

Australian Secondary Prevention Alliance: Health advocacy through unity



Julie Redfern,¹ Kathryn Gall,¹ Clara Chow² on behalf of the National Secondary Prevention Alliance
¹The George Institute for Global Health, University of Sydney; ²Westmead Hospital, Sydney, Australia

INTRODUCTION

Heart disease accounts for greater morbidity than any other disease and 20% of deaths. Without a paradigm shift in delivery of preventive services the number of individuals dying of repeat events is expected to double



OBJECTIVES

1. Describe the process, formation and structure of an Australian Alliance aimed at achieving advocacy and better delivery of secondary prevention services across Australia
2. Describe the establishment of an Australian stakeholder group for improving achievement of cardiovascular risk targets



BOX 1: National Secondary Prevention Alliance Organisations

- Australian Cardiovascular Health and Rehabilitation Association
- Australian Commission for Safety and Quality in Healthcare
- Australian Healthcare and Hospitals Association
- Australian Medicare Locals Alliance
- Australian Practice Nurses Association
- Cardiac Society of Australia and New Zealand and Nursing Council
- Flinders University/ SAHMRI
- Heart Support Australia
- National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation
- National Heart Foundation
- National Prescribing Service
- Private Healthcare Australia
- Royal Australian College of General Practitioners
- Royal Australasian College of Physicians
- Centre for Primary Healthcare and Equity UNSW
- School of Population Health UWA
- The George Institute for Global Health

METHODS

Stage 1

- National consensus meeting (n=40) was held (2011) to identify key organisations and goals. Government and non-Government representatives participated
- Participants included consumers, health professionals (cardiology, primary care, nursing, allied health, academia) and key opinion leaders.
- Feedback from discussions and surveys highlighted the need for formation of a National Alliance

Stage 2

- Identification of relevant stakeholder organisations via a process of surveys and stakeholder
- Establishment of goals and a Strategic Plan through iterative and collaborative literature analysis
- Formation of an advisory council for individual input
- Alliance communication and governance established



RESULTS

- The National Secondary Prevention Alliance was established in 2013 with representations from 19 organisations (Box 1). These include government and non-government stakeholders, professional organisations and consumers
- The Advisory Council includes 150 individuals from Australia, New Zealand, Europe and Canada with clinical (43%), research (31%), health management (17%) and government (7%) expertise
- The Alliance has facilitated increased awareness of secondary prevention through media and government relations and has provided consensus on national models of care and indicators

CONCLUSION

- Formation of a National Alliance has united stakeholders with a common goal - raising awareness of the need for improved health services
- The establishment process provides an example of how national unity and common messaging facilitates advocacy