Caboolture and Kilcoy Hospitals and Woodford Corrections Health Service
Research Report
July 2017 – December 2018
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Foreword

Dr Lance Le Ray
Executive Director
Caboolture and Kilcoy Hospitals
and Woodford Corrections Health

It is my pleasure to share with you our Caboolture & Kilcoy Hospitals and Woodford Corrections Health Service 2017-2018 Research Report. In an ever challenging funding environment, I am pleased to see the increasing depth and breadth of research occurring within our facilities to help improve outcomes for our patients, staff and consumers. The amount of research participants, publications and conference presentations was truly impressive.

In the past 18 months, our collaborations with academic partners and institutions also continued to expand and strengthen. Our research culture continues to grow across disciplines and clinical streams. With the support of Metro North HHS Office of Research, key highlights for 2017-2018 included:

- Collaboration with The Prince Charles Hospital (TPCH) Foundation to offer inaugural research grants to clinicians at Caboolture & Kilcoy Hospitals.
- Partnering with University of Sunshine Coast (USC) to establish a 4-year research collaboration, “Links 4 Health” in relation to:
  - Learning Technology and Digital Readiness for Healthcare
  - Complex Care associated with Cognitive Impairment
  - Research in Healthcare
  - Organisational Behaviour and Leadership Development

Thank you to all our clinicians, consumers and families who have been a part of the research journey within our facility. The quality of our healthcare delivery is underpinned by your ongoing commitment to improve the way we do what we do on a daily basis within an evidence-based framework.

I hope that you will enjoy our 2017 – 2018 facility research report and I look forward to continuing to support further growth of research at Caboolture & Kilcoy Hospitals and Woodford Corrections Health.
Caboolture and Kilcoy Hospitals and Woodford Corrections Health Service Research Support

Personnel
Research Development Unit

The Research Development Unit (RDU) at Caboolture Hospital consists of a small team of 1.4FTE part-time staff, consisting of a research coordinator, senior research fellow, research support officer and a research governance officer. Since its inception in 2014, The RDU has helped to build research capacity through the sourcing of additional research support, sharing of research training opportunities; and the provision of individualised advice to clinicians on research governance, design, evaluation and dissemination.

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Research Governance Officer

The Research Governance Officer, Vanessa Constable, coordinates the site authorisation of research studies undertaken at Redcliffe Hospital, Caboolture-Kilcoy Hospitals and Community and Oral Health. The Research Governance Officer provides a contact point for questions in regard to research ethics and governance. Early contact with the Research Governance Officer is recommended for staff and external researchers wishing to undertake research at Caboolture Hospital.

Contact Details:

Vanessa Constable
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RCRGO@health.qld.gov.au
Caboolture Hospital Library

Located in the Education and Skills Centre, the Caboolture Hospital Library provides 24/7 access to facility staff via proxy (swipe) card. The Library provides a haven for staff to withdraw to for small group or individual work of study. Onsite resources include a print collection plus Queensland Health computers and printer and University of Queensland computers. All computers have full internet and e-resource access capabilities.

Information sources consisting of databases, full-text journals and ebooks are available to staff via the state-wide Queensland Health portal CKN and the Queensland Health Libraries portal. All online resources are 24/7 via the Internet following initial registration.

Our professional certified health librarian, Jane Orbell-Smith AFAJA (DCP) Health, CHIA, provides high level training and a range of information related to support library clients. Services include literature (evidence) searching, publishing support, research support, study support, sourcing reference material, training, and consumer and practitioner health information literacy.

Contact Details:

Jane Orbell-Smith  
Ph: 3883 7726  
RedCabLibrary@health.qld.gov.au

- Redcliffe and Caboolture Hospitals’ Library Website:  
  http://redcab.libguides.com/RedCabLibrary  

QIMR Berghofer Statistics Unit

The QIMR/MNHHS Statistics unit provides a statistical consultancy service to QIMR Berghofer and the Metro North Hospital and Health Services and collaborate in research with clinicians and scientists. Clinicians across MNHHS, including Caboolture and Kilcoy Hospitals, have engaged with the statistics unit to assist with:

- One-on-one research consults: project proposals and grants, study design, data collection, data analysis, presentation and response or rebuttal of reviewers’ comments
- Collaborative research projects
- Training courses, workshops and seminars

“I am a consultant biostatistician based within the Statistics Unit at QIMR Berghofer, Herston. I have a broad range of experience across disciplines. My role is to provide advice and assistance for medical research being conducted within the Metro North Hospital and Health Service. I provide advice about study design and data collection, I perform sample size calculations and develop statistical analysis plans, I review protocols, analyse data, present and interpret results and collaborate to produce manuscripts for publication. Although I am not able to routinely visit Caboolture Hospital, email communication is generally efficient. During the 18 month period from July 2017 to December 2018 I assisted with 11 projects at Caboolture Hospital. Most of these projects were retrospective cohort studies based on chart reviews. Some incorporated data from electronic sources. The most comprehensive study investigated associations between clinical frailty scores and hospital-related outcomes. My key message is to seek advice early-at the planning stage.”

-Karen Hay QIMR (TPCH, Caboolture Hospital, Kilcoy Hospital, CISS)

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Featured Research
Highlights
Understanding the decision-making and communication process of residential aged care facility nurses when transferring a resident to the emergency department

Principal investigator: Sean Clark

Caboolture Hospital investigator/site lead: Sean Clark (Caboolture), Chris Shaw (Caboolture), Shannon Bacon (USC), Julia Hocking (Griffith University/EMF), Marc Broadbent (USC), Apil Gurung (USC)

Background

This study aims to describe the factors influencing the decision of transfer of resident from a residential aged care facility (RACF) to the emergency department. The study is in 2 phases. There is an initial two minute questionnaire integrated into the usual phone communication that occurs around the time of transfer of the resident to the ED. This is focused on the immediate factors leading up to the decision to transfer. Data for each patient is matched to the EDIS record for that presentation. The second phase is a more detailed interview with a cohort of RACF staff who have sent a resident into the ED to explore more in-depth factors effecting decision making and the communication process surrounding the transfer. This data will be analysed using a qualitative approach.

Status update

The project is supported by funding from the Emergency Medical Foundation (EMF) and is a collaboration between University of Sunshine Coast (USC) and Metro North (Caboolture) with support of local RACFs. Ethics approval is in place and a research officer has been appointed. Local RACFs have been engaged and data collection commenced in the second week of March 2019.

Outputs

A study protocol has been submitted and we are awaiting feedback from the target journal.

