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Next edition: June

Welcome to Issue #12 from Allied Health Research Lead Hazel Heng

Greetings everyone, it is with great excitement that I open the first research newsletter for 2026. Upon returning from leave, I have been told about the many achievements, successes and exciting new initiatives from Allied Health in the research space.



I feel very proud of what has been achieved in such a short time and the excellent innovation and ideas that have emerged from simple meetings and chats between colleagues. Our full **Allied Health Research Report** has been compiled and is available on the intranet if you are interested in seeing the breadth of accomplishment for the past year.

This year, we will be building on what we've learned from last year's roadshows, where several research projects have emerged. We have also identified what clinicians would like to see more of, or what gaps can be filled in. In this issue, you will meet the participants of our inaugural **Clinical Audits for Research and Evaluation (CARE)** program where they will be guided by mentors in completing a retrospective audit of routinely collected data to improve service models.

The **MRFF Safe Recovery trial** has officially begun in two of our hospital sites this year as well, with our allocated wards starting off with a bang. The feedback from patients and staff have been encouraging, with **Professor Anne-Marie** visiting us semi-regularly to help foster engagement. Read on to find out more.

La Trobe University and Northern Health have once again partnered up to offer an exciting opportunity for those who are interested in taking a step further into research. If completing a PhD is something that excites you, I encourage you to reach out to us about the upcoming **Clinician Researcher PhD Scholarships**.

Finally, as always, if you have a research question or are curious about how to improve service delivery for your patients, please reach out and book a time with us through the **Allied Health Research Clinic**. We look forward to another fantastic year ahead.

Northern Health acknowledges Victoria's Aboriginal communities and their rich culture and pays respect to their Elders past, present and emerging. We acknowledge Aboriginal people as Australia's first peoples and as the Traditional Owners and custodians of the land (the Wurundjeri people) on which Northern Health's campuses are built.

We recognise and value the ongoing contribution of Aboriginal people and communities to our lives and we embrace the spirit of reconciliation, working towards the equality of outcomes and ensuring an equal voice.

Northern Health celebrates, values, and includes people of all backgrounds, genders, sexualities, cultures, bodies and abilities.



HOT OFF THE PRESS: CARE Fellowship begins

2026 marks the very first year of the inaugural **Clinical Audit for Research and Evidence (CARE) Fellowship**, with the program set to commence in April. This program aims to introduce allied health clinicians to the process of undertaking a quality improvement project and developing a clear focused clinical question. Similar to the Stepping into Research Program, this will include:

- A 12-week targeted program including 5 small group training workshops
- 1:1 allocation to a mentor with experience in research
- End of program presentation

Participants will be mentored through completion of the program as well as a non-HREC ethics application and abstract submission to Northern Health Research Week in 2026.

We wish to congratulate the following staff:

- **Gemma Monaghan** (Dietetics): Gemma is a senior Gastroenterology and Musculoskeletal Dietitian. Her research project will focus on assessing whether improvement in diet and weight is associated with improvements in pain, QOL and physical function in patients with osteoarthritis who are on the waiting list for joint replacement surgery.
- **Andrew Morrison** (Aboriginal Support Services): Andrew is a proud Gunditjmara man and the Aboriginal Cultural and Employment Advisor at Northern Health. With extensive experience in Aboriginal health and community engagement, he supports research and service improvement initiatives that centre Aboriginal voices, strengthen cultural safety, and improve health outcomes for Aboriginal communities.
- **Bernadette Sweeney** (Support at Home program/Social Work): Bernadette is a social worker with extensive experience in inpatient and community based aged care. She is currently a Clinical Care Partner at Northern Health Support at Home program. Her CARE Fellowship project will examine the data collected by the Support at Home program to describe and analyse the clinical and psychosocial characteristics and service usage of the Northern Health Support at Home client population.
- **Emily Davison** (Dietetics): Emily is a Dietitian who is passionate about supporting people living with feeding tubes. Her interest in research began whilst working in the UK, inspired by attending ESPEN conferences. Her project will look at the trends in prescribing fibre containing vs non-fibre containing enteral feeds in the MND population.
- **Eamonn McGrath-Lester** (Speech Pathology): Eamonn is a Grade 2 Speech Pathologist. His project will evaluate Northern Health's Speech Pathology management of post-stroke aphasia in the acute setting against the Stroke Foundation's Clinical Guidelines for Stroke Management with the aim of identifying opportunities to improve service delivery and patient outcomes.
- **Claire Ackland** (Podiatry): Claire Ackland (Podiatrist/AH Quality and Safety Lead): Claire is a senior podiatrist at Northern Health Foot Procedure Unit. She has lead the Podiatry and Orthotics Clinical Governance Portfolio, completing related quality improvement projects. Claire is currently working as Allied Health Quality and Safety Lead. Her project is measuring patients referred to Northern Health with an initial diagnosis of a diabetes-related foot ulcer and survival rates.

