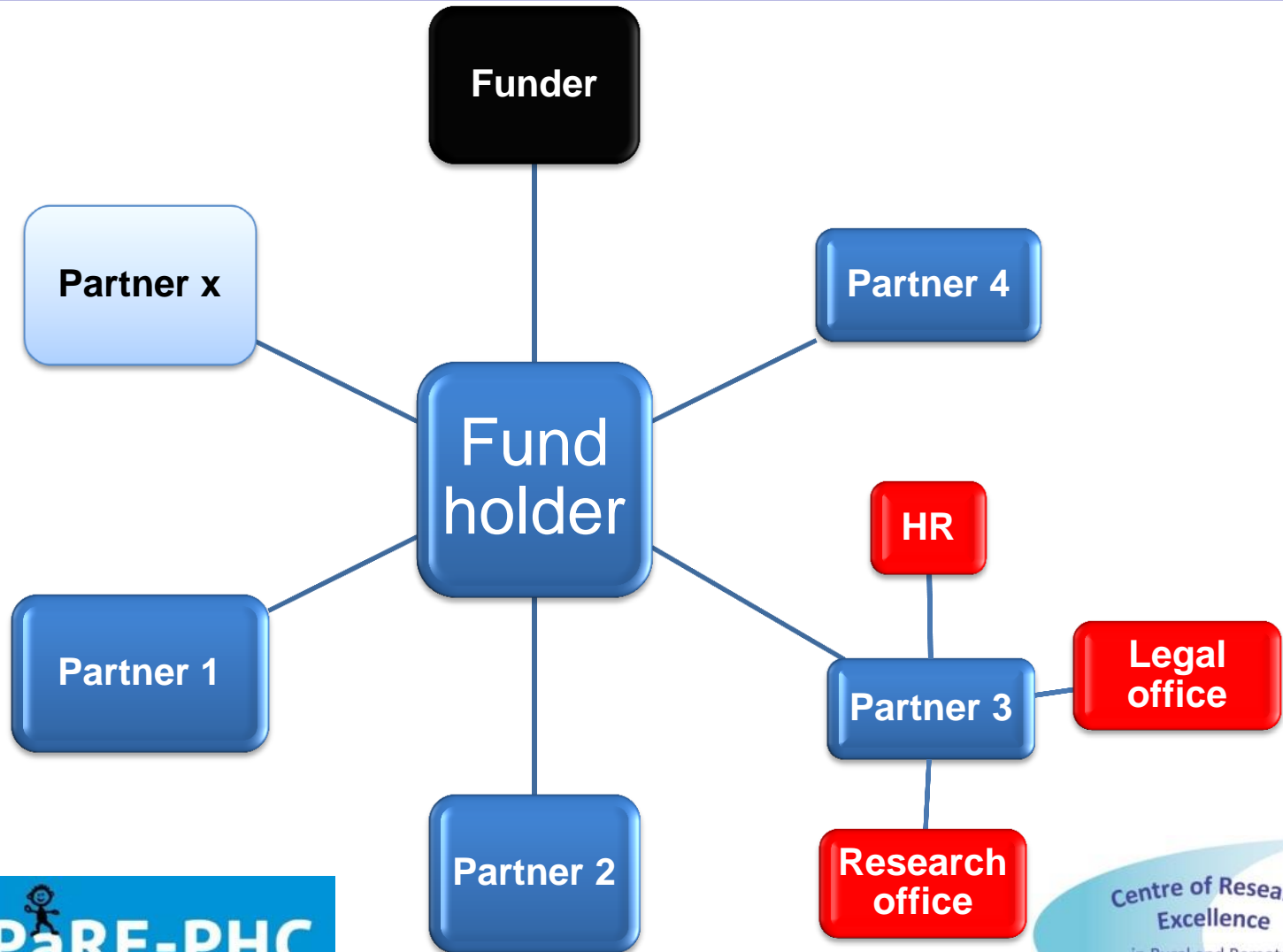
Outline

- Background to multi-institution research centres
- Challenges and tips
- Summing up

Background

- University research centres traditionally within a single university
- Multi-institution CREs:
 - One institution has contract with funding body ('fund holder')
 - Multiple 'partner' institutions
- E.g. APHCRI 8 CREs in *Snapshot*

Multi-institutional research centre



Background

- Many benefits e.g. pool expertise
- Added complexity e.g. multiple interests, policies and procedures
- Guidance on establishment of multi-institution CRE not readily available

Challenges & tips

1. Investigator engagement & collaboration
2. Recruitment
3. Budgeting
4. Contracting
5. CRE Profile

Not discussing the good stuff

Challenges & tips

Investigator engagement & collaboration

- Different sites
- Allegiance to institutions
- Collaborative leadership
 - Face-to-face

Challenges & tips

Recruitment

Two scenarios:

1. Money is located up front to specific institutions to recruit positions or
2. Positions can be located at any site.

Challenges & tips

Budgeting

- Positions under-budgeted
 - Ensure accurate on-costs for each institution

Challenges & tips

Contracting

- Partner institutions queried head agreement
 - Circulate head agreement early

Challenges & tips

CRE Profile

- No building
- Tradition of institutional affiliation
- Use CRE name & logo
- Electronic and other promotions



Summing up

1. Each institution is different – different policies and procedures, etc.
2. Bring in legal, finance and research offices early
3. Allocate funds to building and maintaining relationships within the CRE
4. Allocate sufficient funds for CRE management to deal with added complexity
5. Best practice in collaborative leadership, project management and meeting management more important because more opportunities for problems than single-institution centres

Further research & development

- Research :
 - Document the challenges for multi-institutional research centres
 - Identify solutions: what works for who in what context?
- Knowledge exchange:
 - A network of CRE coordinators
 - A guide



Tips for new players – under construction

1. *Proposal Development Process:*

Check	Components	Tasks	Key personnel
<input type="checkbox"/>	Budget Costing	<p>Ensure that the appropriate costing models for each institution have been utilised to calculate the overall budget.</p> <p>Get appropriate units of each institution involved in budget discussions such as research, finance, HR.</p> <p>Tip: <i>Ensure there is a <u>realistic</u> travel budget. This should include some face-to-face team meetings, travel between sites, reporting, conference attendance, stakeholder and Advisory Committee meetings.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chief Investigators • Research, finance & HR offices of each institution
<input type="checkbox"/>	Split of funding	<p>Negotiate the split of funding across the collaborating institutions <i>or</i></p> <p>Determine an efficient process for allocating and distributing funding to institutions throughout the life of the CRE grant.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chief Investigators • Research office of each institution
<input type="checkbox"/>	Project Management/ Administration	<p>Given the complex nature of the CRE, number of institutions and investigators involved, ensure adequate funding has been considered for project management/administration.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research & finance offices of each institution • Chief Investigators • Project Manager (if already on staff)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Infrastructure	<p>Identify infrastructure required across the institutions e.g. video conferencing, office space, etc. Include costs in the budget or note 'in kind' contributions by the institutions.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chief Investigators • Research & finance offices of each institution

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Feedback welcome

