

THE AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL UNIVERSITYHEALTH ECONOMICS RESEARCH UNITANNUAL REPORT 1984Staff

Director	J.S. Deeble	B.Com., Ph.D. (Melb.)
Research Fellows	D.R. Harvey P.M. Tatchell	B.Sc. (QLD) M.Ec. (Monash) BA, M.Soc.Sci., D. Phil. (To Feb. 1984)
Visiting Fellows	J.R.J. Richardson L.R. Smith	B.Ec. (UNE) Ph.D. (Macquarie) BA, Ph.D. (NSW) M.Sc (Lond.)
Research Assistant	P.D. Pentony	BA (ANU)

The Unit is an independent research centre within the University, reporting through an Advisory Committee to the Vice-Chancellor. Its main financial support is from the National Health and Medical Research Council, but support is also received from the Commonwealth Department of Health and other outside sources, and the University makes a substantial contribution. The Unit's research programme is directed towards health economics and statistics, with particular reference to the financing of health services, the economics of medical practice and the pharmaceutical industry.

Two major projects occupied most the Unit's resources during 1984. The first was the completion of an econometric model of the Australian Health Services sector, and the initial estimation of some key parameters of this model. The results were reported in a paper by Dr Richardson and Mr Harvey to the Health Economists' Group conference in September 1984. Earlier work on the project had included estimates of the effects of prices (price elasticity) on the demand for medical services, and of the effects of price and the supply of doctors on the use of prescribed drugs. The most recent study investigated the demand for and supply of hospital beds in four States, together with variations in the rate of hospital admissions in 75 regions. Data were disaggregated by type of hospital, age and sex of patient, the socio-economic characteristics of the region and the reason for admission as indicated by discharge diagnosis.

The second major project was a survey of health statistics in Australia. The results were reported in several papers to a NCHVS/ANZSERCH Workshop on Health statistics. A compendium of statistical sources has been compiled and will be maintained, extended and updated. The survey identified 115 collections, of which 26 were registers of specific diseases, disease agents or disabilities; 51 related to other health status statistics; 14 were mainly concerned with identified risk factors, and 4 related to health services provision. Many collections contained financial and service utilisation data as well as health status information, but not in any consistent fashion, and one of the main activities in 1985 will be the improvement of these collections, in terms of both scope and quality.



Publications

- Tatchell, P.M. (Ed); Perspectives on Health Policy, Proceedings of a Public Affairs Conference, 1982
- Tatchell, P.M. (Ed); Economics and Health, 1984, Proceedings of the Fifth Australian Conference of Health Economists, 1983
- Deeble, J.S.: "The Boundaries of Health Policy" in Tatchell (Ed) Perspectives on Health Policy
- Smith, J.R.; "Health Sciences, Health Status and Health Policy", in Tatchell (Ed) Perspectives on Health Policy
- Richardson J.R.J.; "The use of Hospital and Medical Services in Australia", in Tatchell(Ed) Perspectives on Health Policy
- Richardson J.R.J. and Harvey, D.R.; "A Model of the Supply and Demand for Hospital Services, with Demand disaggregated by Age, Sex and Diagnosis" in Tatchell (Ed) Economics and Health, 1984.