









Metro North Health acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the Land upon which we live, work and walk, and pay our respects to Elders both past and present.

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### **Mental Health**

## **Research Highlights**

Over the past year people from Metro North Mental Health have been very busy undertaking research and continuous improvement projects to great success. Across Mental Health at the Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital, there was numerous research and service and quality improvement projects underway, 42 publications and over \$5,000,000 in research and strategic project funding active in 2024. One impactful project underway last year was, *Haircuts for mental health: Reducing barriers to recovery*, led by Katie Roberts-Slater and the project team: Michelle Roberts, Kylie Burke, Liz Eggins, Tessa Clarkson, Nicole Brigg, Joyce Tan, Sarah Lavelle and Danielle Clapson. People admitted to inpatient wards with longer stays at the Royal Brisbane Women's Hospital Mental Health Service often lack access to haircuts due to barriers like mental illness, financial constraints, limited leave, and safety risks on the ward. *Haircuts for Mental Health* is evaluating whether reducing barriers to self-care, via access to professional hairdressing, during an admission for serious mental illness is associated with improved admission experiences.

MNMH Director of Research, Stephen Parker, was awarded a Metro North Clinician Research Fellowship in 2024. Stephen's vision as a fellow is to deliver a collaboratively developed evidence-informed pathway of care to improve the outcomes of people experiencing the First Episode of Psychosis and comorbid substance use. We wish him the best and look forward to witnessing the impact of his work. Finally, another exciting project is the *Tracking and Measuring the Mental Health Intensive Discharge Team (MIND)*, led by Carissa Uzabeaga and the project team: Liz Eggins, Mark Butterworth and Kylie Burke. The MIND team provides intensive, evidence-based care, including specialized assessment and coordination, to support individuals with complex psychosocial disabilities in transitioning from hospital to community within Metro North Health. This project evaluates MIND's implementation and impact with the intention to inform large-scale evaluation and research projects in the future. By tracking the roll-out of MIND, the team can identify critical barriers to discharge, develop strategies to improve patient flow and ensure sustainable community transitions to prevent unnecessary hospitalisations. Overall, this year brought significant advancements in mental health research, and we are excited to build on this momentum for a successful 2025.

## Successful Research Higher Degree candidates in 2024

Name	Title	Month Competed	Affiliated University	Summary
Dr Tessa Clarkson (PhD)	The impact of self and reward on cognitive processes	August 2024	University of Queensland	This thesis explores the similarities and differences between self and reward biases in cognitive processes, particularly attention, memory, and decision-making, by exploring the Self-Reference Effect (SRE). It examines how these biases interact with age, social salience, and rewards. Key findings conclude that self-relevance alone did not significantly impact attentional capture and the SRE decreased with age <i>and</i> when a socially salient other was introduced. However, the SRE emerged when self-relevant items were paired with reward, with younger adults showing a stronger reliance on reward-based prioritization than older adults. Overall, the findings suggest that the impact of self and reward biases on cognition is influenced by both age and context.

#### **Research Awards and Achievements**

Recipient (RBWH staff in bold)	Award	Event
Copeland Winten	Australia and New Zealand Academy for Eating Disorders (ANZAED)and Dietitian Australia Research Prize	Australia and New Zealand Academy for Eating Disorders (ANZAED)