Significance of project

There are many assumptions made about the drivers of transfer of RACF residents to the ED. The term ‘inappropriate’ has been used to describe some transfers to the ED. In practice there may be barriers of access to care and other factors in the community that effect the decision to transport a resident to the ED. The study aims to provide data and a clearer understanding of factors underlying the decision to transfer a RACF resident to hospital. Better understanding the drivers of transfer, allows us to identify potential target areas for strengthening the capacity to deliver care in the community as well as informing us on how to better improve our transfer processes for those residents who require high value care in the acute hospital setting.

Why did you choose Caboolture Hospital as a research site?

The frail elderly are a growing cohort of patients utilizing acute hospital services. In 2017 Caboolture Hospital established an acute geriatric nursing assessment service in the ED to better service the needs of elderly patients presenting to the ED. As part of the introduction of this service, the GEDI team developed relationships with RACFs in the hospital catchment area. This created the opportunity, in conjunction with USC, to undertake research to support more evidence based decisions around the evolution of the service.
Where next for your project?

Currently we are gathering data for phase 1. In the coming months we will commence 20 face-to-face interviews for phase 2. Following analysis and write up, we will meet with the RACFs & GPs who attend the facilities to thank them for their contributions. We will present and discuss the outcomes, and based on the data, workshop potential target areas for improving care between the community and hospital.

Research Impact on Clinical and Administrative Practice (RICAP)

Principal investigator: Vanessa Constable & Joel Dulhunty
Caboolture Hospital investigator/site lead: Vanessa Constable

Background

In healthcare, research is broadly conducted to bring benefits to patients through improved diagnostics, therapeutics and health systems. While there is a focus on the measurement, publication and translation of research, less is known about the impact of research on the skills and attitudes of the health professionals engaged in research activity. This knowledge gap is significant as health professionals are encouraged and, in some cases, mandated to understand research as part of the professional development and training, with the underlying assumption that this skill set will benefit the individual.

Status update

Data collection finished—up to analysis phase.

Outputs

Intention to publish in peer review journals.
**Significance of project**

The outcomes of interest are a thematic analysis of:

- The clinical and administrative impact of conducting research
- The perceived link between research and knowledge, skills and attitudes

**Why did you choose Caboolture Hospital as a research site?**

All MNHHS included – known researchers.

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**Evaluating the educational environment in Queensland Intensive Care Units using the Postgraduate Hospital Educational Environment Measure**

**Principal investigator:** Melita Trout  
**Caboolture Hospital investigator/site lead:** Melita Trout

**Status update**

Twenty-seven junior doctor participants and ten supervisor of training participants completed the survey. One structured interview with a junior doctor was conducted. (Response rate of approximately 9% from junior doctors and 30% from supervisors of training).

**Analysis of the results found:**

- The educational environment in Queensland ICUs as a whole was perceived as excellent by the junior doctors
- Supervisors of Training were accurately able to predict how junior doctors perceive the environment
- A simple qualitative rating scale was accurate in predicting the overall rating from a 40-item inventory
- College of Intensive Care Medicine trainees and non-intensive care trainees do not perceive the educational environment differently
- Teaching in regional hospital intensive care units is perceived as superior to that in metropolitan intensive care units
- Themes identified from learner’s qualitative comments as key to the educational environment are: educators, relationships, content of teaching and learning, teaching and learning methods, opportunity and safety

**Outputs**

The project was submitted and accepted as a Masters of Health Professional Education research subject thesis. The project was also presented at a Masters excite seminar attended by JCU academics and Queensland Health intensive care clinical staff.
Prickle Babes Study – A pragmatic, multi-centre, parallel design (1:1:1) open, randomized controlled trial to evaluate the effectiveness of a simple short message service (sms) vs tailored sms and home visiting compared to usual parent/carer practice to improve the uptake and timeliness of the primary immunisation series in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children ages less than 8 months

Principal investigator: Kerry-Ann O’Grady
Caboolture Hospital investigator/site lead: Helen Hine

Background
This study aimed to determine if a targeted SMS messaging service with an educational component +/- home visiting improved the timeliness of the primary immunisation series in infants in disadvantaged communities. The study was conducted in Caboolture and Toowoomba. It was funded by the Queensland Children’s Hospital Foundation.

Status update
Recruitment and participant follow-up was completed in May 2019. The data is currently being analysed and preliminary results appear to favour the intervention however further analysis is needed.

Outputs
Nil to date as active phase has just finished.

Why did you choose CH as a research site?
A key population target was Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander pregnant women. We have been working in the Caboolture area for some years and engaging the Caboolture Hospital as a partner in this project was seen as critical to the success of the project.

Where next for your project?
We are aiming to complete and submit to a peer review journal within the next two months. Community and partner feedback will occur during that time. We are seeking funding to expand the study to include toddlers and also to address the uptake of vaccines in pregnancy.
Collaborative for Hospitalised Elders: Reducing the Impact of Stays in Hospitals (CHERISH)

Principal investigator: Alison Mudge
Caboolture Hospital investigator/site lead: Iain Borthwick

Background
This study evaluated Eat Walk Engage, which is a program to reduce hospital-associated complications in older acute ward inpatients, such as delirium and functional decline. These complications are common, increase health care needs and costs, and are the target of the new Comprehensive Care Standards in Australia. The program supports the ward-based multidisciplinary team to get evidence-based geriatric principles into everyday practice, through training and mentoring of a local ‘facilitator’ and a multi-professional allied health assistant. The program explicitly uses the i-PARIHS implementation science framework.

Status update
The study is now complete and has shown improved care processes, a significant reduction in delirium (42% reduction in odds of delirium in wards implementing Eat Walk Engage) and an increase in the proportion of patients discharged back to their usual level of care.

Outputs
The study is being presented at the American Geriatrics Society meeting in Portland USA and the International Association of Geriatrics and Gerontology meeting in Gothenburg Sweden in May 2019. The protocol was published in BMC Geriatrics and we will be publishing our findings over the coming months in high impact journals.

Significance of project
Delirium is the most common complication in older people in hospital, and is very distressing for patients, families and staff, as well as increasing the risk of longer stays, greater care needs, death and future dementia. The CHERISH trial has proven that Eat Walk Engage significantly reduces delirium and improves health outcomes and shown that it can be successfully implemented in new hospitals with the right support.

Why did you choose Caboolture Hospital as a research site?
Eat Walk Engage was developed within Metro North HHS and RBWH, and so we wanted to test whether we could support its expansion to different types of hospitals including regional and community hospitals. CHERISH included RBWH, The Prince Charles, Caboolture and Nambour hospitals. This allows us to improve uptake of evidence into practice.
Where next for your project?

On the basis of these findings, Queensland Heath is funding an expansion to ten further Queensland hospitals, improving care and outcomes for thousands of older Queenslanders each year. We are also collaborating in new research to test the model in other states and in subacute settings.