MRFF Grant update

The Safe Recovery clinical trial, led locally by Professor Adam Semciw and Dr Hazel Heng, has now been successfully rolled out onto Ward 4 at the Northern Hospital. This is the second ward to implement the intervention at Northern Health with the program also continuing on PCW at Bundoora Centre.

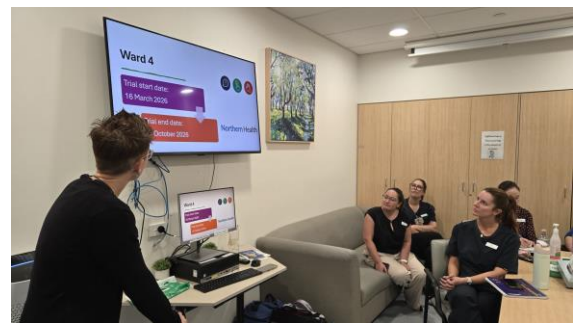
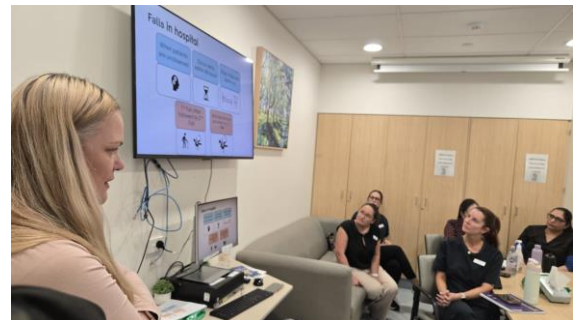
To date, 130 patients have been enrolled, reflecting really positive engagement from both patients and staff. Ward teams across both sites have been highly supportive and are working to integrate the Safe Recovery education into routine care.

Our Allied Health Assistants have played a major role in the program's success, delivering the falls prevention education in a way that is really engaging and has been well-received by patients. Their regularly communication with nursing and allied health staff on the wards has helped to reinforce the key messages of the program.

Early challenges include finding appropriate times to deliver education, particularly in a busy acute ward environment and limited availability of culturally adapted resources for CALD patients. These learnings are helping to guide improvements as the program prepares to expand to additional wards later in the year.

Earlier this month, we were delighted to welcome Professor Anne Marie Hill to Northern Health from Perth. As Principal Investigator on the Safe Recovery trial and world leading falls researcher, Anne Marie always brings a wealth of knowledge and experience which she shared in a really practical and motivating way. Her powerful stories and insights really resonated with our team and generated great discussion. Anne Marie led workshops for both allied health and ward staff and these sessions received great feedback.

Overall, the trial is progressing very well, supported by strong collaboration between researchers and clinicians and a shared commitment to reducing falls at Northern Health.



Northern Health/La Trobe University PhD Opportunity

We are pleased to invite Expressions of Interest from Northern Health Allied Health clinicians for a co-funded **Clinician-Researcher PhD Scholarship**, delivered in partnership with La Trobe University.

This scholarship is designed for clinicians who are interested in undertaking practice-focused, clinically embedded PhD research, while maintaining a strong connection to clinical practice.