## **Research Grants**

Investigator Names (RBWH staff in bold)	RBWH Departments / Research Groups	Research Project Title	Granting Body	Total Awarded (whole all years)	Length of Awards in years and years active
Heffernan, E., Meurk, C., Wallace, D., Khoo, A., McKay, D., Lane, J., Waterson. E, Oltvolgyi, C	QFMHS	Understanding and improving responses to suicidality to DVA clients: proposed data linkage study	Department of Veterans Affairs	\$520,632	2 years, 2023-2025
Heffernan, E., Meurk, C., Wallace, D., Khoo, A., McKay, D., Lane, J., Dwyer, M., Crawford, D	QFMHS	Understanding and enhancing first responses to suicide crises involving current serving and ex-serving members of the Australian Defence Force (ADF)	Royal Commission into Military and Veteran Suicide	\$375,697	1 year, 2023-2024
Barabara Baumgartner and <b>Hollie Wilson</b>	MNMH-ADS	Your Call Families: A pilot of telephone counselling for family members of people with AOD concerns	MN Research	\$25,000	0.5 year, Dec-23 – June-24
<b>Kylie Burke, Liz</b> <b>Eggins</b> , Alina Morawska, Erika Giebels	MNMH	Considering parents and parenting in recovery from serious mental illness	MN Research	\$25,000	0.5 years, Dec-23 – June-24
Anna Jenkins and Megan Nitz	MNMH	Physical activity focus in Inpatient Mental Health Unit	Queensland Health	\$49,487	0.5 years, Dec-24 – June-24
Flaws, D., Parker, S., Burke, K	MNMH	Caboolture Short Stay Unit Evaluation	The Common Good	\$200,000	3 years, 2023-2026
Dr Senthil Muthuswamy, Michael Power, Catriona Harwood	MNMH - TPCH	Implementation of Restorative Practice in mental health services at TPCH (Stage 2)	TPCH Foundation	\$100,000	1 year, 2023-2024
<b>Stephen Parker,</b> Faye Jordan	MNMH	Getting it right the first time – Predicting mental health related emergency department re-presentations and subsequent hospitalisation: Logistic regression modelling of re-presentation within 48 hours, 7-days and 28-days	The Common Good	\$89,096.73	2 years, 2023-2025
Stephen Parker, Andrew Thompson	MNMH	2023 National Critical Infrastructure Grant	MRFF	\$2,993,285	2023- unknown
Stephen Parker, James Kesby	MNMH	Consumer and Community Involvement Microgrants: Reward learning in psychosis: a predictor of illness course	Health Translation Queensland	\$1,000	1 year, 2023-2024
Stephen Parker	MNMH	Clinician Research Fellowship: SURE-STEP	Metro North HHS	>\$600,000	3 years, 2024-2027

## **RBWH Department / Research Group Led Research Activity**

Lead Investigator Name (RBWH staff and consumers in bold)	Other Study Investigators (RBWH staff and consumers in bold)	Research Project Title	Consumer involvement	Number of RBWH Patients Recruited
Kylie Burke	Sally Nahak	Improving victim support across metro north mental health	3	45 (across MNMH)
Copeland Winten		PhD on Avoidant/Restrictive Food Intake Disorder (ARFID)	2	
Leanne Payne	Bruce Hamilton	Consumers who received a medico-legal from a mental health court liaison service: Characteristics and court outcomes.	3	
Leanne Payne	Ed Heffernan	Police Communications Centre Mental Health Liaison Service: Enhancing outcomes for people in mental health crisis		
Ed Heffernan	Leanne Payne	Characteristics, precipitating factors, and service use of individuals who are the subject of a police negotiation incident		
Hilda Wu	Sam Houston, Liz Eggins, Stephen Parker, Magdalena Hagn	A comprehensive cohort description and statistical grouping of patients referred to Consultation-Liaison Psychiatry Services in an Australian metropolitan hospital district	3	
Loshana Jothieswaran	Tommy Speed, Jana Waldmann, <b>Stephen</b> Parker, Magdalena Hagn	Systematic review (proposal in development): The association between cognitive impairments and financial vulnerability to scams in older adults.	4	
Dasuni Ralapanawa	Joseph Cook, Gerard Byrne, Stephen Parker	The relationship between sociotropy and anxiety: A systematic review	4	
Thomas Frain	Stephen Parker	A comprehensive cohort comparison of service use complexity associated with length of stay in a psychiatric short stay pathway		
Jeremy Hayllar	Other authors unknown	TINA Trial: National Australian HCV Point of Care Testing (POCT) program. Ethos Engage II	3	
Lauren Pearson	<b>Morgan Sidari,</b> Joanna Malone	Malnutrition in eating disorders		
Stephen Parker	Mathew Tipping, Ryan Heffernan, Katie McCullough, John Reilly, Mark Daglish, James Scott, Jason Connor	SUNRISE: Substance Use Needs: Revealing unmet ISsues in Early Psychosis through prospective cross-sectional comparison of routine clinical documentation and a structured clinical assessment	3	Target 100 consumers across RBWH + TPCH
Anna Jenkins	Liz Eggins, Stephen Parker, Jessina Cheney, Jasmine Soder, Dr Emma Forrester, Minnie Park	P-CANS: Prescribed CANnabis and Stimulant drugs before acute adult inpatient mental care: Investigating Trends and Implications	3	750 RBWH consumers audited data
Nicole Brigg	Sally Mercier	Neuro-affirming practices in MH OT		
Angela Ng	Additional authors not provided.	Supporting flexibility in care: A case series exploring brief intervention pathways for consumers with multi-diagnostic eating disorder presentations	3	3
Stephen Parker	Andrea Baker, Dan Siskind	SPIRIT Master Protocol: Schizophrenia Platform for Improving Recovery with Integrated Trials	2 & 3	