PREDICT KT Study

Knowledge Translation in Australasian Paediatric Acute Care Settings: a multi-centered, cluster randomized controlled trial comparing a tailored, theory informed Knowledge Translation intervention versus passive dissemination of a bronchiolitis guideline

**Principal investigator:** Ed Oakley

**Background**

The aim of this study is to determine if tailored, theory informed Knowledge Translation (KT) interventions can increase the uptake of an Australasian bronchiolitis guideline in reducing the use of therapies/management known to be of no benefit in the management of infants with bronchiolitis. This will be done by conducting a cluster randomised controlled trial - randomising hospitals to either the KT intervention or control (passive dissemination of the guideline). Results from this study will influence the implementation of other guidelines and evidence based practice in paediatric settings.

**Status update**

- The intervention period of the study was completed 30/11/2017
- Data entry of available eligible de-identified patient record data from every site has been entered into the centralized study database
- Cleaning of data and resolution of data queries is complete
- An education day was held for sites in the control arm of the study on 11/12/2018
- Study database is now closed and analysis is underway

**Outputs**

Abstracts have been submitted to the International Conference of Emergency Medicine 2019 and Paediatric Academic Society 2019 meetings.
**RICCI Kids Study – A randomized controlled trial to evaluate early intervention in chronic cough in both Indigenous and non-Indigenous children**

**Principal investigator:** Kerry-Ann O’Grady  
**Caboolture Hospital investigator/site lead:** Mark Scott

**Background**

This study aimed to determine if an early, evidence based intervention in chronic cough in children improved clinical outcomes and was cost effective. The study enrolled children with acute respiratory illnesses with cough in primary care and emergency department settings in SE QLD. Children were followed for eight weeks. Any child who had persistent cough at four weeks was randomised to either the early intervention or standard care and followed for another four weeks.

**Status update**

Recruitment and follow-up was completed in December 2018 and data analyses are nearing completion.

**Outputs**

Three draft peer review manuscripts are in progress and due to be submitted shortly. The study protocol was published in BMJ Open.

**Significance of project?**

Chronic cough is a major burden to children, their families and communities and the health care sector. Chronic cough is also a key symptom of underlying chronic lung disease. Early recognition and management of chronic cough is essential to improving quality of life, reducing the burden on the healthcare sector and preventing the development of chronic disease. This study demonstrates early intervention works and translation of the study findings to primary care will be an important outcome.

**Why did you choose Caboolture Hospital as a research site?**

We had been working in Caboolture for some years and one focus of the study was Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children given they have a high burden of respiratory diseases. Having Caboolture ED on board for the study was important to ensure research translation.

**Where next for your project?**

We are developing a Cough Management app for clinicians and will be seeking funding for training of primary care and ED physicians in the management of chronic cough in children.
Implementation and evaluation of a telepractice service for the clinical assessment of adult dysphagia in Queensland Health

**Principal investigators:** Clare Burns & Liz Ward

**Caboolture Hospital investigator/site leads:** Brooke Cowie & Kaia Leo

**Background**

Effective and efficient assessment and diagnosis of dysphagia by a speech pathologist is necessary to minimize medical complications, optimise quality of life, and limit patient and carer distress. A clinical swallow examination (CSE) is the first step in the identification of a swallowing disorder, however access to this assessment can be difficult for patients due to lack of local speech pathology services, or issues associated with travel distances to attend appointments, acute illness and/or family/work commitments.

To overcome these issues and provide a more efficient and cost-effective option for speech pathology care, a new model of care was developed and validated to deliver CSEs via telepractice. Using a live videoconferencing link, the telepractice speech pathologist directs the patient to complete oromotor tasks and trial food/fluids supported by a trained health care support worker (nurse or AHA).

To translate this new model into clinical practice, telepractice dysphagia assessment services were established at 5 QHealth HHS encompassing 18 facilities (5 hubs and 13 spoke sites) including Caboolture (hub) and Kilcoy (spoke). A total of 12 speech pathologists and 18 healthcare support workers were trained to support service needs. The study aimed to examine service outcomes, costs, and patient and clinician feedback about the new service.

**Status update**

Full ethical approval was granted, and recruitment/data collection is ongoing.

Results from the first 40 telepractice sessions has confirmed the following -

- All patient assessments were completed via telepractice with no adverse events
- Improved access to clinical swallowing assessment through saving of 2 days in patient waiting time.
- Over 60% of patients required diet/fluid changes post telepractice assessment ensuring patients at risk of swallow safety issues received timelier initial intervention.
• Service efficiencies achieved through avoided clinical travel (m=2 ½ hours per assessment) enabling health services to direct time saved into additional patient services.
• Cost savings (m=$230 per assessment).
• Patients and clinicians were highly satisfied with telepractice service.

Outputs

Awards

• 2018 National Federation of Swallowing Disorders Awards – Dysphagia Research Society Conference, Baltimore, USA
• 2017 Best Paper – Success and Failures in Telehealth National Conference, Brisbane

Presentations

• 2018 – Speech Pathology Australia National Conference, Adelaide
• 2018 – SARAH National Conference, Darwin
• 2018 – CHARI Symposium, Metro North HHS
• 2018 – AHPOQ Workshop, Brisbane
• 2017 – Success and Failures in Telehealth National Conference, Brisbane
• 2017 – Cairns and Hinterland Hospital & Health Service Research Forum

Significance of project

The Speech Pathology Department at Caboolture Hospital was considering new ways to use their resources to support services at Kilcoy Hospital while optimising staff travel time. The telehealth project provided a good opportunity to trial and evaluate a new service model to address this.

Why did you choose Caboolture Hospital as a research site?

• Widespread uptake of this model has occurred in QHealth supported by an online eLearning program (implementation and training modules) released to support this project.
• A statewide Speech Pathology Telepractice Dysphagia Working Party has been established to support the widespread implementation, expansion and sustainability of speech pathology dysphagia telepractice services.
The nurses' perspective of the mobile nurses' station in the emergency department: a convergent parallel mixed methods study

Principal investigator: Jane Congdon

Caboolture Hospital investigator/site lead: Jane Congdon

Background

Improvements in staff efficiency, including availability of nursing resources at the point of care, can be one approach to lessening the time that a patient spends within the ED. The mobile nurses’ station is designed and stocked to expedite nursing procedures, minimising barriers resulting from access, and availability of equipment. The space in this ED is limited, and it was not possible to add additional equipment to the work area, hence a mobile nurses’ station became the focus of the current project. Furthermore, the mobile nursing station was implemented to allow accessibility by being located with patients rather than in one centralised location.

