

# Allied Health Professionals



**Peter Buttrum**  
Acting Director  
Allied Health Professions

## Overview and executive and directing staff

The Allied Health Professions (AHP) service line comprises the professions of Audiology, Nutrition and Dietetics, Occupational Therapy, Orthotics and Prosthetics, Physiotherapy, Psychology, Rehabilitation Engineering, Social Work and Speech Pathology. The professions support RBWH clinical services lines within multiprofessional teams and aim to provide high quality and evidence based services across the continuum of care. A new model of governance for AHP research was commenced during 2014 with appointment of a half time Director, Research AHP.

Aligned to the RBWH vision of being a world class academic health centre, the Allied Health professions have a strong commitment to high quality research. This research investment, along with ongoing education, underpins the evidence base, effectiveness, and efficiency of our service delivery, and the outcomes are aimed at transforming clinical service delivery within rapidly changing healthcare environments.

In 2014, Allied Health have continued their enormous success in research outcomes. AHP staff were successful in authoring over 50 publications in high quality peer reviewed journals, and attracting over a million dollars in external grant funding. Additionally staff presented over 80 abstracts or invited presentations at national and international conferences. There were also nearly 30 AHP staff undertaking higher research degrees.

We are extremely proud of our ongoing commitment to high quality research. We also appreciate and thank the contribution of our several University partners, without whom this level of research success would not be possible, and look forward to their ongoing collaboration. Finally, and most importantly, sincere thanks and congratulations are extended to all the Allied Health staff for their dedicated efforts and achievements in 2014.

## Key departments

- » Department of Nutrition and Dietetics
- » Department of Occupational Therapy
- » Department of Orthotics and Prosthetics
- » Department of Physiotherapy
- » Rehabilitation Engineering Centre
- » Department of Social Work and Psychology
- » Department of Speech Pathology and Audiology
- » Centre of Allied Health Research

## Executive and directing staff

**Peter Buttrum**  
Acting Director, Allied Health Professions

**Dr Merrilyn Banks**  
Director, Nutrition and Dietetics

**Susan Laracy**  
Director, Occupational Therapy

**Mark Holian**  
Director, Orthotics and Prosthetics

**Mark Cruickshank**  
Acting Director, Physiotherapy

**Peter Slattery**  
Director, Rehabilitation Engineering

**Angela O'Malia**  
Director, Social Work and Psychology Services

**Lynell Bassett**  
Director, Speech Pathology and Audiology

# Department of Nutrition and Dietetics



**Dr Merrilyn Banks**  
Director  
Nutrition and Dietetics

## Overview

**About this service:** The Department of Nutrition and Dietetics provides a comprehensive clinical service to inpatients and outpatients of the RBWH. Services to inpatients include nutritional assessment, intervention and support, discharge planning for outpatient follow-up and community services. Outpatient counselling services are provided to groups and individuals in clinics within the Department and as part of multidisciplinary teams. A home enteral nutrition service is also provided. There is commitment to provide ongoing education to hospital staff, education and support for student dietitians, as well as support and advice to dietitians and other health professionals in regional areas.

**Highlights of 2014:** The Department has a strong commitment to leading research and collaborating with multidisciplinary teams. Research has focussed on a range of clinical conditions and chronic diseases across the continuum of health care. This year the Department has attracted \$600K of competitive research funding, authored 9 peer reviewed publications, 2 book chapters, and 27 conference presentations. Two of our staff were recipients of prestigious national awards.

The Department has strong and extensive local research collaborations with other RBWH clinical services and those at The Princess Alexandra, The Prince Charles, The Royal Children's and The Wesley Private Hospitals. Nutrition and Dietetics engages with all Academic partners associated with RBWH as well as state-wide and nationally with, the Australian and New Zealand Burns Dietitians Interest Group; Australian and New Zealand Burns Association (ANZBA); Joanna Briggs Institute; Australasian Society of Parental and Enteral Nutrition (AuSPEN); Australian and New Zealand Intensive Care Research Centre (ANZIC-RC); Nursing Research Centre of Excellence.