Lead Investigator Name (RBWH staff and consumers in bold)	Other Study Investigators (RBWH staff and consumers in bold)	Research Project Title	Consumer involvement	Number of RBWH Patients Recruited
Katie Roberts- Slater	Michelle Roberts, Kylie Burke, Liz Eggins, Tessa Clarkson, Nicole Brigg, Joyce Tan, Sarah Lavelle, Danielle Clapson	Haircuts for mental health: Reducing barriers to recovery project protocol	3	>64
Carissa Uzabeaga	Liz Eggins, Mark Butterworth, Kylie Burke	Tracking and Measuring the Mental Health Intensive Discharge Team (MIND)	3 (clinical audit + survey)	200+ across RBWH, TPCH, RedCab
Morgan Sidari	<b>Amy Hannigan,</b> Kate Murphy	QuEDS Database: Acceptability and Feasibility	4	
Amanda Davis	Lauren Pearson, Amy Davis, Copeland Winten, Morgan Sidari	EDIT-ED: Evaluation of dietetic intervention in outpatient eating disorder treatment – a proposed suite of key nutrition outcome measures to assist with standardised evaluation of dietetic outcomes		
Natalie Boulton (extended leave – to be replaced by Ashleigh Olive)	Amy Hannigan, Kate Murphy, Amanda Davis, Morgan Sidari	QuEDS Facilitated Peer Supervision for Therapists (QFPS-T)		
Kylie Burke	Liz Eggins	Evaluation of HITH: Hospital in The Home	3	RBWH consumers
Liz Eggins	Kylie Burke	Evaluation of AMCART: Assertive Mobile Crisis Assessment Response Team	3	RBWH consumers
Liz Eggins	Kylie Burke, Louise Durant	Evaluation of CSU (Caboolture Short Stay Unit)	3	0
Danielle Alchin, Anna Asnicar	Kylie Burke, Tessa Clarkson	ASPIRES Training Evaluation	3	MNMH-wide
Catriona Harwood	Michael Power, <b>Tessa</b> <b>Clarkson, Kylie Burke</b>	Restorative Practice in Mental Health Stage 2	3	0
Kylie Burke	<b>Liz Eggins</b> , Alina Morawska, Louise Brennan, <b>Bryce</b> <b>McMahon</b>	Recovering from serious mental illness while being a parent	3	MNMH-wide

# Collaborative Research Activity <u>Involving</u> RBWH Department / Research Group

Lead Investigator Name (RBWH staff and consumers in bold)	Other Study Investigators (RBWH staff and consumers in bold)	Research Project Title	Consumer involvement	Number of RBWH Patients Recruited
Courtney Craig	Jana Waldman, <b>Mark</b> <b>Daglish</b> , Jason P. Connor, <b>Stephen Parker</b>	VArenicliNe for the management of CANnabis use and Cannabis Use Disorder: A systematic review (VANCAN)	4 (literature- based research)	0
Daniel Schmidt	Cecilia Shim, Sui Ki Ng, Stephen Parker, Emily Martin, Kylie Burke, Tessa Clarkson	The impact of dialectical behaviour therapy on suicidality and self-harm behaviour in people with autism spectrum disorder: A systematic review	4	
Shivani Gopal	Serena Angeline, James Scott, Stephen Parker	Systematic review: interventions for major depressive episodes occurring in the context of bipolar disorder in children and adolescents.	4	