Aim

The broad aim of this project is to evaluate the effectiveness of a mobile nurses’ station in improving patient direct care time and patient flow through the ED. There is an expectation that through increasing resources at the point of care for nursing staff, there will be a reduction in superfluous motion activities, and the time that had previously been spent away from patients may lead to an increase in direct patient care time.

Method

Phases 1, 2 and 3 formed the initial development of the research questions, commencement of investigation and provided a foundation for the articulation to PhD. It is anticipated that there will be an improved understanding of the utilisation of the mobile nurses’ station within the ED through the addition of Phases 4 and 5 include the nurses’ perspective of using the mobile nurses’ station, and the long-term impact of the mobile nurses’ station in reducing superfluous motion.

Phase 1: Staff surveys, pre- and post-implementation of the Mobile Nurses’ Station; survey containing mainly quantitative aspects, with some qualitative comments.

Phase 2: Nurses’ activity follow during the Mobile Nurses’ Station implementation; quantitative data.

Phase 3: Patient flow within the ED during the Mobile Nurses’ Station implementation; quantitative data.

Phase 4: Nurses’ individual interviews following the implementation of the Mobile Nurses’ Station; qualitative data.

Phase 5: Long-term nurses’ station utilisation, event frequency recording through direct observation, step tracking and retrospective analysis of distances to access equipment.
Ethics

Ethics approval relates to Phases 1, 2 and 3 and has been obtained through Metro North Hospital and Health Service District Human Research Ethics Committee (HREC); the approval number is RD007142. The level of risk by the Candidate was deemed to be low risk. Additional to ethics approval was a requirement for Site Specific Approval (SSA) as a component of the research governance process the SSA reference number for this study is SSA/17/QPCH/240. Public Health Act approval has been granted for the release of confidential information for the purpose of research under the provision of section 280 of the Public Health Act 2005. Phase 4 and 5 Ethics: This will be an amendment to the application RD007142 in consideration of the proposed additions.

Significance of project

The significance of this study is embedded within its authenticity, as it is an original idea by the Candidate in order to address a real clinical situation. After examining the literature, there is an identifiable research gap relating to nursing resources, design of resources, and the link to direct patient care times. There is a major gap in understanding the role of the ED nurses’ station, as most of literature on the decentralised nurses’ station is focused on the ward environment.

Why did you choose Caboolture Hospital as a research site?

Professionally I have been affiliated with Caboolture hospital since 2008. As a member of the local community I am passionate and motivated to providing the best possible healthcare for our community. Indeed, there is evidence indicating that the availability of equipment and resources posed a barrier to nurses’ efficiency. The provision of clinical resources at the point of care should increase staff satisfaction and patient direct care time.

Where next for your project?

Current workflow of nurses is characterised by a high level of interruptions, rapid task switching and high mobility, these conditions can all be detrimental to efficiency. The implementation of the mobile nurse’s station and the initial research data collection phases 1 to 3 identified the significance of the human factors in nursing research. This has provided a robust foundation in support of the additional phases 4 and 5 and articulation to PhD. Phases 1 to 3 have already been conducted and completed to the stage of data analysis. Phases 4 and 5 data collection tools are under development.
Reducing medical admissions into hospital through optimising medicines: A model of general practitioner and pharmacist collaboration

**Principal investigator:** Christopher Freeman
**Caboolture Hospital investigator/site lead:** Timothy Dunn

**Background**
A model of General Practitioner and integrated pharmacist collaboration provides an opportunity to improve information transfer between hospitals and primary care, reduce medication-related problems and discrepancies, and provide better support to patients after discharge to reduce unplanned hospital readmissions. The aim of this study is to investigate whether a model of structured integrated pharmacist and GP care reduces unplanned hospital readmissions in high-risk patients.

**Status update**
The intervention and data collection phases are now complete. We have commenced data analysis and reporting.

**Outputs**
We have published two articles and presented at three national conferences. We have planned for an additional five publications.

**Significance of project**
A pharmacist integrated into the general practice team collaborating with GPs has the potential to reduce the occurrence of hospitalisation due to medication misadventure and increase the likelihood of the patient receiving the intended treatment plan recommended by the hospital team.

**Why did you choose Caboolture Hospital as a research site?**
The demographics of the Caboolture catchment area show a higher proportion of patients whom are at higher risk of re-hospitalisation or presentation.

**Where next for your project?**
Finalise the data analysis and publications, the study is due to conclude in December 2019.
# CABOOLTURE & KILCOY HOSPITALS AND WOODFORD CORRECTIONS HEALTH APPROVED RESEARCH PROJECTS

Research projects with relevant site-specific approval between July 2017 – December 2018. Please note only full HREC research projects are listed below.

