



Cochrane Consumers and Communication Review Group

Biennial Report 2004-2006

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GROUP OUTPUT AND MEMBERSHIP

	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Total Reviews on CL	4	5	9	10	14	19
Total Protocols on CL	4	6	10	20	19	17
Members	267	291	346	410	434	500

• Measured at 30 June each year • CL = The Cochrane Library

The Cochrane Consumers and Communication Review Group, established in 1997, is responsible for coordinating the production of systematic reviews of interventions which affect consumers' interactions with healthcare professionals, services and researchers. Broadly, these include a wide range of interventions for communication and participation. These include interventions to promote consumers, patients and carers who are:

- o More knowledgeable and competent;
- o Able to express their views and beliefs;
- o Enabled to make choices alone or with health professionals;
- o Supported or supportive;
- o Minimising the risks and harms they face;
- o Accessing high quality information and quality health services; and
- o Participating in planning, service improvement and research.

Our main work is to coordinate the production of systematic reviews for publication on *The Cochrane Library*. To do this, we provide a high level of assistance, support and peer review to researchers internationally while they are planning, preparing or updating their systematic review.

Information for Decision Making

The Cochrane Collaboration is an international non-profit organisation that aims to help people make well-informed decisions about health care by preparing, maintaining and promoting the accessibility of systematic reviews of the effects of healthcare interventions. Information about the Cochrane Collaboration can be found at www.cochrane.org

A Cochrane systematic review is a review of a clearly-formulated question about the effects of an intervention. It uses systematic, explicit and pre-determined criteria to identify, select and critically appraise relevant research and to collect and analyse data from the studies that are included in the review. The production of systematic reviews is coordinated by Cochrane Review Groups. There are fifty-one of these groups, including the Consumers and Communication Review Group, in the Cochrane Collaboration.

The main output of researchers involved in the Collaboration is *The Cochrane Library*. It is available online at www.thecochranelibrary.com. Access is free to people in a number of countries including Australia.

Group Achievements July 2004 - June 2006

The Group's primary objective is to coordinate the production and publication on *The Cochrane Library* of high-quality systematic reviews covered by the scope of the Review Group, in our case, interventions for communication and participation. In the past two years, we are pleased to report a steady increase in our productivity with the publication of a substantial number of new and updated reviews and new protocols, and the registration of several new review titles.

We provided a high level of support, assistance and coordinated peer review for review authors. We were very fortunate to be able to recruit a new Statistics Editor and assistant Statistics Editor (Damien Jolley and Kelly Allen, Australia) and to secure funding to support their role in improving the quality and accuracy of Cochrane reviews produced by this Group.

We met all the requirements to function as an effective Review Group as part of the international Cochrane Collaboration by achieving all quarterly submissions for *The Cochrane Library* and the *Cochrane Central Register of Controlled Trials (CENTRAL)*. By the end of June 2006 the Group's specialised register comprised more than 6,800 references to trials within the Group's scope. Staff commit time to participating in the activities of the Cochrane Collaboration and attended the Barcelona, Ottawa and Melbourne Cochrane Colloquia, as well as the Australasian Cochrane Contributors' annual meetings. We held workshops, presented our work in posters and papers, and contributed to internal Collaboration working parties (see pages 4 and 5).

Key:

T = Title Registered with Consumers and Communication Review Group (1 July 2004 - 30 June 2006)

P = Protocol Published on *The Cochrane Library* (Issue 4 2004 - Issue 3 2006)

R = Review Published on *The Cochrane Library* (Issue 4 2004 - Issue 3 2006)

U.R. = Published Review Updated (Issue 4 2004 - Issue 3 2006)

Funding

The Group received core funding from the Quality and Safety Branch, Rural and Regional Health and Aged Care Services, Department of Human Services, Victoria. The core funding provides the backbone of the Review Group, supporting the positions of Coordinating Editor, Review Group Coordinator, and Trials Search Coordinator, and enabling us to participate in the training and meetings of the Cochrane Collaboration. In addition, we received infrastructure funding in the program for Funding for Australian-based Cochrane Collaboration Activities, provided by the Department of Health and Ageing, Australia. This funding supports our Research Officer, Coordinating Editor and two members of the Editorial team in Australia. This funding is critical to the effective functioning of the Group.

Review Output

The following table provides details of our publication activities between July 2004 to June 2006, at each of the four key points of the review process: registration of a title, publication of a protocol and review on *The Cochrane Library*, and the updating of a published review. The reviews are loosely grouped into topic areas.