What is the Clinician-Researcher PhD?

This is a full-time PhD scholarship that supports Allied Health clinicians to complete a doctoral research degree focused on improving clinical practice, workforce capability, patient outcomes, or health equity.

Successful applicants will:

- Be enrolled full-time in a PhD at La Trobe University
- Undertake embedded research at Northern Health
- Be supported by both academic supervisors (La Trobe University) and clinical supervisors (Northern Health)

Key conditions and benefits

Stipend: \$60,000 per annum (tax-free) for 3.5 years

Co-funded by Northern Health and La Trobe University. You can supplement this income with up to one day a week of clinical work in routine business hours

Study mode: Full-time PhD enrolment is required

Clinical work: Where relevant, clinicians may top up their income with additional clinical work up to one day a week in normal business hours (subject to local arrangements with line-management).

Tuition fees: Full tuition fee scholarship for the duration of the PhD.

Who should consider applying: This opportunity is suited to Allied Health clinicians who:

- Are currently employed at Northern Health
- Have (or are eligible for) the academic qualifications required for PhD entry (e.g. honours thesis, or first author publication)

If you are considering applying, early discussion with a potential academic supervisor and your line manager is strongly encouraged.

For informal enquiries, please contact:

Professor Adam Semciw – adam.semciw@nh.org.au

Associate Professor Rebecca Jessup – rebecca.jessup@nh.org.au

Conference news

Well done to **Carolyn Dunn** (Professional Leader Mental Health Occupational Therapy) who attended the World Federation of Occupational Therapy Congress in Thailand, 9-12th February. *"Wow! What a wonderful experience to attend...and connect with occupational therapists across the globe with over 90 countries represented. There were inspiring keynote speakers, symposium sessions focusing on AI and also the future of the occupational therapy profession and it was hard to choose from 11 concurrent streams of presentations with a consistent focus each day on mental health and wellbeing. I particularly enjoyed making new connections and meeting occupational therapists whom I'd previously read their research. There is so much to take back to Northern Health about innovations and practice in mental health and wellbeing."*



"I also had the privilege of presenting an oral paper behalf of our research team previously employed; Glen Dollman Carer Lived Experience Driving Project Officer and Dr Megan Turville Drive Safe Research and Evaluation Lead. Our research focused on the lived experience of carers in supporting their family member with a mental health condition to drive a motor vehicle. Another achievement is that this research is now available and open access via Advances in Mental Health Journal. Thanks to NH library for supporting open access." (Image 2: L-R: Carolyn Dun, Lorrae Mynard, Emeritus Professor Ellie Fossey).

Congratulations also to **Gemma Monaghan** (Dietetics) and **Emily Farrugia** (Dietetics/AH Research) who presented their poster presentations at the DA Research Summit in Melbourne last month on virtual care in neuromuscular diseases and the impact of dietetics in osteoarthritis care.



Please see upcoming conferences below – if you would like advice on an abstract or are curious about ethics approvals required prior to presenting, reach out to the AH Research Team.

April-June	• 2026 Australian Pain Society 46th Annual Scientific Meeting (Allied Health) - April • Dietitians Unite 2026 (Dietetics) - May • Occupational Therapy Australia OT Exchange 2026 (Occupational Therapy) – June • Speech Pathology Australia 2026 Conference (Speech Pathology) – June
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Have you attended a conference recently or presenting in future?

Northern Health recommends staff who attend conferences share relevant knowledge and resources to their relevant teams when taking conference leave. If you have news to share, please use this platform and get in touch with Emily.farrugia@nh.org.au for the next edition.



Library updates

Researcher Profiles

Did you know you can create a Researcher Profile for the [NH Research Repository](#)?

Researcher Profiles contain key professional details, as well as information about research interests and current projects. Creating a profile will help you connect with other researchers and potential collaborators. Fill out [this online form](#) to submit your profile.

To make a change to your Researcher Profile, [contact the Library team](#).