**Benefits for clinical practice:** Our research is directed to improving patient outcomes through the implementation of evidence based health services. Specifically our research has led to enhanced prevention and treatment of malnutrition and pressure injuries through supportive meal time environments, appropriate provision of hospital foodservices and medical nutrition therapy, and the implementation of post discharge procedures. For patients with a diagnosis of cancer, appropriate treatment with early supportive enteral nutrition prevents nutritional decline, improves recovery and patient outcomes. Through a greater understanding of factors impacting on excess weight in pregnancy, appropriate health services can be delivery to prevent and manage excess weight which is associated with chronic disease in women and children throughout the life course.

## Research staff

Name	Qualifications	Position	Interests/specialities
<b>Dr Merrilyn Banks</b>	PhD, BScGradDipEd, GradDipNutrDiet, MHLthSci	Director	malnutrition, pressure ulcers, elderly, critical care, food services
<b>Jan Hill</b>	BSc, Grad Dip Nut Diet, MPH	A/Director	malnutrition
<b>Sarah Andersen</b>	BHLthSci NutrDiet	Senior Dietitian/ Nutritionist	cancer care, nutrition support, malnutrition
<b>Claire Blake</b>	BHLthSci NutrDiet	Dietitian/ Nutritionist	nutrition support
<b>Teresa Brown</b>	BSc Nutr(Hons) GradDipNutrDiet	Team Leader, Dietitian/ Nutritionist	cancer care, gastrostomy
<b>Dr Susan de Jersey</b>	PhD MPH BHLthSci BAppSci HMS(Hons) NutrDiet(Hons)	Senior Dietitian/ Nutritionist	maternal health, maternal obesity, infant feeding, gestational diabetes, chronic disease prevention
<b>Kathleen Dwyer</b>	BHLthSci (NutrDiet)	Dietitian/ Nutritionist	cancer care, pressure ulcers
<b>Emma Osland</b>	BHSc (NutrDiet) (Hons) MPhil	Team Leader, Dietitian/ Nutritionist	nutrition support, surgical nutrition
<b>Dr Lynda Ross</b>	PhD(BiomedSci), BNutrDiet(Hons)	Visiting Research Fellow	chronic disease, rare diseases
<b>Dr Adrienne Young</b>	PhD BHLthSci NutrDiet(Hons)	Senior Dietitian/Nutritionist	malnutrition, elderly

## Supervised post-graduate research students

Name	Current studies University; (duration)	Research topic
Al Balushi, R.	PhD (2011- 2014); UQ	Effect of intravenous glutamine supplementation in trauma patients receiving enteral nutrition (GLINT Study): a prospective, blinded, randomised, placebo-controlled clinical trial
Brown, T.	PhD (2011-2016); UQ	Does early commencement of nutrition support in patients with head and neck cancer improve outcomes?
Roberts, S.	PhD (2011-2015); Griffith	Nutrition in prevention of pressure ulcers in hospitalised patients
Marshall, S.	PhD (2012-2015); Bond	Malnutrition in the Australian Rural Rehabilitation Community
Nelson, C.	PhD (2014-2016); QUT	Investigation of nutrition status of community adults with lower leg wounds

## Awards and achievements

Award	Event	Recipient
Young Achiever of the Year (National)	Dietitians Association of Australia 31st National Conference	Young, A.
Research in Practice Award	Dietitians Association of Australia 31st National Conference	de Jersey, S.
Innovation Award in memory of Josephine Rodgers - Highly Commended	Dietitians Association of Australia 31st National Conference	Ross, L., Mason, B., Juffs, P., Gill, E.

## Research grants

Investigators <small>*RBWH staff; bold, this department</small>	Project title	Granting body and scheme	Amount awarded (years)
<b>Banks, M.*</b>	Efficacy and cost effectiveness of nutrition in healing pressure ulcers	NHMRC Health Professional Research Training Fellow (P/T)	\$147,446 (2012-2015)
Chaboyer, W., Bucknall, T., Webster, J.*, McInnes, L., <b>Banks, M.*</b> , Wallis, M., Gillespie, B., Whitty, J., Thalib, L., Cullum, N.	Introducing a care bundle to prevent pressure injury (the INTACT trial)	NHMRC Project Grant	\$1,071,076 (2014-2015)
Demedio, K., <b>Young, A.*</b> , <b>Banks, M.*</b> , Mudge, A.*	Hospital to Home Outreach for Malnourished Elders – a cost-effectiveness sub-study	TPCH Foundation, Project grant (new investigator)	\$9816.95 (2014)
Young, A., <b>Banks, M.</b> , Mudge, A., Isenring, E., Whiting, E.	Hospital to Home Outreach for Malnourished Elders (HHOME)	Australian Centre for Health Services Innovation (AusHSI) Project grant	\$70,000 (2013-2014)
<b>Brown, T.*</b>	Prophylactic nutrition support in high risk patients prior to treatment for head and neck cancer	RBWH PhD Scholarship	\$32,500 (2014)

