

Michelle Delaney

From: West Moreton Health <WMCommunications@health.qld.gov.au>
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7 December 2023



Home-grown research symposium ignites passion

Feedback on West Moreton Health's quality improvement and research symposium, Ignite Innovation - held in October 2023, has been overwhelmingly positive.

West Moreton Health researchers and consumers presented at the symposium, held in the Ipswich Hospital on 18 October 2023. Ninety-six per cent of attendees who completed an evaluation of the symposium rated it as valuable overall.

Ninety-one people attended the symposium in person and 74 attended online. Attendees were primarily from West Moreton Health and University of Southern Queensland.

Award winners included Kate Dwyer (best Quality Improvement presentation), Dr Marc Nickels (best Research presentation) and Larissa Millard (People's Choice award), pictured above with Professor Harvey Whiteford and Director of Innovation and Research Chris Hicks.

The Research and Innovation team would like to thank the symposium's major sponsor, the University of Southern Queensland Centre for Health Research, and the West Moreton Health Communication team who contributed substantially to the success of this event.

Meet our researcher

Dr Gemma McKeon

Advanced Psychologist Researcher

I am a Clinical Psychologist, Clinical Neuropsychologist and PhD candidate. I have worked at West Moreton Health (WMH) in various research and clinical roles over the years. Currently, I work in a position developed in a collaboration between WMH Psychology and the Queensland Centre for Mental Health Research to provide clinician-researcher skills and leadership within the divisions of Allied Health and Mental Health and Specialised Services. I contribute to established and emerging research programs within WMH, in addition to fostering our workforce capability to undertake research, quality improvement and knowledge translation activities. My own research has focused on understanding a rare group of autoimmune neurological conditions that can cause psychosis.



Favourite holiday destination

My fondest childhood holiday memories are walking the Gorge Walk and eating gelatis on North Stradbroke Island. As a young adult, I loved backpacking around the globe, getting lost, and discovering unexpected destinations. More recently, my family and I enjoy our regular winter escape into nature at Girraween National Park for bushwalks, hot chocolates, and marshmallow roasting.

Books on my nightstand

If my nightstand were a book, it would be called *The Perilous Tower of Unread Books*. My favourite book to read of an evening to my four-year-old son is *Dr Dog* by Babette Cole, where a family pet jets off to a medical conference in Brazil, but is forced to return to his family to assist them with various ailments.

Famous person I'd like to meet

I would love to meet Bill Bailey, one of my favourite comedians.

Renal Dialysis Unit commences first clinical trial

On 25 October, after three months of site start-up management by the WMH Research and Innovation Clinical Trial team, the Renal Dialysis unit (RDU) commenced their first clinical trial: the Symptom Monitoring with Feedback Trial (SWIFT). Led at Ipswich Hospital by nephrologist Dr Vishwas Raghunath, the RDU staff have risen to the challenge of learning new skills and the intricacies of running of clinical trials.

A cluster randomised registry-based controlled trial, SWIFT is an Australian-wide study led by the National Health and Medical Research Council's Clinical Trial Centre in collaboration with the Australian and New Zealand Dialysis and Transplant Registry. Dialysis patients who agree to participate will complete a short survey about their quality of life and symptom management via an electronic tablet at three timepoints.



SWIFT aims to determine the clinical effectiveness and cost-effectiveness of symptom monitoring in improving outcomes at 12 months for adults on haemodialysis. The trial will compare the Integrated Palliative Outcome Scale – Renal (IPOS-Renal) survey, which provides feedback to clinicians, with standard care (i.e. no routine symptom monitoring).

National trial to reduce the number of births before 39 weeks

West Moreton Health's Division of Women, Children and Family has taken part in a national trial to reduce the number of babies born by caesarean section or being induced before 39 weeks. Since September 2022, the Every Week Counts national preterm-birth prevention collaborative has rolled out several recommendations which are aimed at reducing the number of babies being born pre-term (before 37 weeks), or early term (between 37 and 38+6 weeks gestation). This includes monitoring the reasons why women were induced or having booked caesareans before 39 weeks without clear medical reason. Clinical Midwifery Consultant Alexis Luckley said West Moreton Health teams monitored the reasons for babies being born early or born pre-term, along with the number of admissions to special care, over a year.