Fee-free publishing in 2026

The NH Library is excited to highlight fee-free publishing options for 2026. Northern Health affiliated corresponding authors can publish without paying Article Processing Charges (APCs) in:

- BMJ Case Reports (use fellowship code SF0364026)
- Oxford University Press journals (hybrid titles)
- Springer journals (hybrid titles)
- Taylor & Francis journals (a broad suite of titles covering allied health, medicine and nursing)
- Coming soon – BMJ Journals (hybrid and Gold OA titles)

More information is available [here](#). If you're considering submitting a manuscript, the Library can help verify journal eligibility and guide you through the process.

Training Calendar

The NH Library is offering upcoming training sessions in **CINAHL**, **MEDLINE** and **Canva**, designed to support staff in evidence-based practice, scholarly communication and professional development. Literature searching sessions (CINAHL and MEDLINE) will help staff locate high-quality evidence efficiently, while the Canva workshop focuses on creating clear and engaging visual content.

A further session, **Getting Published in BMJ Case Reports**, will provide practical advice on preparing and submitting case reports.

Register via the Library's training calendar [here](#)



Other PhD opportunities

Personalised Prediction of Premature Ovarian Insufficiency (POI) Using Clinical and Biomarker Data

Why This Matters:

- ~16% of Australian women experience menopause before age 45
- Premature ovarian insufficiency (POI) is associated with infertility, osteoporosis, cardiometabolic disease, cognitive decline, and increased mortality
- There is currently no validated clinical tool to predict individual risk

This project addresses a critical gap in women's health and aligns with national women's health priorities.

The Project:

This MRFF-funded project requires a PhD candidate to help develop Australia's first personalised POI risk prediction model by integrating:

- Clinical data
- Demographic factors
- Biomarkers
- You will apply advanced biostatistics and risk modelling methods to:
 - Develop and internally validate a prediction model
 - Prepare for external validation
 - Translate findings into a clinically deployable decision-support tool

What You Will Gain:

- Advanced training in clinical prediction modelling
- High-impact methodological and applied publications
- Experience developing a real-world clinical risk calculator
- Direct contribution to equitable, preventive reproductive healthcare

Funding Package:

- Australian Government RTP stipend (current annual rate ~ \$34,000 per annum tax free)
- \$3,000 per year top-up for 3 years (Domestic candidates)
- Opportunity for additional paid Research Assistant hours
- Conference funding up to \$2,300

Ideal Candidate:

- Honours (1st class) or Masters by Research
- Background in biostatistics, epidemiology, data science, reproductive health, endocrinology, or related field
- Strong quantitative skills and interest in women's health

Location:

Clayton campus (Full-time)

Monash Centre for Health Research and Implementation, 43-51 Kanooka Grove, Clayton, VIC 3168, Australia. <https://mchri.org.au/> and www.monash.edu/medicine/mchri

For further information or to express interest, please contact A/Prof Joanne Enticott, M: 0425835159.

PhD advert found at:

- Supervisor Connect post found [here](#)
- LinkedIn advert also found [here](#)