# Department of Occupational Therapy



**Susan Laracy**  
Director  
Occupational Therapy

## Overview

**About this service:** RBWH Specialist Occupational Therapist provides clinical services and state-wide advice in the areas of scar management, oedema management, management of the Hand and Upper Limb and acute stroke management. Consumer engagement in the planning and provision of our services is an emerging theme.

As the RBWH is teaching, tertiary health care provider, Occupational Therapy aims to provide a positive learning culture where the graduate Occupational Therapist transitions to advanced practitioner. We are aware of the importance of both clinical and professional skills and provide high quality supervision.

**Highlights of 2014:** The Cramond Fellow in Pain Management (a 3 year research fellowship) has been part of the establishment of RBWH OT for over 12 years and has supported 2 PHD candidates. The 2014 Cramond Fellow, Nicole Andrews submitted her PHD candidature.

Research to facilitate the scope of practice in Occupational Therapy in advanced scope of practice has been an exciting development in 2014. A prospective, observational study of the Occupational Therapy Hand Screening clinic has commenced which aims to demonstrate the benefits relating to patient satisfaction, reduced waiting times to care, reduced service costs and lower rates of surgery.

### Benefits for clinical practice:

The impact of the 2014 research projects include:

1. Affirmation of the daily practice of “Pacing of activity” in the management of patient with Chronic pain both nationally and internationally
2. Greater insights into the factors which predict adherences to pressure garments are achieved which will improve the patient experience and effectiveness of care.
3. Provide more timely and appropriate services for patients with hand and upper limb conditions through Specialist Occupational Therapy Screening clinics
4. Integration of an evaluated clinical education framework into the practice of Occupational Therapy.
5. Contribute to the evidence base to support the use of functional assessment of cognition as an adjunct to diagnostic procedures.

## Research staff

Name	Qualifications	Position	Interests/specialities
<b>Tennille Rowland</b>	MPhil, B Occ Thy, Grad Cert (Stroke)	Advanced Occupational Therapist (Stroke)	Stroke
<b>Nicole Andrews</b>	B Occ Thy (Hon 1)	Senior Occupational Therapist	Chronic pain, activity patterns, disability and daily function
<b>Nicole Coghlan</b>	B Occ Thy	Senior Occupational Therapist	Burns ; adherence factors
<b>Kirsten Cook</b>	B Occ Thy , Masters Of Science in Hand Therapy	Advanced Occupational Therapist (Hands)	Primary Contact Occupational Therapy in Hands
<b>Michelle Donovan</b>	B Occ Thy	Senior Occupational Therapist	Burns ; scar management
<b>Anthea White</b>	B Occ Thy ( Hon1)	Occupational Therapist	Risk factors of falls in mid aged women
<b>Sue Laracy</b>	B Occ Thy	Director, Occupational Therapy	Transition to practice of new graduate Occupational Therapist using a clinical education framework, Primary Contact Occupational Therapy in Hands

## Supervised post-graduate research students

Name	Current studies University; (duration)	Research topic
Andrews, N	PhD, UQ, 2009-2014	Approach to Activity and determinants of daily function in patients with chronic pain
Coglan, N	MPhil, UQ, 2013-2016	Factors affecting adherence to compression garments in an adult burns population
Donovan, M	MPhil, UQ, 2010-2014	Improving donor site epithelisation and scar maturation times following split skin grafting in Burns patients : a novel research study using compression therapy
White, A	M Public Health, UQ, 2013-2016	Masters by Course Work

## Research grants

Investigators <small>*RBWH staff; bold, this department</small>	Project title	Granting body and scheme	Amount awarded (years)
<b>Andrews, N.</b>	Approach to activity and determinants of daily function in patients with chronic pain: a momentary within-persons perspective	RBWH, PhD Scholarship	\$70 000 (2014)



# Department of Physiotherapy



**Mark Cruickshank**  
Director  
Physiotherapy

## Overview

**About this service:** The Department of Physiotherapy provides clinical services to both inpatients and outpatients of RBWH who have, or potentially have, an underlying movement dysfunction resulting from injury, disease or life changes. RBWH physiotherapists provide a wide range of clinical services across a variety of quaternary, tertiary and secondary services including medicine, surgery, neurosurgery, orthopaedics, critical care, burns, rehabilitation, trauma services, oncology, obstetrics, gynaecology, neonatology and other musculoskeletal, neurological and cardiorespiratory specialties.

