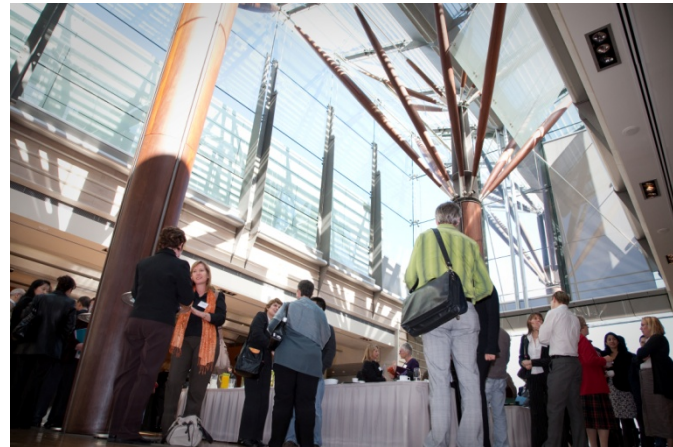


UNSW research centre for **primary health care and equity**

The role of primary health care organisations

Mark Harris

- What are they?
- Why do we need them?
- What problems might they help?
- What problems might they cause?



What are PHCOs?

Primary health care ensure primary health care services for an area.

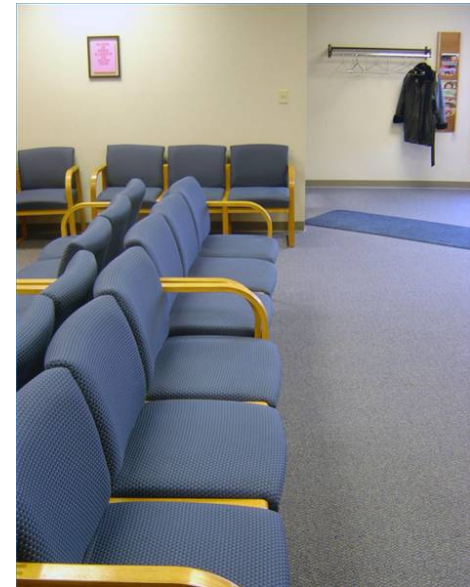
This may involve:-

- Assess health needs
- Plan services.
- Provide or subcontract services.
- Purchase or commission services
- Collaborate with other organisations to improve health.



Why do we need them?

- Funding of services not funded under Medicare
- Service development and planning
- Integration
- Workforce development
- Clinical governance and QI



What problems might they solve?

- Fragmentation –
Comm/State, private
public, service types
- Unmet need (“market
failure”)
- Variable quality
- Consumer involvement



What might they make worse?

- Local politics
- Loss of provider engagement
- Inefficiency and duplication of organisation (loss of economy of scale)