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<td>Mark Scott</td>
<td>A randomised controlled trial to evaluate early intervention in chronic cough in both Indigenous and non-Indigenous children</td>
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<td>HREC/17/Q</td>
<td>Claire Cox</td>
<td>Family-centred care, a constructivist exploration of the perceptions of parents, nurses and health care organisations in relation to the perceptions of care and management of children with complex needs</td>
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<td>HREC/16/Q</td>
<td>Rebecca Wilding</td>
<td>Building efficient and equitable pathways to and through rehabilitation in stroke: A qualitative exploration</td>
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<td>Nursing Workload Conceptual Model in an Acute Care Setting (WORKMACS)</td>
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<tr>
<td>HREC/17/Q</td>
<td>Thuy Frakking John Waugh Donna Ward</td>
<td>A randomised controlled study to evaluate an integrated care pathway for vulnerable children with chronic disease – connecting the dots in healthcare provision</td>
<td>Speech Pathology &amp; Paediatric</td>
<td>GCHHS, GU, QUT, UQ and Ningi Doctors</td>
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<td>RCH/159</td>
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<td>HREC/17/Q</td>
<td>Amanda Petrie</td>
<td>Understanding Mental Health Clinician’s experience with the clinical use of Acute Management Plans: A qualitative approach</td>
<td>Mental Health</td>
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<td>Peter Donovan Timothy Dunn</td>
<td>Evaluation of the implementation of electronic prescribing using interrupted time-series analysis at two Queensland hospitals</td>
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<td>HREC/17/Q</td>
<td>Adrienne Young Stacey O’Donnell</td>
<td>Introducing a Systematized, Interdisciplinary Malnutrition Program implementation and Evaluation – the SIMPLE approach to managing inpatient medication</td>
<td>Nutrition</td>
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<td>Elizabeth Whiting Victoria Sinclair</td>
<td>Compilation and evaluation of Statement of Choices documents</td>
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<td>Doug Morel</td>
<td>What influences the choice made by patients between Emergency Department and primary healthcare for acute illness?</td>
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<td>Clive Holloway</td>
<td>Tympanometry in the emergency management of children with acute otitis media</td>
<td>Paediatrics &amp; Emergency</td>
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<td>HREC/17/Q</td>
<td>Jane Congdon</td>
<td>The nurses’ perspective of the mobile nurses’ station in the emergency department: a convergent parallel mixed methods study</td>
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<td>HREC/17QR BW/357</td>
<td>Dylan Flaws</td>
<td>Sue Patterson</td>
<td>CoMET Trial Process Evaluation</td>
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<td>HREC/17/Q RBW/516</td>
<td>Nicola Harper</td>
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<td>A before and after time-and-motion evaluation of the impacts of Electronic Medication Management (EMM) systems on workflow at two Queensland hospitals (EMM WOMBAT Time-and-motion)</td>
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<td>HREC/17/Q RBW/155</td>
<td>Timothy Warhurst</td>
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<td>A phase III randomised controlled trial of continuous beta-lactam infusion compared with intermittent beta-lactam dosing in critically ill patients (BLING III)</td>
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<td>HREC/17/Q RBW/515</td>
<td>Nicola Harper</td>
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<td>A before and after evaluation of the impact of an Electronic Prescribing and Medication Administration (EPMA) system on medication administration in two Queensland hospitals</td>
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<td>HREC/15/Q RCH/159</td>
<td>John Waugh</td>
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<td>New ways to deliver oxygen to children (PARIS II Trial)</td>
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<tr>
<td>HREC/18/Q PCH/45</td>
<td>Mariya Abdullah</td>
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<td>Optimising surgical antibiotic prophylaxis use through and Antibiotic Behavioural Change (ABC) intervention: the Queensland Surgical Antibiotic Prophylaxis (QSAP) intervention</td>
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<td>HREC/18/Q THS/47</td>
<td>Sally Bennett</td>
<td>Catherine Travers</td>
<td>Implementing the Tailored Activity Program for people with dementia and their family living at home i-TAP (Australia): Phase 1 initial qualitative interviews</td>
<td>Occupational Therapy</td>
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<td>HREC/18/Q PCH/178</td>
<td>Thuy Frakking</td>
<td>Sean Clark</td>
<td>Predicting hospital outcomes from the identification and assessment of frailty within an emergency department: a quality improvement project</td>
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<td>HREC/17/Q PCH/449</td>
<td>Sean Clark</td>
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<td>Understanding the decision-making and communication process of residential aged care facility nurses when transferring a resident to the emergency department</td>
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<td>HREC/17/Q PCH/450</td>
<td>Sean Clark</td>
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<td>Quantifying missed opportunities for advance care planning within the emergency department of a regional Australian hospital</td>
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<td>HREC/18/Q PCH/100</td>
<td>Geoffrey Bryant</td>
<td>Elise Button</td>
<td>Understanding how geriatric assessment affects quality of life in older oncology and haematology patients and their families study</td>
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<td>HREC/18/Q TDD/36</td>
<td>Richard Smith</td>
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<td>Personalised treatment trials for acute whiplash injuries: a pilot study</td>
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<td>HREC/18/Q PCH/167</td>
<td>Joclyn Neal</td>
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<td>Exploring midwives experience of working autonomously in all risk midwifery models of care to inform future undergraduate curricula design</td>
<td>Nursing</td>
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<td>HREC/17/Q RCH/269</td>
<td>John Waugh</td>
<td>Angela Berkhout</td>
<td>Paediatric cohort study of herpes simplex infection in early infancy and meningo-encephalitis in Queensland</td>
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<tr>
<td>HREC/18/Q PCH/149</td>
<td>Vanessa Constable</td>
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<td>Research Impact on Clinical and Administrative Practice (RICAP)</td>
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<td>HREC/17/Q PAH/193</td>
<td>Carolyn Ehrlich, Shelley Kulperger</td>
<td>Evaluation of Health Consumers Queensland impact on consumer engagement</td>
<td>Consumer Engagement</td>
<td>Griffith University</td>
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<td>HREC/17/Q PAH/494</td>
<td>Danielle Ferndale</td>
<td>Auslan/English interpreting in Queensland Health</td>
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<td>HREC/17/Q PCH/474</td>
<td>Liza-Jane McBride, Michelle Stute</td>
<td>Allied Health Workforce Practice Profile Survey</td>
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<td>HREC/18/Q PCH/33</td>
<td>Maureen Godfrey</td>
<td>Clinically reasoning the need for pre-discharge home visits: development, validation and evaluation of a decision-making support tool for Metro North HHS Occupational Therapists</td>
<td>Allied Health</td>
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<td>HREC/18/Q PAH/257</td>
<td>Fred Graham, Julie Lahey</td>
<td>A descriptive correlational study using virtual simulation to examine the clinical decision-making of hospital nurses caring for older patients</td>
<td>Nursing</td>
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<td>HREC/18/Q RBW/48529</td>
<td>Clint Douglas, Julie Lahey, Sally Taranec</td>
<td>Transforming nursing assessment in acute hospitals: a cluster randomised controlled trial of an evidence-based core assessment protocol (ENCORE trial)</td>
<td>Nursing</td>
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</table>
## ADDITIONAL ACTIVE OR COMPLETED RESEARCH PROJECTS