**Highlights of 2014:** 2014 has been another very productive year for the Department, with a further 31 peer reviewed publications and numerous successful research grants. Key areas of research for 2014 were musculoskeletal conditions, acute and chronic cardio-respiratory physiotherapy, intensive care, burns, persistent pain, vestibular physiotherapy and clinical education. The conjoint Research Fellow position with Griffith University's School of Allied Health Sciences was secured for a further 3 years and the department was very fortunate to recruit Dr Jennifer Paratz.

Jennifer is an internationally renowned researcher in intensive care and burns research and she joined the physiotherapy research team alongside Dr Shaun O'Leary, who continued as conjoint Research Fellow with the University of Queensland's School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences, and Professor Alice Jones who continued with a part-time appointment at Griffith University.

Quality research is highly valued by the Department, and sincere thanks is extended to all those who contributed to making 2014 a great success

**Benefits for clinical practice:** A marker of the continued success of the research program in the Physiotherapy Department is that research is undertaken by both dedicated conjoint research staff as well as clinical staff with specific interests in particular areas of clinical practice. As a result, research in areas such as heart failure, intensive care, burns, musculoskeletal and vestibular physiotherapy is clinician driven and seeks to answer relevant questions developed from day to day clinical practice. Furthermore, the results of these research endeavours are readily transferable into the clinical arena and assist to develop high quality effective and efficient physiotherapy practice.

## Research staff

Name	Qualifications	Position	Interests/specialities
<b>Dr Jennifer Paratz</b>	PhD, MPhy, FACP, Grad Cert Ed (Medical Sciences)	Principal Research fellow, RBWH and Griffith University	Sepsis, Intensive care follow up, burns intensive care, metabolism in burns
<b>Julie Adsett</b>	BPhy (Hons)	Senior Physiotherapist, Heart Failure Service	Exercise training and chronic disease
<b>Dr Shaun O'Leary</b>	BPhy (Hons), MPhy (Manip), PhD, FACP	Principal Research Fellow, RBWH and University of Queensland	Musculoskeletal conditions
<b>Anita Plaza</b>	B. Phyt (Hons)	Consultant / Team Leader Physiotherapist, Burns	Burn Management, Exercise Prescription, Scar Management and Outcome measures
<b>Dr Peter Thomas</b>	BPhy (Hons), PhD, FACP, Grad Cert Healthcare Simulation	Consultant Physiotherapist and Team Leader – Critical Care and Surgery	Intensive care, education, simulation, rehabilitation, trauma
<b>Mr Peter Window</b>	B. Phyt	Physiotherapist	Musculoskeletal, Chronic Pain
<b>Professor Alice Jones</b>	PhD, Certificate Physiotherapy, MPhil, DipEd, Msc, FACP.	Adjunct Professor, Griffith University.	Acute care physiotherapy, pain management
<b>Mr Ian Parker</b>	BPhy (Hons), M IntPH	Team Leader Physiotherapist – Neurosciences	Vestibular dysfunction
<b>Maree Raymer</b>	BPhy (Hons), MPhySt (Manip); MHM	Assistant Program Manager, Statewide N/OPSC and MDS	Service models for patients with MSK conditions, including economic impact