Recommendations implemented included:

- asking the region's radiology providers to record cervical length during the 18–20 week morphology scan, and to refer women straight to the hospital for further care planning if the cervix is found to be short
- educating staff on the significance of short cervix on morphology scan
- prescribing progesterone pessaries when short cervix is identified on morphology scan
- educating women on the optimal timing of birth
- not scheduling C-sections or induction before 39 weeks without a clear medical reason.

Early indicators are that these actions may be making a difference. A full evaluation will be shared after the trial's completion in March 2024.



West Moreton researchers shine at university's research symposium

On Monday 6 November, West Moreton Health Director of Speech Pathology and Audiology Dr Katrina Dunn was the invited plenary speaker at the University of Southern Queensland Centre for Health Research Symposium. Katrina's presentation, "Leading from where you are: Developing a research agenda for WMH Speech Pathology and Audiology services", focused on her research journey and tips for building research collaborations between WMH and university staff. One of Katrina's key messages was that research might start with a small quality improvement activity and then progress to a program of research that can transform health service care.

Ipswich Hospital Intensive Care Unit research nurse Wayne Stevens presented "Research



nurse in an ICU setting: What we do at the coalface!”.

Wayne’s presentation discussed the importance of developing a culture of curiosity about current care to produce research ideas that can improve future care. This approach produces valuable insights that help bridge the evidence-practice gap in healthcare.

Latest research at West Moreton Health

Research projects authorised to begin at West Moreton Health from 22 August to 20 November 2023:

- Perioperative management of anticoagulation in major orthopaedic surgery, Courtney Rose, Pharmacy, Clinical Services
- The National Australian HCV Point-of-Care Testing Program - HCV antibody testing minimal dataset, Blake Ponting, Prison Health Services, Preventative and Prison Health
- Smoking cessation referral and uptake of Quitline services for pregnant women, Ms Cheryl Bailey (UQ), Midwifery, Clinical Services
- A mixed-method evaluation of West Moreton Health COVID-19 Hospital in the Home service, Linh Vo (QUT), HITH, Clinical Services
- Evaluation of Queensland SUSD services, Dr Zoe Rutherford (UQ/QCMHR), QCMHR, Mental Health and Specialised Services
- The impact of Nurse Initiated Pathology (NIP) on Patient outcomes in the Emergency Department, Zachary Buxton, Emergency Department, Clinical Services
- Evaluating a health service-wide research ambassador initiative, Dr Emma Finch, Research and Innovation, Mental Health and Specialised Services
- West Morten Cervical Screening Survey to validate a Patient Decision Aid, Dr Lilantha Wedisinghe, Obstetrics and Gynaecology, Clinical Services
- GECKO (Global Evaluation of Cholecystectomy Knowledge and Outcomes) study, Dr Lincoln Rothwell, Surgery, Clinical Services
- Do oncology patients in affiliated rural hospitals want access to services closer to home?, Kim Toohill, Oncology, Clinical Services
- The GLOW Trial: implementing Guidelines for hypothermia prevention with Local adaptation to keep perioperative patients Warm, Dr Bipphy Kath, Anaesthetics, Clinical Services
- Investigating a sustainable training model to improve paediatric videofluoroscopic swallow study (VFSS) quality and safety, Dr Jeanne Marshall (CHQ), Speech Pathology and Audiology, Allied Health
- MOVIN in ICU: An observational study of Mobilisation On Vasopressors & INotropes in intensive care, Dr Marc Nickels, Physiotherapy and ICU, Allied Health and Clinical Services
- The impact of suicide prevention training on the practice of Emergency Department Clinicians. An exploratory study, Melissa Branjerdporn (Griffith Uni), QCMHL, Mental Health and Specialised Services

Recent West Moreton Health publications

Twenty-eight West Moreton Health teams co-authored 27 research articles that were published between September and November 2023:

- **Queensland Centre for Mental Health Research (QCMHR)**: 13 research articles by QCMHR staff employed by West Moreton Health
- **Orthopaedics**: 2 research articles
- **Allied Health, Endocrinology, Kidney Health Service, Nutrition and Food Services, Obstetrics and Gynaecology, Older Persons Mental Health Service, Oral Health, Palliative Medicine, Prison and Preventative Health Services, Public Health Unit, Renal Service, Research and Innovation, Urology**: 1 research article each
- One collaborator from the **Intensive Care Unit** at West Moreton Health was acknowledged in one research paper.

West Moreton Health staff are highlighted in bold.

