



MEDIA RELEASE

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Change Champions becomes new stakeholder for CHAIN Australasia and Asia Pacific Rim

CHAIN (Contact, Help, Advice and Information Networks), established in 1998 in the United Kingdom, is pleased to announce that Change Champions will be facilitating *CHAIN* for Australasia and the Asia Pacific Rim commencing on 11 January 2011.

CHAIN is a not for profit, multi-professional online network of more than 9500 people working in the health care family of organisations, research, education and quality improvement in the UK and more than 40 other countries worldwide.

As the new stakeholder for *CHAIN Australasia and Asia Pacific Rim*, Change Champions, an Australian company that produces high quality seminars in the health sector, will become the regional lead for the international professional network in Health care. Staff at the Change Champions office will field enquiries accessing expertise from the worldwide *CHAIN* network.

"This is a fantastic opportunity to also showcase Australian innovation projects on the world's stage while encouraging health and social care professionals in Australasia and the Asia Pacific Rim to learn from the achievements in quality, safety and health and social reform overseas," said Char Weeks, Chief Executive of Change Champions and author of the successful book *Handy Hints for the Novice Conference Presenter*.

"It's really all about sharing great ideas around the world to foster innovation and improvement with patients being the winners."

Since 2007 *CHAIN* has had a national component in Australia, with financial support coming from the Joanna Briggs Institute in Adelaide. The network has continued to grow significantly over the last two years.

David Evans, Founder-Director of *CHAIN* is enthusiastic about the new partnership with Change Champions.

"It is always exciting when *CHAIN* gains a new stakeholder, because new partners always bring energy and ideas which inject new vibrancy and ambition into our network, as well as adding to the collective experience," David said.

"It is already clear that all members of *CHAIN*, both existing and new; in both hemispheres, will benefit significantly from the creativity and dynamism of Change Champions as our new partners in Australasia and the Asia Pacific Rim. We are really looking forward to working together to our mutual benefit, and we are very excited by the possibilities our partnership will unlock."

Change Champions will be starting out by producing 4 compendia comprising of Clinical Engagement, Change Management, Creating Sustainable Cultures of Innovation in Healthcare, and Creating Sustainable Cultures of Safety in Healthcare. The compendia will result from a collaborative effort with *CHAIN* members encouraged to contribute. The compendia will be available to *CHAIN* members for free and non- members at a small fee in order for Change Champions to recover the costs of putting it together.

For more information about *CHAIN*, visit <http://chain.ulcc.ac.uk/chain/index.html>

For more information about Change Champions P/L, visit <http://www.changechampions.com.au>

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About Change Champions

Change Champions P/L is a leading Australian change management organisation that is registered as a company limited by guarantee. We deliver practical, high quality toolkit seminars that showcase innovations programs that have been implemented across the health care sector.

Our point of difference is that we understand health systems and healthcare delivery and the broader challenges that executives, managers and clinicians face every day in the delivery of patient care. Our expert team of event organisers turn ideas into action when they put together the seminars, workshops and webinars.

Char Weeks is the Chief Executive of Change Champions, Certified Executive Master Coach and a writer. She has a keen interest in supporting healthcare innovation, change programs and health workforce development.

Previously, Char has worked at executive level on a range of innovations programs both in Australia and overseas. She was Executive Director of the Australian Resource Centre for Healthcare Innovations from 2002-2005. She was also a co-facilitator for the Newcastle, NSW region health sub-group for the Prime Minister's 2020 Summit.

She has just published her first book, titled *Handy Hints for the Novice Conference Presenter*. This book was launched in July this year, and found international success across 7 countries in only a matter of weeks. [Media opportunities regarding Char Weeks and her book can be arranged upon request.](#)

For further details about Change Champions, visit: www.changechampions.com.au

About CHAIN

CHAIN - Contact, Help, Advice and Information Network - is an online network for people working in health and social care. It is based around specific areas of interest, and gives people a simple and informal way of contacting each other to exchange ideas and share knowledge. CHAIN is multi-professional and cross organisational.

CHAIN originated in NHS research & development programme in England more than 12 years ago. It has been developed, improved and expanded over the years, and is now a leader in inter-professional, cross-organisational networking in health and social care. CHAIN is supported by more than 10 stakeholder organisations of international repute, including the National Institute for Health Research, The Department of Health, The King's Fund, Sheffield Hallam University, NHS Grampian, NHS Scotland, The Scottish School of Primary Care, Macmillan Cancer Support, The Health Service Executive and Institute of Public Health in Ireland, Qulturum, Jonkoping in Sweden, The University of Siena and the Siena health agency in Italy, and the Iberoamerican Cochrane Centre in Spain. The network is not-for-profit, and members of CHAIN staff are employed by the NHS.

<http://chain.ulcc.ac.uk/chain/index.html>