## Supervised post-graduate research students

Name	Current studies University; (duration)	Research topic
Adsett, J.	PhD, Griffith University, (2012-2017)	Aquatic exercise for patients with stable heart failure
Bellapart, J.	PhD, UQ (2013-2016)	Anaemia and microcirculation in head injury
Bissett, B.	PhD, UQ, (2012-2016)	Respiratory muscle training in intensive care
Clark, C.	MPhil, Griffith University, (2013-2016)	Mobility in Intensive care
Cottrell,	PhD, QH (2014-)	Clinician projects
Flores, O.	PhD, UQ (2014-2017)	Metabolism in Burns
Gane, E.	PhD, QH (2014)	Clinician projects
Jaber, K.	MPhil, QH (2014)	Clinician projects
Kayambu, G.	PhD, UQ (2012-2015)	Early mobilization in sepsis
O'Connor, L.	MPhil, Griffith University, (2015-2018)	Tracheostomy and effect on balance
Parker, I .	PhD, ACU, (2017)	Clinical and Cost effectiveness analysis of the RBWH Vestibular Screening and Rehabilitation Service model of care
Peasey, M.	MPhil, Griffith University, (2014-2017)	Outcome measures in Pulmonary rehabilitation
Sanderson, J.	MPhil, Griffith University, (2014 – 2016)	Evaluating the effect of applying sustained thumb pressure to lymphoedema tissue using ultrasound: A review of the pitting test.
Spermon, M.	MPhil, School of Medicine, University of Queensland, (2013-2015)	Compression therapy for donor sites in burns
Walsh, J.	PhD, School of Medicine, University of Queensland, (2011-2014)	Selection of participants for pulmonary rehabilitation
Window, P.	PhD, UQ (2014-2016)	Is gluteal muscle dysfunction present in chronic low back pain and can commonly used clinical tests of gluteal function detect it

## Awards and achievements

Award	Event	Recipient
Best Medical Paper	Australian and new Zealand Intensive Care Congress	Paratz, J.
Heart Foundation Collaboration and Exchange Award	Travel and attendance to a research group in France and European Society of Cardiology Heart Failure Congress in Athens.	Adsett, J.

## Research grants

Investigators <small>*RBWH staff; this department</small>	Project title	Granting body and scheme	Amount awarded (years)
Adsett, J.*, Mudge, A.*, Morris, N.	Effect of aquatic exercise on physiological parameters for patients with stable heart failure	RBWH Foundation, Project Grant	\$8527.50 2014
Adsett, J.*, Mudge, A.*, Morris, N.	Safety and efficacy of aquatic exercise in patients with stable heart failure	National Heart Foundation of Australia, Post graduate scholarship	\$71 439.50 2012-2017
Berney, S., Denehy, L., Needham, D., Paratz, J., Koopman, R., Hopkins, R.	Functional electrical stimulation assisted cycling (eStimCycle): A novel intervention to improve outcomes in the critically ill	NHMRC, Project Grant	\$842,000 2014-2018

## Research grants

Investigators <small>*RBWH staff; this department</small>	Project title	Granting body and scheme	Amount awarded (years)
Denny, K., Cohen, J., Lipman, J., Paratz, J., Dulhunty, J., Evans, D., Pretorius, C., Paterson, D.A.	Biomarker for Sepsis to Thwart Antibiotic Overuse in the Intensive Care Unit	RBWH Foundation, Project Grant	\$56,000 (2014-2017)
Hickey, A., Adsett, J.*	Functional electrical stimulation assisted cycling (eStimCycle): A novel intervention to improve outcomes in the critically ill	Clinical access and redesign unit, Project Grant	\$136 000 (2014)
Johnson, J., O'Leary	Biomarker for Sepsis to Thwart Antibiotic Overuse in the Intensive Care Unit	Office Ergonomics Research Committee (OERC) Grant. Project Grant	\$11, 500 (2014-2015)
Johnston, V., Straker, L., Sjogaard, G., O'Leary, S., Melloh, M.	A workplace-based exercise intervention to prevent and reduce the economic and personal burden of non-specific neck pain in the office personnel	NHMRC, Project Grant	\$ 660,834 (2013-2017) \$150.00/yr
O'Leary, S., McPhail, Comans, Raymer, Khan	Optimising patient selection and resource utilization for the non-surgical management of common orthopaedic conditions (Part 2)	RBWH Research Grants, Project Grant	\$56 537 (2013-2014) \$28,000/yr
Paratz, J., Thomas, P., Ntoumenopoulos, G., Jones, A., Li Bassi, G., Torres	A Identification and location of secretion retention in mechanically ventilated patients	RBWH Foundation, Project Grant	\$40,000 (2014-2017)
Parker, Ian	Allied health-led vestibular screening and rehabilitation services: a contribution to ear nose and throat wait-list management and positive patient outcomes	AusHSI (QUT), PhD Top Up Grant	\$10,000 (2014)
Window, P., Tucker, K., O'Leary, S.	Is gluteal muscle dysfunction present in chronic low back pain and can commonly used clinical tests of gluteal function detect it?	RBWH Research Postgraduate Scholarship, Scholarship	\$50,000 (2014)



# Department of Rehabilitation Engineering



**Peter Slattery**  
Director  
Rehabilitation Engineering

## Overview

**About this service:** Rehabilitation Engineering is a professional engineer lead clinical service looking to improve the quality of life of people with disabilities through the application of engineering principle. Rehabilitation engineers design and fabricate bespoke solution to overcome a variety of acute and long term issues including skins integrity and complex postural management

**Highlights of 2014:** Rehabilitation Engineering has focussed its research efforts on developing a solid evidence base for the delivery of the unique services it provides. This has covered a diverse range of topics including material science, clinical pathway selection and service operational review.

