



Under the Microscope

Research Administration Centre (RACS) database roll-out to WA Health

In the 2004 Office of the Auditor General (OAG) report *Under the Microscope: Support for Health and Medical Research in Western Australia*, a number of the recommendations focussed on the systematic recording and monitoring of research activities and the better management of intellectual property.

To address this, the State Government has recently approved funding for the Research Administration Centre System (RACS) program to be rolled out to WA Health.

RACS was initially developed by the RPH Research Administration Centre in conjunction with the Information Systems & Technology department and has been deployed at Royal Perth Hospital since February 2004.

The updated application will involve a rewrite in .net of the current functionality as an Intranet based solution.

The security aspects will allow each hospital to enter their own data but will be able to search across the campuses. Hospitals will be able to report per site or query data on an ad hoc basis.

Currently RACS comprises 3 modules – research, publications and ethics with the further enhancement of an intellectual property module to be incorporated prior to rollout.

There are more than 3000 publications, 1000 ethics applications and 750 research projects on the RPH database.

The initial roll-out and administrator training to Fremantle, Princess Margaret, King Edward Memorial and Sir Charles Gairdner Hospitals will be completed prior to June 2008.

Dr Neale Fong, Director General of Health said “the rollout of RACS across all the teaching hospitals should have the benefit of a more efficient and timely capture of information regarding research in each hospital and contribute to a better system-wide understanding of the contribution of research to WA Health.”