

THE AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL UNIVERSITY
HEALTH RESEARCH PROJECT
ANNUAL REPORT 1978

Staff (at 31 December 1978)

<u>Senior Research Fellow</u>	J.S. Deeble, B. Com., Ph.D. (Melb.)
<u>Research Fellows</u>	L.R. Smith, B.A. (Syd.), Ph.D. (NSW) P.M. Tatchell, M.Soc.Sci., D. Phil (Waikato)
<u>Research Assistants</u>	I.W. Scott, B.Ec. (ANU) A. Elvin, B.A. (Macquarie)

The two main projects involve studies in Health Economics and of Aboriginal Health Statistics. In Health Economics, the first six months of 1978 were engaged in the completion of a study of health expenditures in Australia, 1960-61 to 1975-76, supported by a grant from the Hospitals and Health Services Commission. The results were published as the first Research Report of the Project. Preliminary results were reported to a conference on Health Cost Containment at the University of New South Wales in January 1978 and also published in the Proceedings of that Conference. Papers were subsequently delivered at the Australian Hospitals Association Congress in September, and to the seminars in the Urban Research Unit, ANU, and to the joint seminar of the Economics Departments of the Adelaide and Flinders Universities. At the request of the Pharmaceutical Manufacturing Industry Inquiry a study was undertaken of prescription drug pricing and distribution policies, which will be submitted for publication shortly.

Following discussions with representatives of the National Health and Medical Research Council, agreement was reached on a long-term programme of studies in Health Economics, and approval given for a grant from the NH & MRC amounting to approximately \$360,000 over a four and one half year period to December 1982. A grant of \$37,000 was received for the latter half of 1978. Initially the project will involve two major studies of institutional economics; an analysis of labour utilisation and labour costs in Victorian Public Hospitals, and a study of the determinants of institutional use in three regions of New South Wales. Dr P.M. Tatchell is the initial appointee under this grant, which is the first major project in Health Economics to be supported by the National Health and Medical Research.

Aboriginal Health Statistics. Dr Smith's study of Aboriginal health statistics has been supported by grants from the Department of Health and the Department of Aboriginal Affairs. The study is nearing completion and a report (which will be published in our Research Report series) has been submitted to the Department of Health. The report contains recommendations for the systematic collection of Aboriginal health statistics, and Dr Smith is actively involved in their implementation within the Department of Health.

Publications

Deeble, J.S., "National Health Expenditures" in Cost Containment and Quality Control, Australian Studies in Health Service Administration, No 34, University of New South Wales, 1978, p. 17.

Deeble, J.S., Health Expenditures in Australia, 1960-61 to 1975-76", Health Research Project, Research Report No. 1, 1978.

Deeble, J.S., National Health Insurance - Some Australian lessons for the United States", University of Denver, College of Business and Public Administration, Distinguished Public Executive Series, August 1978.

Deeble, J.S., "The Cost to the Consumer - an Economist's View", Proceedings of the 10th Congress of the Australian Hospitals Association, September 1978.