**Benefits for clinical practice:** Our research helps to improve the quality of care provided to our clients. The focus of all of our research is on ways to improve the journey for the client and the results we can achieve with them.

## Research staff

Name	Qualifications	Position	Interests/specialities
<b>Peter Slattery</b>	BEng (Hons), MEngSc (Research)	Director, Rehabilitation Engineering	Assistive Technology, Service delivery models



# Department of Social Work and Psychology



**Angela O'Malia**  
Director  
Social Work and Psychology

## Overview

**About this service:** The Department of Social Work Services provides a range of psycho-social services which are integral to the health care provided at the Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital. By working with the patient, family and treating team to remove barriers and enhance strengths and wellbeing social workers optimize health outcomes for patients. Social workers have core skills in the areas of psychosocial assessment, crisis intervention, child protection, domestic and family violence, grief and loss/trauma and complex discharge planning and utilise evidence based interventions and models of care.

**Highlights of 2014:** Research is a growing area of interest for social work with the aim of demonstrating the breadth and complexity of work which is undertaken by social work in health.

In 2014 the focus for social work research was collaborative practice and innovation in social work clinical education. Studies and presentations highlighted social work's effective collaboration with a range of stakeholders, namely medicine within renal services, law and legal services, and the Queensland University of Technology as a key university partner.

**Benefits for clinical practice:** Our research activities in student education helps support safe practice by linking knowledge with the real world of work, thus equipping emerging clinicians with a skill set to work in the health sector. Future research will focus on the role and impact of social work in an increasingly complex and challenging health environment

## Research staff

Name	Qualifications	Position	Interests/specialities
Angela O'Malia		Director	
Pamela McNeil		Assistant Director	
Maggie Poole		Senior Social Worker	Sexual Assault
Peerke Murphy		Social Worker	Sexual Assault
Renae Majcen		A/Team Leader	Sexual Assault

## Supervised post-graduate research students

Name	Current studies University; (duration)	Research topic
Brennan, K.	Masters in Social Work (Adv), UQ (2012-2014)	Masters in SW by course work did not include a thesis

# Department of Speech Pathology and Audiology



**Lynelle Bassett**  
Director  
Speech Pathology and  
Audiology

## Overview

**About this service:** The Speech Pathology and Audiology Department provides tertiary and quaternary level clinical services to adult inpatients and outpatients with swallowing and/or communication disorders of varying complexity and aetiology as well as providing audiology services. Services are provided at the RBWH Acute Hospital, the Geriatric Evaluation and Management Unit, and the Geriatric Assessment and Rehabilitation Unit, Rosemount.

The Department participates in a range of specialist multidisciplinary teams and has a strong commitment to clinical research and student education. In particular, the Speech Pathology and Audiology Department has established key research partnerships with the UQ Centre for Clinical Research and School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences resulting in ongoing collaborative research projects and publications.

Key research areas include:

- Head and Neck Cancer – intervention, models of care and outcomes of patients following surgery and/or chemotherapy/radiotherapy
- Stroke - intensity of aphasia treatment, provision of aphasia friendly education
- Dysphagia following Thermal Burn Injury
- Dysphagia – dysphagia screening, instrumental assessment, swallowing rehabilitation
- Telehealth and tele-rehabilitation
- Tracheostomy – simulated training
- Cochlear implants

**Highlights of 2014:** Research has focussed on telehealth, dysphagia and acquired neurogenic communication disorders with dissemination of research outcomes in high impact journals as well as international and national forums.

**Benefits for clinical practice:** Our research activities help improve patient outcomes by focusing on new innovative models of care (e.g., telehealth models of care in head and neck Cancer). Our goal is to undertake clinical research that leads to translatable outcomes than can be implemented into clinical practice. Our vision is that future research activities will impact service delivery and patient outcomes.