Research projects considered ongoing or completed between July 2017 – December 2018. Please note only full HREC research projects are listed below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>HREC #</th>
<th>Investigator/ Site Contact</th>
<th>Research Title</th>
<th>Stream</th>
<th>Affiliation/ Collaboration</th>
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<tr>
<td>HREC/13/Q</td>
<td>Susan Patterson</td>
<td>An investigation of the current practice, and expectations of specialist mental</td>
<td>Mental Health</td>
<td>QLD Health</td>
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<td>health services in relation to monitoring and managing the physical health of</td>
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<td>HREC/13/Q</td>
<td>Prasanna Shirkhedkar</td>
<td>High-flow nasal cannula treatment for viral bronchiolitis: a randomised</td>
<td>Paediatrics</td>
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<td>HREC/15/Q</td>
<td>Sue Patterson Anna</td>
<td>Increasing efficiency of randomised controlled trials: comparative case studies</td>
<td>Mental Health and</td>
<td>Qld Health</td>
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<tr>
<td>RBW/40</td>
<td>Praskova</td>
<td>to optimise recruitment in mental health and cancer care</td>
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<td>HREC/14/Q</td>
<td>Brooke Cowie</td>
<td>Development and validation of a high level language screening tool for acute</td>
<td>Speech Pathology</td>
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<td>HREC/14/M</td>
<td>Lucianne Palmquist</td>
<td>A grounded theory explanation of adolescent ‘recovery’: CYMHS Consumer</td>
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<td>Griffith University</td>
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<td>HS/208</td>
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<td>HREC/15/Q</td>
<td>Brooke Cowie</td>
<td>Implementation and evaluation of a telepractice service for the clinical</td>
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<td>RBW/29</td>
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<td>assessment of adult dysphagia in Queensland Health</td>
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<td>HREC/14/M</td>
<td>Michael Beckmann Mahilal</td>
<td>Prostaglandin Inpatient Induction of labour Compared with BALLOon Outpatient</td>
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<td>HS/20</td>
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<td>Induction of labour: a randomised controlled trial</td>
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<td>HREC/14/Q</td>
<td>Margaret McElrea Alex</td>
<td>Reference values for spirometry and fractional exhaled nitric oxide (FeNO) in</td>
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<td>HREC/15/Q</td>
<td>Alison Mudge Ian</td>
<td>Collaboration for Hospitalised Elders: Reducing the Impact for Stays in Hospital</td>
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<td>HREC/15/Q</td>
<td>Mary Fenech</td>
<td>The role of the nurse practitioner in a large tertiary facility: a critical</td>
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<td>HREC/15/Q</td>
<td>Richard Lister Shane</td>
<td>Can family based treatment for anorexia nervosa be effectively delivered through</td>
<td>Mental Health</td>
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<td>RCH/224</td>
<td>Rebgetz</td>
<td>video conferencing?</td>
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<td>HREC/16/Q</td>
<td>John McGrath George</td>
<td>The efficacy of adjunctive Garcinia mangostana Linn for the treatment of</td>
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<td>PAH/15</td>
<td>Bruxner</td>
<td>schizophrenia: a 24 week double-blind, randomised, placebo controlled trial</td>
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<td>HREC/14/Q</td>
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<td>The efficacy of sodium benzoate as an adjunctive treatment in early psychosis</td>
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<td>PAH/598</td>
<td>Bruxner</td>
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<td>Optimising delivery of group based interventions in Public Mental Health Service</td>
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<td>HREC/16/Q RCH/60</td>
<td>Anthony Herbert</td>
<td>Evaluating the impact of paediatric palliative care education modules delivered to health professionals</td>
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<td>HREC/16/Q PCH/37</td>
<td>Rohan Grimley, Leonie Giffney</td>
<td>Building efficient and equitable pathways to and through rehab in stroke</td>
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<td>Qld Health &amp; SCHHS</td>
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<td>HREC/16/Q RBW/215</td>
<td>Sarah Widin, Stephen Luke</td>
<td>Implementation of Safewards and the Brøset Violence Checklist to secure psychiatric rehabilitation units</td>
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<td>Qld Health</td>
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<td>HREC/15/Q PCH/273</td>
<td>Megan Young</td>
<td>Improving rates of vaccination in pregnancy</td>
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<td>HREC/16/Q PCH/149</td>
<td>Bernadette Watson</td>
<td>‘Communication and Patient Safety’ training for Caboolture and Kilcoy Hospital Staff; an evaluation</td>
<td>Education and Training</td>
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<td>HREC/16/Q RCH/53</td>
<td>Kerry-Ann O’Grady, Helen Hine</td>
<td>A pragmatic, multi-centre, parallel design (1:1:1), open, randomised controlled trial to evaluate the effectiveness of a simple short message service (SMS) vs tailored SMS and home visiting compared to usual parent/carer practice to improve the uptake and timeliness of the primary immunisation series in marginalised children aged less than 7 months</td>
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<td>HREC/16/Q THS/107</td>
<td>Melita Trout</td>
<td>Evaluating the educational environment in Queensland Intensive Care Units using the Postgraduate Hospital Educational Environment Measure</td>
<td>Intensive Care Unit</td>
<td>James Cook University</td>
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<td>HREC/17/Q PCH/16</td>
<td>Bernadette Watson</td>
<td>Towards better healthcare: the impact of intergroup communication on quality of care and patient safety</td>
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<td>HREC/16/Q RBW/275</td>
<td>Raymond Chan</td>
<td>Queensland Nurse Navigator Program evaluation: a pilot study</td>
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<td>Susan Patterson</td>
<td>Promoting sustainable engagement: a mixed methods study of the work-lives, engagement and health of operational, administrative and support staff working in mental health care</td>
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<td>HREC/16/Q RBW/410</td>
<td>Christopher Freeman, Timothy Dunn</td>
<td>Reducing medical admissions into hospital through optimising medicines: a model of general practitioner and pharmacist collaboration (The REMAIN HOME study)</td>
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<td>HREC/16/Q RCH/83</td>
<td>Ben Lawton, Peter Snelling</td>
<td>Pre-scribed debriefing for paediatric simulation associated with resuscitation education (PREPARE)</td>
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<td>HREC/16/Q RBW/9</td>
<td>Nina Meloncelli</td>
<td>Examining the management of gestational diabetes mellitus</td>
<td>Obstetrics and Gynaecology</td>
<td>QUT</td>
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<td>HREC/16/Q RCH/223</td>
<td>Linsay Joseph</td>
<td>Parechovirus infections in Queensland children: epidemiology, strain diversity, management and outcomes 2010-2018</td>
<td>Paediatrics</td>
<td>CHQHHS</td>
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<td>HREC/16/RC HM/84</td>
<td>Ed Oakley, Lisa Kane</td>
<td>Knowledge translation in Australasian paediatric acute care settings: a multi-centred, cluster, randomised controlled trial comparing a tailored, theory informed knowledge translation intervention versus passive dissemination of a bronchiolitis guideline (PREDICT)</td>
<td>Emergency and Paediatrics</td>
<td>Murdoch Childrens Research Institute</td>
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<td>HREC/15/Q PCH/283</td>
<td>Annabel Hickey Freya Huebler</td>
<td>Telephone peer mentoring program for patients with chronic heart failure</td>
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<td>HREC/16/Q RCH/421</td>
<td>Michael Daubney Shane Rebyetz</td>
<td>Adolescent Extended Treatment Programs - Assertive Mobile Youth Outreach service (AMYOS): A five year outcomes study of high risk youth with severe, complex and persistent mental health problems</td>
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<td>HREC/16/Q PCH/138</td>
<td>Mridula Mokoonlall</td>
<td>Smoking behaviour among Metro North Hospital and Health Services (MNHSS) employees</td>
<td>Medicine</td>
<td>TPCH</td>
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</table>
CONFERENCES / WORKSHOPS