Lead Investigator Name (RBWH staff and consumers in bold)	Other Study Investigators (RBWH staff and consumers in bold)	Research Project Title	Consumer involvement	Number of RBWH Patients Recruited
Jeremy Dodd	Emma Brown, Lars Eriksson, Simone Garrett- Walcott, Subramanian Purushothaman, Donel Martin, Stephen Parker, Mark Vickers	Comparison of cognitive screening tools used to assess neurocognitive side effects of electroconvulsive therapy (ECT): A systematic review	4	
Matilda Mackay- Sim	Eebah Goraya, Jana Waldmann, Adam Frankl, <b>Stephen Parker</b>	Who develops restrictive eating disorders (Anorexia Nervosa (typical and atypical) and Bulimia nervosa) after bariatric survey for obesity: A systematic review	4	
Dennis Mok	Samuel Goulter, Jana Waldmann, <b>Magdalena</b> <b>Hagn, Stephen Parker</b>	Systematic review (proposed): Predictors of recurrent mental health related ED presentations for adults in Australia	4	
Noori Dhaliwal	Siddarth Kaladharan, Jana Waldmann, <b>Stephen</b> <b>Parker, Magdalena Hagn</b>	A systematic scoping review of the feasibility, safety, and effectiveness of intramuscular clozapine	4	
Daniel Debattista	Ben Goodwin, Jana Waldmann, <b>Gerard</b> <b>Byrne</b> , Lena Oestreich, <b>Stephen Parker</b>	The relationship between social media use and social anxiety: A systematic review and meta-analysis	4	
Akash Ebby	James Blair-Swannell, Alka Kothari, Jana Waldmann, James Scott, <b>Stephen Parker.</b>	Scoping review: sexual and reproductive health in women with bipolar disorder	4	
Hilary Ung	Zorica Jokovic, Mark Daglish	Long-term neurocognitive side effects of MDMA in creational ecstasy users following sustained abstinence: A systematic review and meta-analysis, 2024		
Amanda Morphett	Emma Armitage	Diversity and inclusion – 15 Step Challenge	3	
Kiara Palmer	<b>Emma Armitage</b> , John Kelly	A novel approach to overdose prevention – Statewide Postal Take Home Naloxone Program via Adis 24/7 Alcohol and Drug Support	4	
John Kelly	James Searles, Liz Eggins	From evidence to practice: Implementing patient reported outcome measures with Psychosocial treatment, MNMH-ADS AH-TRIP project		
Wendy Muller	Matteo Brunetti	(Extra)ordinary Excellence: A positive reporting system for capturing excellence amongst Metro North Mental Health	4	0
Margherita Chiavone	Nicole Brigg, Ada Gain, Liz Eggins, Abbie Galloway	Evaluating the HP1 Allied Health Cadets at MNMH	3	20 across RedCab, TPCH, RBWH
Justin Chapman	Kylie Burke	The MOVEMENT study: iMproving quality Of life in people with seVEre MENTal illness	3	75
Neil Woodroffe	Nicole Brigg	Updating and validating the domestic and community skills assessment (DACSA)	3	97 across RedCab, TPCH, RBWH
Kate Murphy	Kirsten McMahon, Thomas Skerlj, Chloe Pearson, Liz Eggins, Stephen Parker	Cardiovascular risk factors for serious adverse health events in individuals with eating disorders: A systematic review		
Kate Murphy	Rea Nolan, Mairead OCallaghan, Morgan Sidari	First Episode Rapid Early Intervention for Eating Disorders (FREE)		

Lead Investigator Name (RBWH staff and consumers in bold)	Other Study Investigators (RBWH staff and consumers in bold)	Research Project Title	Consumer involvement	Number of RBWH Patients Recruited
QCMHR	Ed Heffernan	Queensland Multimorbidity Quality Improvement Strategy: An audit and evaluation of multimorbidity and associated clinical practices in Mental Health Alcohol and Other Drugs service consumers using routinely collected structured electronic health record data		
QCMHR	Elissa Waterson, <b>Penny</b> <b>Dale</b>	IMHIP-Youth: a multidisciplinary project to develop, implement and evaluate a model of social and emotional wellbeing for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people who experience youth detention		
Sharon Gordon	David Ashmore, Taylor Dawson, <b>Kylie Burke,</b> <b>Tessa Clarkson</b>	Evaluation of a Youth Step Up Step Down Model of Service with embedded DBT	3	0
Darren Neillie	Kylie Burke, Bryce McMahon, Tessa Clarkson, Alison Greenwood, Erika Giebels	Strengthening the Redcliffe Caboolture Secure Mental Health Rehabilitation Unit Referral Decision Making Processes	3	0
Imani Gunasekara	Kylie Burke, Tessa Clarkson, Alex Cook	myRole invigoration project	3	MNMH- wide
Greg Pratt	Kylie Burke, Chris Henaway	Developing Cultural Capability through Communication Training for Mental Health Professionals (5-year research project from NHMRC Indigenous grant)	2	

# Research Activity with a Specific Focus on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples

Lead Investigator Name (RBWH staff and consumers in bold)	Other Study Investigators (RBWH staff and consumers in bold)	Research Project Title	Number of RBWH Patients Recruited
QCMHR	Elissa Waterson, Penny Dale	IMHIP-Youth: a multidisciplinary project to develop, implement and evaluate a model of social and emotional wellbeing for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people who experience youth detention	
Greg Pratt	<b>Kylie Burke, Chris</b> <b>Henaway</b> , Danielle Alchin	Developing Cultural Capability through Communication Training for Mental Health Professionals (5-year research project from NHMRC Indigenous grant)	