## Research staff

Name	Qualifications	Position	Interests/specialities
<b>Alexia Rohde</b>	B.Sc; M Sp Path	Speech Pathologist	Aphasia
<b>Alice Pender</b>	B. Sc.(Biomedicine), M. Aud. Studies	Senior Audiologist	Audiology
<b>Anna Farrell</b>	B.Sp.Path (Hons), PhD	Speech Pathology Team Leader (Neuro-rehab)	Aphasia; Adult Motor Speech Disorders; Dysphagia; Rehabilitation
<b>Anna Rumbach</b>	B. Sc (Hons); M Sp.Path; PhD	Lecturer, School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences, The University of Queensland	Dysphagia associated with Thermal Burns
<b>Ann-Louise Spurgin (nee Morton)</b>	B Sp. Path. (Hons); Grad Cert in Management	Speech Pathology Team Leader (Cancer care)	Cancer care; Head and neck surgery
<b>Belinda Lehn</b>	B.SpThy	Senior Speech Pathologist	Cancer care
<b>Carla Rose</b>	B.A., M. Aud. Studies	Audiology Team Leader	Audiology
<b>Clare Burns</b>	B.Sp.Path; PhD Candidate	Speech Pathologist- Advanced	Telehealth; Cancer Care;
<b>Jane Crombie</b>	B. Sp. Path; Grad Cert Management	Speech Pathologist- Advanced	Telehealth; Cancer Care;
<b>Jennifer Helios</b>	B. Sp. Path (Hons)	Senior Speech Pathologist	Cancer Care
<b>Laura Moroney</b>	B. Sp. Path	Speech Pathologist	Cancer care

## Research staff

Name	Qualifications	Position	Interests/specialities
<b>Leisa Turkington</b>	B. App Sc(Sp Path), M. Sc; PhD Candidate	Senior Speech Pathologist;	Dysphagia
<b>Lynell Bassett</b>	B Sp. Thy	Director Speech Pathology and Audiology	Tracheostomy; Burns; Dysphagia
<b>Marita Plunkett</b>	B.Sp.Path (Hons)	Speech Pathology Clinical Educator	Clinical Education
<b>Penni Burfein</b>	B.Sp.Path	Speech Pathologist-Advanced	Aphasia; Rehabilitation
<b>Professor Elizabeth Ward</b>	B.Sp.Thy (Hons), PhD, Grad.Cert.Ed	Professor, Centre for Functioning and Health Research (CFAHR), Queensland Health and Conjoint Professor, School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences, The University of Queensland	Head and Neck Cancer; Dysphagia associated with Thermal Burns; Telehealth and Telerehabilitation
<b>Rebecca Cremer</b>	B. Sp Path	Senior Speech Pathologist	Dysphagia
<b>Sarah Heaton</b>	B. Sp. Path	Speech Pathology Team Leader (Acute)	Dysphagia; Burns
<b>Sarah Wilson</b>		Speech Pathologist	Cancer care
<b>Sonia Baker</b>	B.Sp.Path	Speech Pathologist - Advanced	Tracheostomy; Critical care

## Supervised post-graduate research students

Name	Current studies University ; (duration)	Research topic
Burns, C.	PhD, UQ (2013-2016)	Telehealth; Cancer Care
Rohde, A.	PhD, UQ (2012-2016)	Assessment of Aphasia in Acute Stroke
Turkington, L.	PhD, UQ (2013-2019)	Neurogenic dysphagia and sensory enhancement strategies

## Research grants

Investigators	Project title	Granting body and scheme	Amount awarded (years)
Burns, C., Ward, E., Hill, A., Keir, B., McGill, G.	Conducting instrumental assessments of adult dysphagia via telehealth: A pilot validation study	RBWH Foundation, Research Project Grant	\$26,414 (2014-2015)
Farrell, A., Rohde, A., Burfein, P., Wong, A., Skinner, G., Worrall, L.	Evidence-based identification of aphasia using a rational clinical examination approach	RBWH Foundation, Research Project Grant	\$56,792 (2014-2015)
Helios, J., Moroney, L., Burns, C., Spurgin, A.	Dysphagia outcomes in head and neck cancer patients undergoing tomotherapy	RBWH Foundation, Research Project Grant	\$26,429 (2014-2015)