Current Allied Health low risk research projects

- ✓ Falls and Body Schema Research Project **(Physiotherapy)**
- ✓ Relationship between back pain beliefs, health literacy and presentation to ED with low back pain **(Physiotherapy)**
- ✓ Developing a virtual model of care for people at risk of falls: a mixed-methods approach **(Physiotherapy)**
- ✓ Understanding the feasibility of implementing an electronic Health Passport for people living with disability and/or complex needs accessing Victorian public healthcare organisations **(Physiotherapy)**
- ✓ Web based resource for people with osteoarthritis: a pragmatic feasibility study **(Physiotherapy and Orthopaedics)**
- ✓ HIPSTER: HIP fracture Supplemental Therapy to Enhance Recovery **(Physiotherapy and Orthopaedics)**
- ✓ Patients awaiting orthopaedic consultation for hallux valgus perceptions and experience **(Orthopaedics)**
- ✓ The association between toe-brachial index results and haemodialysis in patients with End Stage Kidney Disease **(Podiatry)**
- ✓ Australian Diabetes High Risk Foot Service Database **(Podiatry)**
- ✓ Improving telehealth capabilities when triaging diabetic foot ulcers and foot complaints with a newly developed digital clinical triage tool **(Podiatry)**
- ✓ Establishing if a bespoke focused rigidity cast containing an air gap reduces pressure at the posterior heel **(Podiatry and Orthotics)**
- ✓ Guardianship in Hospitals – A Health Services / OPA Hospital Pilot Program **(Social Work and Psychology)**
- ✓ Implementing cognitive intervention for older people in Memory Clinics: A pilot feasibility study **(Psychology)**
- ✓ Participation in the electronic Persistent Pain Outcomes Collaboration (ePPOC): An initiative to support continuous improvement in the quality and effectiveness of pain management in Australia **(Psychology)**
- ✓ An analysis of the Safer Care Victoria and Alfred Health collaboration to facilitate implementation of analgesics stewardship programs in Victorian Health Services **(Pharmacy)**
- ✓ RESPONSIBLE PRE-OPERATIVE OPIOID USE FOR HIP AND KNEE ARTHROPLASTY II (OPIOIDHALT II) STUDY: Opioid tapering in patients prior to hip or knee arthroplasty. **(Pharmacy)**
- ✓ Consumer led teach-back to improve recall and retention of health information: A mixed methods randomised controlled trial **(Pharmacy)**
- ✓ Medication transcription errors associated with electronic prescribing during internal hospital transfers of care: a multi-centre study **(Pharmacy)**
- ✓ Investigation of on-site food purchasing behaviour and attitudes at Northern Hospital **(Dietetics)**
- ✓ Investigating Malnutrition Australian Diabetes High Risk in Victorian Cancer Services: Malnutrition Prevalence Study 2018 **(Dietetics)**
- ✓ Digital Remote Patient Monitoring for the Progressive Neurological Disorders Clinic at Northern Health **(Speech Pathology, Occupational Therapy & Community Therapy Services)**
- ✓ Measuring occupational therapy practice in acute and sub-acute inpatient healthcare settings **(Occupational Therapy and Hand Therapy)**
- ✓ Staff attitudes to using technology to support evidence based medicine and virtual care delivery **(Allied Health)**
- ✓ Setting health service research priorities: a three-step participatory study **(Allied Health)**
- ✓ Transmural Healing and Disease Modifying Effect of Guselkumab in Crohn's Disease Patients **(Allied Health)**
- ✓ Allied Health Research Clinic **(Allied Health)**
- ✓ Co-design, implementation and evaluation of an innovative digital care pathway for patients presenting to the Emergency Department with Back Pain **(Allied Health)**
- ✓ Improving accessibility to telehealth for people experiencing homelessness **(Allied Health)**
- ✓ Optimising engagement in cardiac secondary prevention: A health literacy approach **(Allied Health)**



Current Allied Health low risk research projects

- ✓ Sleep, Wellbeing & Psychosis: Investigating Transdiagnostic Processes with Consumers Accessing Community Mental Health Services (**Allied Health Mental Health**)
- ✓ ACT in Workplace (**Allied Health Mental Health**)
- ✓ Evaluation of the reliability and validity of NutriMental as a targeted nutrition risk screening tool in mental health services (Northern Health) (**Allied Health Mental Health**)

Approved allied health research projects (non-HREC)