Note: We have only listed here protocols and reviews published or updated in the two-year period July 2004 to June 2006. For a full list of the Group's reviews, see www.latrobe.edu.au/cochrane/reviews.html

I. Interventions relating to illness prevention and health promotion

R Interventions organised by sporting organisations for increasing participation in sport (Issue 2 2005)

Nicki Jackson (Australia), Faline Howes, Sabrina Gupta, Jodie Doyle, Elizabeth Waters

R Policy interventions implemented through sporting organisations for promoting healthy behaviour change (Issue 2 2005)

T Interventions utilising marketing strategies for promoting healthy eating behaviours in young people

Helen Duxbury (USA), Sabrina Pit, Jaap van Binsbergen, Motokazu Yanagi

2. Interventions for people with chronic illness or for the maintenance of health

U.R. <i>Interactive Health Communication Applications for people with chronic disease</i> (updated issue 4 2005)	Elizabeth Murray (UK), Jo Burns, Sharon See Tai, Rosalind Lai, Irwin Nazareth
U.R. <i>Interventions for enhancing medication adherence</i> (updated Issue 4 2005)	R. Brian Haynes (Canada), Xiaomei Yao, Aqeel Degani, Sunil Kripalani, Amit Garg, Heather McDonald
R <i>Reminder packaging for improving adherence to self-administered long-term medications</i> (Issue 1 2006)	Carl Heneghan (UK), Paul Glasziou, Rafael Perera
P <i>Peer support strategies for improving the health and well-being of individuals with chronic diseases</i> (Issue 3 2005)	Marion Doull (Canada), Annette O'Connor, Vivian Robinson, Peter Tugwell, George Wells
P <i>Physical rehabilitation involving goal setting for older people living in the community</i> (Issue 1 2006)	Kathy Peri (New Zealand), Ngaire Kerse, John Parsons, Kathryn McPherson, Nancy Latham, Matthew Parsons
P <i>Self management education by lay leaders for people with chronic conditions</i> (Issue 1 2005)	Chris Griffiths (UK), Stephanie Taylor, Gene Feder, Bridget Candy, Jean Ramsay, Sandra Eldridge, Julie Barlow

3. Interventions relating to screening

R <i>Disclosing to parents newborn carrier status identified by routine blood spot screening</i> (Issue 4 2004)	Sandy Oliver (UK), Carol Dezateux, Josephine Kavanagh, Tami Lempert, Ruth Stewart
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4. Interventions relating to treatment or an episode of care

U.R. <i>Written and verbal information versus verbal information only for patients being discharged from acute hospital settings to home</i> (updated Issue 1 2006)	Anne Johnson (Australia), Jayne Sandford, Jessica Tyndall
P <i>Interventions to support decision making for older people facing the possibility of long-term residential care</i> (Issue 2 2005)	Michelle Gravolin (Australia), Jo de Groot, Katie Rowell, Edward Reid
T <i>Information for parents about post-mortem examination</i>	Dell Horey (Australia), Vicki Flenady, Kylie Lynch, Penny Waterson
T <i>Interventions in adult patients for preparing or using advance directives or advance care planning, for promoting shared decision making about end-of-life decisions</i>	Pablo Simón Lorda (Spain), Ines Maria Barrio-Cantalejo, Jose Francisco Garcia Gutierrez, Camila Higuera-Callejón, Maria Isabel Tamayo-Velazquez, Román Villegas Portero

5. Interventions to inform, promote participation or improve the responsiveness of care

R <i>Methods of consumer involvement in developing healthcare policy and research, clinical practice guidelines and patient information material</i> (Issue 3 2006)	Elin Nilsen (Norway), Hilde Myrhaug, Marit Johansen, Sandy Oliver, Andy Oxman
R <i>Interventions for improving patients' trust in doctors and groups of doctors</i> (Issue 3 2006)	Brian McKinstry (UK), Richard Ashcroft, Josip Car, George Freeman, Aziz Sheikh
P <i>Educational interventions for improving the communication skills of general practice trainees in the clinical consultation</i> (Issue 4 2005)	Marc Van Nuland (Belgium), Karin Hannes, Bert Aertgeerts, Jo Goedhuys

Dissemination and knowledge transfer ○

In addition to our main objective of supporting Cochrane review authors, we dedicate considerable staff time to teaching (including the Masters of Public Health subject Evidence-based Public Health at La Trobe University) and public speaking on evidence-based health issues. We aim to reach several audiences, including policy makers, clinicians and consumers.

In October 2005, we held a symposium on Researching Consumer Participation, in conjunction with the Victorian Department of Human Services. It was opened by the Honourable Bronwyn Pike, Victorian Minister for Health. The symposium led to the formation of a network on Researching Consumer Participation, which has since received regular e-bulletins of summaries of Cochrane reviews coordinated by the Group and information on resources for evidence-based communication and participation.