## **Research Publications**

### **Authors**

Investigator	ORCID ID	Investigator	ORCID ID
Kylie Burke	https://orcid.org/0000-0003-4246-0120	Niall Higgins	https://orcid.org/0000-0002-3260-1711
Stephen Parker	https://orcid.org/0000-0003-2321-3204	Penny Dale	https://orcid.org/0000-0002-7351-0189
Jeremy Hayllar	https://orcid.org/0000-0003-3065-7591	Gerard Byrne	https://orcid.org/0000-0001-8259-3812
Kathryn Turner	https://orcid.org/0000-0002-8828-5260	Morgan Sidari	https://orcid.org/0000-0001-5315-4546
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Hilda Wu		Vikas Moudgil	
Rashmi Guruajan		Sally Mercier	
Kym Boon		Amy Hannigan	
Amanda Dearden			

### **Publications in 2024**

#### Journal Articles (RBWH staff or consumers in bold)

Arnold R, Murphy-Smith J, Ng CH, et al. Predictors of the placebo response in a nutraceutical randomized controlled trial for depression. *J Integr Med*. 2024;22(1):46-53. doi:10.1016/j.joim.2024.01.007 5<sup>th</sup> author: Gerard Byrne

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Branjerdporn G, McCosker LK, Jackson D, McDowell S, Williams P, Chand S, et al. The implementation of a zero-suicide framework in a child and youth mental health service in Australia: processes and learnings. Front Psychiatry. 2024;15:1370256. doi:10.3389/fpsyt.2024.1370256. 11th Author: Kathryn Turner

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**Cha DS**, Kleine N, Teopiz KM, Di Vincenzo JD, Ho R, Galibert SL, et al. The efficacy of zuranolone in postpartum depression and major depressive disorder: a review & number needed to treat (NNT) analysis. Expert Opin Pharmacother. 2024;25(1):5-14. doi:10.1080/14656566.2023.2298340

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Day S, Mitchison D, Mannan H, Tannous WK, Conti J, **Dearden A**, et al. Residential versus day program treatment for eating disorders: A comparison of post-treatment outcomes and predictors. J Affect Disord. 2025;371:177-186. doi:10.1016/j.jad.2024.11.054. **9**<sup>th</sup> **Author: Amy Hannigan** 

Dittman CK, **Burke K**, Haslam D, Ralph A. Assessing adolescent functioning from different perspectives: Extending the validation of the adolescent functioning scale (AFS). Child Psychiatry Hum Dev. 2024;55(2):541-551. doi:10.1007/s10578-022-01428-2

Gaffney H, Jolliffe D, **Eggins E**, Ferreira JG, Skinner G, Ariel B, Strang H. Protocol: The effect of restorative justice interventions for young people on offending and reoffending: A systematic review. Campbell Syst Rev. 2024;20(2):e1403. doi:10.1002/cl2.1403

Halstead S, **Cao C**, Høgnason Mohr G, Ebdrup BH, Pillinger T, McCutcheon RA, et al. Prevalence of multimorbidity in people with and without severe mental illness: a systematic review and meta-analysis. Lancet Psychiatry. 2024;11(6):431-442. doi:10.1016/S2215-0366(24)00091-9

Hielscher E, Hay K, Chang I, McGrath M, Poulton K, **Giebels E**, et al. Australian Youth Self-Harm Atlas: spatial modelling and mapping of self-harm prevalence and related risk and protective factors to inform youth suicide prevention strategies. Epidemiol Psychiatr Sci. 2024;33:e34. doi:10.1017/S2045796024000301. **7**th **Author: J Blake** 

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Martin E, Purushothaman S, Ballard E, Blake JA, Burke K, Scott JG. Electroconvulsive therapy in a tertiary Australian mental health facility between 2009 and 2020. Aust N Z J Psychiatry. 2024;58(8):713-720. doi:10.1177/00048674241256839

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Pacas Fronza G, **Byrne G**, Appadurai K, Pachana N, Dissanayaka NNW. Anxiety Symptoms in Australian Memory Clinic Attendees with Cognitive Impairment: Differences Between Self-, Carer-, and Clinician-Report Measures. Clin Gerontol. 2024;47(2):215-223. doi:10.1080/07317115.2023.2231940

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Perdacher E, Kavanagh D, Sheffield J, **Dale P, Heffernan E**. The use of a digital well-being app (Stay Strong App) with Indigenous people in prison: Randomized controlled trial. JMIR Ment Health. 2024;11:e53280. doi:10.2196/53280.

Postorivo D, **Parker S**, Whiteford H, Papinczak Z, Rutherford Z. Person-centred crisis support services as alternatives to emergency departments: A systematic scoping review. Soc Psychiatry Psychiatr Epidemiol. 2025;60(1):25–37. doi:10.1007/s00127-024-02776-1

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