- ✓ Evaluating time efficiencies following the introduction of an Automated Dispensing Cabinet within a mental health ward (**Pharmacy**)
- ✓ Assessing the impact on Pharmacist involvement in clinical transition during an organisation wide electronic medical record implementation (**Pharmacy**)
- ✓ Partnered Pharmacist Medication Charting (PPMC) during Hospital in the Home (HITH) inpatient stay (**Pharmacy**)
- ✓ The impact of Pentrox® as an effective patient control analgesia alternative and its cost-saving benefits (**Pharmacy**)
- ✓ The Impacts of Pentrox® (Methoxyflurane) as an analgesia alternative and its cost saving benefits within Victoria's busiest Emergency Department (**Pharmacy**)
- ✓ Streamlining Specialist Appointments – The Role of the Pharmacist in Virtual Specialty Clinics (**Pharmacy**)
- ✓ Prescriptions, Practices, and Patient Paths – A post-surgical analysis of oxycodone prescription (**Pharmacy**)
- ✓ Advanced Practice Paediatric Dietitian (Nasogastric Tube Insertion and Management) Evaluation (**Dietetics**)
- ✓ Understanding determinants of a novel digital remote patient monitoring framework for people with Motor Neurone Disease; a mixed methods study (**Dietetics**)
- ✓ Evaluation post-stroke communication and swallowing care: is it feasible? (**Speech Pathology**)
- ✓ Safe Recovery – Reducing Falls Injuries by Older people in Australian Hospitals (**Physiotherapy**)
- ✓ Musculoskeletal Wellness Program Evaluation (**Orthopaedics, Physiotherapy & Staying Well**)
- ✓ Stroke survivors' experience of feedback about their cognitive performance (**Occupational Therapy**)
- ✓ Determining care outcomes of patients seen by podiatry during an admission after peripheral arterial disease is identified (**Podiatry & Orthotics**)
- ✓ Uptake of 3D scanned foot orthoses for high-risk foot management (**Podiatry**)
- ✓ Comparison of transcutaneous oxygen pressure and first toe systolic pressures as a predictor for wound healing for patients with suspected peripheral arterial disease (**Podiatry**)
- ✓ Comparison of plantar foot pressures of three different orthotic devices off-loading plantar ulcerations at the first metatarsal phalangeal joint (**Podiatry**)
- ✓ A Retrospective Cross-sectional Study on the Outcomes and Associated Factors of Bodily Restraints in the Emergency Department for patients with Mental Health Disorders at The Northern Hospital (**Mental Health**)
- ✓ Mental Health Outlier Program (MHOP) evaluation (**Mental Health**)
- ✓ Community follow up of mental health consumers discharged from forensic services (**Mental Health**)
- ✓ Pet therapy within adult inpatient units: The impact on consumers, staff and the ward environment (**Mental Health**)
- ✓ Innovate & Integrate: Research Training Series for Mental Health Nursing Evaluation (**Mental Health**)
- ✓ Medtasker and Allied Health (**Allied Health, Informatics**)
- ✓ Factors associated with research interest, confidence and experience in allied health clinicians (**Allied Health**)
- ✓ Improving the efficiency and effectiveness of daily operational reporting for the Allied Health division to the organisation-wide Daily Safety Brief and within the department (**Allied Health**)



Allied Health Research Clinic:

Are you:

- ✓ Thinking of starting a research project or have a burning question you're not sure how to answer?
- ✓ Seeking help on an ethics application, whether that be non-HREC, HREC or a QA?
- ✓ Data collecting and wanting extra assistance with interpreting statistics?

The Allied Health Research Clinic is jointly funded by Northern Health and La Trobe University and aims to promote and support research at Northern Health by providing clinicians with the necessary information, education and often the starting point to commence or plan their research projects or ideas.



How to book?

Allied health clinicians can book an appointment via the link below. Registration is online and involves providing information about your (i) general and professional demographics; (ii) current research skill/capacity; (iii) specific research question or project (takes approximately 15 minutes).

What happens next?

Once completing your registration, the Allied Health Research Team will contact you via email to schedule an appointment which is approximately 50 minutes, in NCHER or via Teams. The appointment is with at least two experienced allied health researchers, including Associate Professor Adam Semciw. Additional members may include a biostatistician, allied health research lead and/or an ethics representative, depending on your research project requirements and phase. Contact our team if you would like any further information prior to scheduling an appointment 😊

<https://redcap.nh.org.au/surveys/?s=JN4RRT8MA4>

Other iNews updates:

- [Northern Health to Lead Falls Prevention Innovation in \\$1.4 Million National Research Trial](#) (March 19, 2026)