In brief, a selection of the seminars and workshops over the period includes:

- Cochrane Consumers and Communication Review Group: Using the work of the review group to inform policy, Presentation by S. Hill to the Evidence-based Policy Network at the Department of Health and Ageing, Canberra, November 2004.
- Evidence overviews: prioritising areas for overview of systematic reviews of interventions for involvement of patients and carers in health care, Workshop by R. Ryan and S. Hill, Cochrane Colloquium, Melbourne, 22-26 October, 2005.
- Engaging consumers in health policy, Presentation by D. Horey and S. Hill to the Australian Institute of Health Policy Studies Policy Roundtable series, Parliament House, Canberra, 8 November 2005.
- Overviews of systematic reviews of interventions to communicate with and involve consumers: one input to the development of evidence-informed policy and systems. Invited paper by S. Hill and R. Ryan to the "Enabling evidence-informed patient choice by translating research evidence into patient information" seminar, hosted by the Norwegian Knowledge Centre for the Health Services, The Norwegian Directorate for Health and Social Affairs, Oslo, 22 March 2006.
- An introduction to the Cochrane Consumers and Communication Review Group and the Cochrane Collaboration, Presentation by M. Pictor and S. Ward to the Australian Institute for Primary Care, La Trobe University, 5 April 2006.

Research and knowledge transfer ○

During the period, the Group has been developing new ways to prepare and disseminate accessible information about evidence-based communication and participation. This has been made possible through several research collaborations - local, national and international. Major projects included:

- Developing an evidence-informed practice guide on communication and participation by extending the concepts and practices of evidence-based decision making for clinical care to quality improvement where communication issues had been identified as paramount and able to be improved (working with three Victorian hospitals (Broadmeadows Health Service, Royal Women's Hospital and Southern Health) and the Victorian Quality Council, funded by the VQC, 2004-2006).
- Conducting focus groups with consumers regarding their views of naturopathy/Western herbal medicine services, and examining the risks, benefits and regulatory requirements of naturopathy and Western herbal medicine (with Professor Vivian Lin's research team in the School of Public Health, La Trobe University, funded by the Department of Human Services, Victoria, 2003-2005).
- Summarising the evidence of interventions for a patient-centred healthcare system (with Professor Lin's research team in the School of Public Health, La Trobe University, funded by the World Health Organization, Patient at the Centre of Care Initiative, 2004-2006).
- Participating in a systematic review of self-management for osteoarthritis (with the Australasian Cochrane Centre, funded by the Department of Human Services, Victoria, 2005-2006).
- Providing bulletins on evidence for consumer participation and involvement in decision making for people with arthritis (working with the Centre for Quality in Health & Community Services, Australian Institute of Primary Care, La Trobe University, funded by the Australian Musculoskeletal Quality Improvement Program, Department of Health and Ageing, 2006).
- Summarising the evidence of interventions directed to consumers for improving evidence-based prescribing and drug use (working with the Cochrane Effective Practice and Organisation of Care team led by Dr Jeremy Grimshaw, funded by the COMPUS arm of the Canadian Agency for Drugs and Technologies in Health, 2006-2007).

Participation and collaboration

Staff of the Review Group are involved in collaborative efforts, both inside and outside the Cochrane Collaboration, to improve policy and practice. These contributions include the following:

- **S. Hill**, Member, Review Panel for the Review of the Steering Group functions of the Cochrane Collaboration Steering Group 2005-06.
- **S. Hill**, Member, Cochrane Collaboration Coordinating Editors' executive group, 2004 to date.
- **S. Hill**, Member, Advisory Board, Australian Satellite of the Cochrane Musculoskeletal Group, Melbourne, December 2005 to date.
- **S. Hill**, Member, Reference Committee, Participation in Your Health Service System. Department of Human Services, Victoria, 2004 - December 2005.
- **S. Hill**, Member, Health Advisory Committee of National Health and Medical Research Council, 2003-2005, including Member of the Working Group on Consumer Participation in NHMRC, 2004-05, and HAC sponsor for the Guideline Assessment Register and the NHMRC Transitional Levels and Grades of Evidence Working Party.
- **M. Pictor**, Member, Cochrane Collaboration Review Group Procedures Collection working party, 2004 to date.
- **M. Pictor**, Member, Cochrane Editorial Management Advisory Group, June 2004 to date.

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*~The Consumers and
Communication Review Group
has more than 500 members in
34 countries, including more
than 150 in Australia ~*