Completed or accepted conference, seminar, and workshop presentations involving Caboolture & Kilcoy Hospitals and Woodford Corrections Health staff between July 2017 to December 2018


GRANTS

Grant recipients from Caboolture & Kilcoy Hospitals and Woodford Corrections Health staff between July 2017 to December 2018.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project title</th>
<th>Chief Investigator</th>
<th>Caboolture Hospital Investigator/s</th>
<th>Granting Agency</th>
<th>Total Funding Awarded</th>
<th>Grant Type</th>
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<td>Feeding in infants on nasal high flow ventilation support</td>
<td>Kelly Weir</td>
<td>Thuy Frakking</td>
<td>Gold Coast Hospital Foundation Research Grant Scheme</td>
<td>$ 75,410</td>
<td>2018 Project Grant</td>
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<td>Occupational violence in the emergency department</td>
<td>Bradley Partridge</td>
<td>Bradley Partridge</td>
<td>TPCH Foundation</td>
<td>$ 2,000</td>
<td>2018 Caboolture Small Research Grant</td>
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<td>Impact of BMI on antibiotic prescription in hospital in the home patients with cellulitis</td>
<td>Uzo Dibia</td>
<td>Uzo Dibia Paul Chapman</td>
<td>TPCH Foundation</td>
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<td>2018 Caboolture Small Research Grant</td>
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<td>Integrated Children's Care Clinic (ICCC) Study</td>
<td>Thuy Frakking</td>
<td>Thuy Frakking John Waugh Donna Ward Hsien-Jin Teoh</td>
<td>TPCH Foundation</td>
<td>$ 2,000</td>
<td>2018 Caboolture Small Research Grant</td>
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<td>Acute Otitis Media (AOM) in children within the emergency department</td>
<td>Clive Holloway</td>
<td>Clive Holloway Prasanna Shirkhedkar Mark Scott</td>
<td>TPCH Foundation</td>
<td>$ 2,000</td>
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<td>Application of frame rates on paediatric videofluoroscopic swallow studies</td>
<td>Thuy Frakking</td>
<td>Thuy Frakking Brooke Cowie</td>
<td>Speech Pathology Australia</td>
<td>$ 10,000</td>
<td>2018 QLD Registration Legacy Research Grant</td>
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<td>Decision making by residential aged care facility staff in transfer of residents to the emergency department</td>
<td>Sean Clark</td>
<td>Sean Clark</td>
<td>Emergency Medicine Foundation</td>
<td>$ 55,000</td>
<td>Staff Specialist Grant</td>
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</table>
PUBLICATIONS

Caboolture and Kilcoy Hospitals and Woodford Corrections Health affiliated publications between July 2017 and December 2018


IN THE NEWS...

Helen Edwards

Caboolture Hospital Advanced Physiotherapist Helen Edwards was in Florence, Italy recently at the International Continence Society Conference.

Helen presented on behalf of the hospital’s multidisciplinary Gynaecology Physiotherapy Screening Clinic on how gynaecology physiotherapy screening clinics are improving access to care and health outcomes for women on gynaecology outpatient waiting lists.

Well done!

Jessica Moon

Caboolture Hospital Senior Dietician Jessica Moon was in Belfast, Ireland recently at the European Pressure Ulcer Advisory Panel (EPUAP) Annual Meeting in Belfast, Ireland.

Jessica presented on behalf of the Caboolture Hospital multidisciplinary Pressure Injury and Malnutrition Management (PIMMS team) on the outcomes of a pilot project into a dedicated specialist multidisciplinary team preventing hospital acquired pressure injuries and malnutrition in an acute hospital setting.

Well done!

Research Roundup

Congratulations to Dr Uzo Dibia, Staff Specialist at Caboolture Hospital, for his recent poster presentation at the 2017 Internal Medicine Society of Australia and New Zealand.

Dr Dibia’s research focused on determining which patients are most effectively treated with acute thrombolysis (breaking down a blood clot in the brain).
Research Roundup

Clinical research in the field of medicine at Caboolture Hospital is growing. Congratulations to the following researchers who were recently published in international peer reviewed journals:

Dr Leigh White (Anaesthetics), Dr Paul Chapman (Infectious Diseases), Dr Bardia Bidarmaghz (Surgery), Dr Chin Li Tee (Surgery), Dr Henry Tsao (Surgery), Dr Bhavik Patel (Surgery) and Dr Boris Strekozov (Surgery) who recently published in international peer reviewed journals.

Research Round-up

The PINC Balloon trial is comparing the standard method of prostaglandins with admission to hospital to induce birth, against a new method of a double balloon catheter inserted as an outpatient.

The trial method allows mum to go home overnight and return to hospital the following morning to continue the induction process.

Jane has helped recruit hundreds of women into the study which runs until mid-2018. Efficacy, length of hospital stay, cost effectiveness and patient satisfaction are key considerations for this new induction method.

Preliminary results are looking positive for the PINC Balloon technique, with participants reporting increased patient satisfaction and reduced times to the onset of labour.

“I have thoroughly enjoyed coordinating the trial and would be interested in pursuing similar research opportunities in the future,” Jane said.
Researchers aim to improve models of care

Uncovering new and improved models of care is motivating four Caboolture Hospital staff to complete a Research Higher Degree (RHD) in their area of expertise.

Senior Occupational Therapist (Paediatrics) Annabelle Marozza secured a Metro North CAHRII Pre-PhD/MPHIL Scholarship last year.

The scholarship is backfilling her clinical workload for one day a week for six months while she completes her enrolment in a Masters of Science (Occupational Therapy) course with the University of Sunshine Coast.

Annabelle is researching the use of sensory processing information and how it can contribute to diagnosis process for Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) or Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) in children aged 7-13 years.

Dr Laurel Teh is a Consultant Paediatric Respiratory and Sleep Physician who is currently working at Caboolture Hospital.

She is undertaking her PhD with Charles Darwin University on common respiratory problems in young children.

Perioperative Nurse Jackie Goldberg is currently enrolled in a part-time Masters degree through the University of the Sunshine Coast investigating preoperative warming of day surgery patients.

Jackie has more 20 years of experience as a perioperative nurse and seen first-hand the negative outcomes for patients who get cold in the operating theatre.

Infectious Diseases, Infection Control and Antimicrobial Stewardship Clinician Doctor Paul Chapman is completing a Masters in Philosophy, in conjunction with the Queensland Institute of Medical Research (QIMR).

Dr Chapman has recently started a random clinical trial which saw 15 participants receive a radiation-attenuated hookworm placebo larvae to assess human safety, tolerability and immunity efficacy in both the placebo and vaccinated participants by using a faecal egg count measure.

His goal is to work on eliminating neglected tropical diseases that continue to affect millions of people.