Your Allied Health Research Committee Representatives

- Jeff Khoshaba/Rebekka Syrjanen (Pharmacy)
- Jaspreet Kaur (Podiatry)
- Rebecca Turnbull (Exercise Physiology)
- Miyuki Watanabe (Speech Pathology)
- Emily Farrugia (Dietetics)
- Adrienne Munro (Occupational Therapy)
- **Awaiting new representative** (Physiotherapy)
- Brooke Froud Cummins (Psychology)
- Alycea Formosa (Social Work)
- Carolyn Dun (Mental Health)
- Jack Yeung (Prosthetics and Orthotics)
- Yue Hu (TALS)
- Justine Slattery (AH Education)



Q&A: A/Prof Eric Morris; Consultant Clinical Psychologist/Psychology Academic

1. What led you to starting research and what was your role at the time?

I became an active researcher about 20 years ago. I was working as a consultant clinical psychologist in an early psychosis service, and was developing a psychological intervention for people who hear distressing voices (Acceptance and Commitment Therapy). Our evaluation of this intervention became the core of my PhD, which I completed while working as a clinician in mental health services. As a psychologist I have always been interested in evidence-based practice, both being a consumer of research and also producing practice-based evidence. I believe doing service evaluation is a core part of accountability as a health professional - it seemed like a natural step to then develop further research skills to test theory-driven models of psychological therapy.



2. You're currently a member of the Allied Health Research Committee. What does this involve and is there anything you do within your team currently to help build research awareness/capacity?

I work with the Allied Health Research Unit to mentor clinicians to develop their research skills through the Stepping Into Research Program and the newly-launched Clinical Audit for Research and Evidence (CARE) Fellowship. It is an excellent experience to support clinicians to tackle service-related questions using research methods. It also helps to de-mystify what being a professional researcher involves.

My broader role in the Academic Psychology Unit involves mentoring, training and public communication about our research. It is a partnership role within the School of Psychology & Public Health at La Trobe University, engaging students to do service evaluation and research within Northern Health. So, I work across the fields of workforce development, clinical education and health service research in this role.

3. What's next for you in the research space?

I continue to coordinate projects in the Academic Psychology Unit at Northern Health, and ACTUALISE Lab at La Trobe University. We are working on research about process-based interventions to support the recovery of people with psychosis, and using machine learning to better understand the wellbeing and mental health needs of autistic adults. I am involved in projects in understanding paranoia using international surveys and experimental studies, that will inform the development of psychological therapies.

4. What would you advise clinicians interested in research at Northern Health?

As a clinician at Northern Health you work in a team. Skilled team working and collaboration are also key to being successful as a researcher - no-one makes an impact without cooperating with others. Finding colleagues that nurture and support your curiosity, complement your skills, and are also passionate about your research area really helps. Being that colleague to others is key.

5. Tell us one thing we would not know about you.

I am a keen boardgame player, especially European-style games that involve strategic management of resources (such as "Seven Wonders", "Powergrid", "Brass Birmingham", or the classic "Catan"). Nothing like some structured fun with your friends and family!



2025 Research Report infographic

Northern Health

ALLIED HEALTH RESEARCH REPORT 2025

EXPANSION OF ALLIED HEALTH RESEARCH TEAM

Welcoming the appointment of another Post Doctorate Research Fellow – Virtual Health Services and 2 falls champions in partnership with La Trobe University



4 PHD'S

In progress across the Allied Health Research team, Physiotherapy and Psychology departments

>79 CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

With 71 national presentations, 4 international presentations, 2 workshops delivered nationally and internationally and 2 conference sessions chaired by Northern Health allied health staff



>\$500K IN GRANT FUNDING

>5 successful grants supporting multidisciplinary research in orthopaedic care, Motor Neurone Disease, dementia and student training across allied health

41 PUBLICATIONS

Across allied health, including three publications from the Stepping Into Research program