- **Abazari, S.**, Moulaei, K., & **George, M.** (2023). Examining outcomes and challenges of telepsychiatry in Australian elderly: A scoping review. *Journal of Aging Research*, 2023, 8864591. <https://doi.org/10.1155/2023/8864591>
- **Ali, S.**, Wright, E., & **Charlson, F.** (2023). Using a systems thinking approach to explore the complex relationships between schizophrenia and premature mortality. *International Journal of Social Psychiatry*, 207640231194477. <https://doi.org/10.1177/00207640231194477>
- Anstey, M. H., Trent, L., Bhonagiri, D., Hammond, N. E., Knowles, S., & McGain, F. (2023). How much do we throw away in the intensive care unit? An observational point prevalence study of Australian and New Zealand ICUs. *Critical Care and Resuscitation*, 25(2), 78-83. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ccrj.2023.05.004> (***Neeraj Bhadange** is acknowledged as a collaborator in this publication)
- **Baker, A.**, Suetani, S., **Cosgrove, P.**, Siskind, D., Murray, G. K., Scott, J. G., & **Kesby, J. P.** (2023). Reversal learning in those with early psychosis features contingency-dependent changes in loss response and learning. *Cognitive Neuropsychiatry*, 28(5), 342-360. <https://doi.org/10.1080/13546805.2023.2259019>
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- Conn, K. A., Alexander, S., **Burne, T. H. J.**, & **Kesby, J. P.** (2023). Antagonism of D2 receptors via raclopride ameliorates amphetamine-induced associative learning deficits in male mice. *Behavioural Brain Research*, 454, 114649. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.bbr.2023.114649>
- Dale, P. R., **Meurk, C.**, Williams, M., Watson, M., Steele, M. L., **Wittenhagen, L.**, . . . Heffernan, E. (2023). Our Ways, Your Ways, Both Ways - A multi-disciplinary collaboration to develop, embed and evaluate a model of social and emotional wellbeing care for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people who experience detention - Phase 1. *Frontiers in Psychiatry*, 14, 1207103. <https://doi.org/10.3389/fpsyt.2023.1207103>
- **Davies, K.**, **McGowan, K.**, **Dover, T.**, McGowan, T., & Tadakamadla, S. K. (2023). Dental referrals for patients with diabetes: survey of barriers and enablers for medical and health professionals. *Australian Dental Journal*. Advance online publication. <https://doi.org/10.1111/adj.12978>
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- McCarthy, K., **Finch, E.**, & Miles, A. (2023). The introduction of a protocol for esophageal screening in videofluoroscopic swallowing studies: Exploring clinical impacts and barriers. *American Journal of Speech-Language Pathology*, 32(5), 2267-2281. https://doi.org/10.1044/2023_ajslp-23-00022
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Have you checked out the research training videos on the intranet?

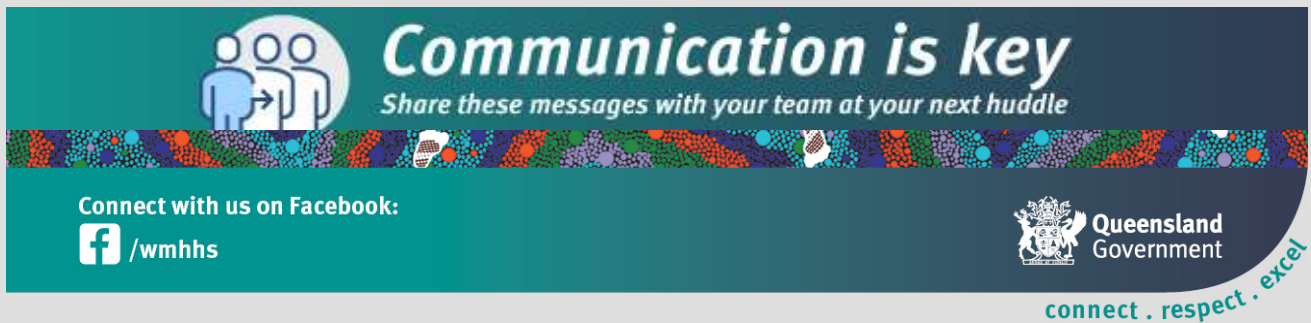
Did you know that the WMH research and innovation team site has a series of research training videos? The videos provide brief information about different aspects of research including developing a research question, partnering with consumers, how to review literature, and how to write a conference abstract.

[Read more](#)


Helpful resources


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- [Research project approvals](#)
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