We are very proud of the amazing work our team does every day to improve the health and well-being of our community.

Research Roundup

The work, health and well-being of non-clinical staff working in mental health settings across Redcliffe and Caboolture has been studied by three Metro North staff recently.

Redcliffe-Caboolture Mental Health Senior Administration Officer Jordan Duncan, Principal Research Fellow (Mental Health), Sue Patterson and Caboolture Psychologist Stephanie Donovan used mixed study methods involving questionnaires, interviews and focus groups.

The study found that staff were dedicated to working to improve lives of people affected by mental illness. Key concerns related to safety, career development and relationships with clinical staff.

A paper reporting part of the study is currently being reviewed for publication in an international journal and the study is being rolled out across Metro North Mental Health facilities.

Jordan is working with Redcliffe-Caboolture Mental Health Executives and staff to develop an action plan that addresses concerns identified by staff, which will improve their work experiences and quality of care.

The research was supported by small grants from UQ, Medical School and Metro North Mental Health.

“it’s been really positive and I have learned a lot – it was a great opportunity to be a part of research and have a voice in changing the way we do things in mental health,” Jordan said.
Our medical journal authors

Congratulations to Caboolture Hospital Surgery Director Dr Brian Kirkby, who recently had an article he co-authored published in the American Journal of Geriatric Psychiatry.

The article, "Unsolicited Patient Complaints Identify Physicians with Evidence of Neurocognitive Disorders" examines whether words contained in unsolicited patient complaints differentiated physicians with and without neurocognitive disorders. It discusses how the patient's voice can help to identify physicians with potential impairment that might warrant further evaluation.

To read the article, visit https://www.aajonline.org/article/S1064-7441(18)30299-9/fulltext

Congratulations also to Caboolture Hospital colleagues Glenn Hurtado (Medicine), Ken Eastern (Director of Anaesthesia), Helen Farrell (Nursing), Jason Cui (Medical Officer), Mariva Abdullah (Surgery PhD) and Daniel Mehanna (Staff Specialist) who have also had journal articles published recently.


New link delivers research boost

A new link between Caboolture Hospital and The Prince Charles Hospital Foundation is giving four local researchers a much-needed boost towards completing research, which has the potential to directly benefit patients and staff at Caboolture Hospital.

The inaugural 2018 Caboolture Small Research Grants, supported by The Prince Charles Hospital Foundation, heralds the start of a new collaboration between Caboolture Hospital and the Foundation.

This year, our researchers were awarded a total of $8,000 in funding. Congratulations to Dr Bradley Partridge, Dr Clive Holloway, Dr Uzo Dibia and Dr Thuy Frakking.

Senior Research Fellow, Dr Bradley Partridge, will continue his research into occupational violence in the Emergency Department. His work is exploring how nursing staff at Caboolture and The Prince Charles hospitals manage aggressive and violent patients and how they cope with these acts afterwards to develop appropriate responses to occupational violence. Funding from this grant will help pay for transcription of the interviews completed.

Research Coordinator, Dr Thuy Frakking, will continue her work investigating an integrated children’s care clinic (ICC) versus a self-directed care pathway for children who have a chronic health condition using a community-based, service-integration approach. Funding from this grant will help complete much-needed six and 12 month reviews for Caboolture Hospital families already enrolled in the study.

Pediatric Audiologist, Dr Clive Holloway, will purchase a tympanometry machine with his grant funding to continue his work with children who present to the Emergency Department with Acute Otitis Media (AOM). The new machine will enable him to quickly and painlessly check the middle ear of a child to determine whether the child has AOM or another illness. The results of this study will hopelessly reduce the amount of time children spend in the ED and the antibiotics they are prescribed.

Hospital in the Home (HiTH) consultant, Dr Uzo Dibia, will continue work on how body mass index (BMI) may affect the doses of drugs provided to HiTH patients with cellulitis.

His study will determine whether doses of antibiotics for people with cellulitis should be changed to accommodate people with more weight, compared to everyone receiving the standard dose. Funding from this grant will help pay for analysis of the blood samples collected in the study.

Congratulations to our successful inaugural research applicants.

Picture: Caboolture Hospital researchers Dr Brad Partridge (top left), Dr Clive Holloway (top right), Dr Uzo Dibia (bottom left) and Dr Thuy Frakking (bottom right).
Emergency Department research project gets the go-ahead

A Caboolture Hospital research project to understand why aged care home residents are transferred to the Emergency Department has been funded by the Emergency Medicine Foundation (EMF).

EMF Research Development Manager Dr Julia Hocking said the successful submission led by Caboolture Hospital Emergency Department Staff Specialist Dr Sean Clark would bring together a new research team including experienced researchers from The University of the Sunshine Coast (USC), Dr Marc Brodbent and Dr Apil Gurung.

“I hope it will be the first of many research projects between ED clinicians and USC academics, aimed at improving patient care at Caboolture Hospital and beyond,” Julia said.

The $15,000 grant was received after a highly competitive funding round earlier this year.

The older population is over represented in hospital EDs and there has been an increasing trend in the transfer of residents from residential aged care facilities (RACFs) to the ED. Nurses working in RACFs are involved in the overall clinical care of each resident and often participate in decision making pertaining to the transfer of residents from an RACF to the ED.

The role of nurses in making decisions to transfer a resident has many implications for the health and wellbeing of the resident, as well as healthcare costs and utilisation of resources. Understanding the decision process is therefore critical for reducing unnecessary transfers and will enhance effective communication between RACFs and EDs to ensure patient care and safety is prioritised.

This project will engage nurses from many RACFs in open dialogue to explore the decision-making process that leads to transfer of patients to ED. It will provide a greater understanding of factors that influence the decision-making processes involved when residents are transferred to the ED. It will also help identify opportunities to build capacity and responsiveness of existing systems that respond to the acute care needs of residents in aged care facilities.

With this knowledge, Caboolture Hospital will aim to foster greater relationships with the RACF community and devise methods to appropriately meet their needs with the aim of reducing resident transfers.

Dr Clark said the project was timely as Caboolture Hospital had recently launched an outreach service to support residential care facilities in its catchment area.

“The findings from the research are anticipated to help inform the operational aspects of the new outreach service and help to improve the care of residents of aged care facilities,” he said.

Congratulations, Dr Clark and team - another great outcome for research at Caboolture Hospital.

Colouring In Comp Winners

Here’s young Allie, Patrick and Indyah who won the Caboolture Hospital colouring-in competition at the Caboolture Show recently.

Each young winner scored a gift pack from hospital Executive Director Dr Lance Le Ray and Partnerships Director Donna Ward for their creative skills. Well done!