**Building research capacity
and confidence into 2026**

See full Allied Health Research Report 2025 for further details

BY ADAM SEMCIW, STEPHEN QUICK, NIKKI FRESCOS, HAZEL HENG + EMILY FARRUGIA



Allied Health publications January – March

1. Doherty, C., Pepper, H., **Jessup, R.**, & Hutton, J. (2026). Patient perspectives on telehealth access among people experiencing homelessness: a rapid review [Review]. *International Journal for Equity in Health*, 25(1), Article 46. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12939-025-02749-z>
2. **Dun, C.**, Dollman, G., & Turville, M. (2026). Carer lived experience perspectives of supporting consumers of mental health services to drive motor vehicles safely [Article]. *Advances in Mental Health*. <https://doi.org/10.1080/18387357.2026.2630672>
3. **Frescos, N.**, & Kaminski, M. R. (2026). Cost and Resource Utilisation for Management of Diabetes-Related Foot Disease in Australia: An Economic Evaluation [Article]. *International Wound Journal*, 23(3), Article e70863. <https://doi.org/10.1111/iwj.70863>
4. **Jessup, R. L.**, Stockman, K., Haywood, C., **Nguyen, D.**, Tacey, M., Thomas, S., & Campbell, D. (2026). Impact of Clinician-Supported Peer Health Navigation on Hospital Resource Utilisation amongst High Risk Adults: A Pragmatic Propensity-Score Matching Study [Article]. *International Journal of Integrated Care*, 26(1), Article 3. <https://doi.org/10.5334/ijic.9105>
5. King, M. G., **Alousis, N.**, **Collins, T.**, Bell, E. C., Hahne, A., Arachchige, P. W., Stewart, J., See, K., O'Dowd, E., & **Semciw, A. I.** (2026). Symptom Trajectories of People With Low Back Pain Presenting to the Emergency Department: Insights From the BACK TrAC Digital Care Pathway [Article]. *Journal of Emergency Nursing*. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jen.2025.12.016>
6. Lawrence, J., Boyd, J. H., Rosier, V., Hutton, J., Sher, L., **Semciw, A. I.**, Miller, S. M., **Jessup, R. L.**, & Talevski, J. (2026). Implementation of a Paediatric Virtual Emergency Department: A Descriptive Analysis [Article]. *Journal of Paediatrics and Child Health*, 62(3), 381-388. <https://doi.org/10.1111/jpc.70277>
7. McKercher, J. P., Peiris, C. L., Thwaites, C., **Heng, H.**, Gleeson, D., Janes, G., & Morris, M. E. (2026). Standards for Hospital Falls Prevention and Management: An International Comparative Analysis [Article]. *Journal of Advanced Nursing*. <https://doi.org/10.1111/jan.70529>
8. Shwaita, L., Said, S., Whicker, S. D., **Hoak, F.**, Kaivaha, L., Salboud, W., Stevenson, C., Mohammed, M., Hu, Y., & **Jessup, R. L.** (2026). Co-Designing a Peer Navigator Role to Improve Equity in Healthcare Access for Pacific Islander, Māori and Arabic Communities in Australia [Article]. *Health Expectations*, 29(1), Article e70351. <https://doi.org/10.1111/hex.70351>
9. **Silva, H.**, Zheng, T., Porter, J., Barrett, J., Garg, M., & Gibson, P. R. (2026). The Associations of Sucrase-Isomaltase Hypomorphic Variants With Long-Term Outcomes and Dietary Intake in an Australian Irritable Bowel Syndrome Population Educated on the FODMAP Diet: A Cross-Sectional and Retrospective Study [Article]. *United European Gastroenterology Journal*, 14(1), Article e70173. <https://doi.org/10.1002/ueg2.70173>
10. Taylor, N. F., Rimayanti, M. U., Shields, N., Peiris, C. L., O'Halloran, P. D., Wintle, E., Harding, K. E., Williams, S., **Semciw, A. I.**, Simpson, A., & Snowdon, D. A. (2026). Psychosocial Factors Are Rarely the Focus of Rehabilitation After Hip Fracture: A Short Report of Routinely Collected Health Data [Article]. *Physiotherapy Research International*, 31(1), Article e70167. <https://doi.org/10.1002/pri.70167>

Congratulations to all published authors at Northern Health!