

RESEARCH DIGEST ISSUE #40



July 15th 2026

Research Week 2026

Call for abstracts closing in 2 weeks!

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

Applications open: 17 June 2026
Applications close: 29 July 2026



RESEARCH WEEK
19-22 OCTOBER 2026
INSPIRED RESEARCHERS
Northern Health

**CLICK HERE
FOR INFO**



NAIDOC WEEK
50 YEARS DEADLY
5-12 JULY 2026

As we

celebrated NAIDOC Week last week, we recognise and celebrate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the world's oldest continuing cultures and Australia's first researchers. Through generations of observation, innovation and knowledge-sharing, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples have built rich knowledge systems that continue

to inform and strengthen research today. We honour these contributions and reflect on how we can continue to listen, learn and work in genuine partnerships to advance knowledge and improve outcomes for all communities.

RDGU updates

Important Reminder: Research Honorary appointments

Researchers are reminded that when a person with a **Research Honorary Appointment** joins a NH research project, the NH Research Development and Governance Unit (RDGU) must be notified.

This should be done by submitting either:

- a Site Amendment, or
- a Progress Report,

to ensure the new personnel are appropriately recorded on the research study.

Please ensure that any changes to study personnel are communicated promptly to maintain accurate research governance records and compliance requirements.

New Appointment- Research Quality Manager

RDGU is delighted to announce the appointment of **Dr Catherine Offer** as Research Quality Manager. Since joining Northern Health as a Research Governance Officer, Catherine has made valuable contributions to supporting research governance, quality, and compliance.

In her new role, she will lead initiatives to strengthen research quality systems and support the delivery of high-quality, impactful research across Northern Health. We congratulate Catherine on her appointment and look forward to her continued contribution to Northern Health's research community.

Professional Developments

To support the growing needs of the clinical trials workforce, two courses have been released on the ACTEC platform to provide accessible learning opportunities to help professionals strengthen and enhance research operations across a range of settings.



new
practical,
their skills

[ICH E6\(R3\) Good Clinical Practice for Investigators and Site Staff](#)

- A self-paced introductory GCP course for investigators and site staff, covering the key principles and practical application of ICH E6(R3) Good Clinical Practice.

[Business Skills for Clinical Trial Research Managers.](#)

- A practical self-paced course for new and experienced research managers, covering the business, financial, and strategic planning skills required to effectively manage a clinical trial unit, with real-world scenarios and tools to support operational success and informed decision-making.

Webinars

The Knowing, Being & Doing Series: Panel Discussion

Wednesday 15th July, 10-11am AEST



This panel discussion will explore the increasingly used concepts of Indigenous ways of knowing, being and doing within health research and publishing. Through conversations with leading First Nations scholars, researchers and practitioners, this webinar series aims to deepen understanding of how Indigenous knowledge systems shape health, wellbeing, research, and social practice.

[Register Here](#)

National Health and Medical Research Strategy – webinar recording

On Friday 26 June, NHMRC CEO, Steve Wesselingh, and Assistant Secretary, Natasha Ploenges presented a webinar National Health and Medical Research Strategy 2026–2036.

The Strategy sets out a 10-year vision for strengthening Australia's health and medical research system and improving outcomes for the community. It provides a national framework on Australia's world leading research capability, improve coordination across the sector and support the translation of research into real world impact for all Australians.



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[Watch Here](#)

NCTGF Nudge: Complaints Management (Action 1.14)

An effective complaints management system is an important component of safe, high-quality clinical trial conduct. Under Action 1.14 of the National Clinical Trials Governance Framework (NCTGF), health services are expected to have processes in place to encourage, receive, investigate, and respond to complaints relating to clinical trial activities.

Complaints from participants, carers, families, sponsors, or members of the research workforce provide valuable opportunities to identify areas for improvement. Managing complaints in a timely, transparent, and respectful manner helps strengthen participant confidence, improve research practices, and enhance the overall quality and safety of the clinical trial service. This includes ensuring that participants are aware of how to raise

concerns, complaints are managed in accordance with organisational processes, and lessons learned are used to inform continuous quality improvement.

Check Your Readiness

- Do participant facing documents clearly explain how participants can raise a concern or complaint?
- Are research staff familiar with the process for managing and escalating complaints?
- Is there a mechanism to document, investigate, and resolve complaints related to clinical trials?
- Are complaints and feedback reviewed to identify trends or opportunities for improvement?
- Could your site demonstrate its complaints management process if reviewed today?

Nudge to Action

Take 10–15 minutes this week to review your study documentation and local processes. Ensure participant information includes current complaints contact details, your study team understands the escalation pathway for complaints, and any research related feedback or complaints are appropriately documented and managed.

- **Northern Health Consumer Feedback:** [Northern Health Providing Feedback](#)
- **Research Governance resources:** Procedure: Research Governance Chapter 7 Research Related Complaints and other Feedback [Procedure: Research Governance](#)
- **Research Development and Governance Unit Complaints contact person:** 8405 2918 or ResearchDGU@nh.org.au

Reminder: A well documented and effective complaints management process not only supports participant rights and safety but also demonstrates compliance with the National Clinical Trials Governance Framework and a commitment to continuous quality improvement.

Northern Health Publications

Publications are selected from strongly Northern Health-led research at the discretion of RDGU Office.

- Howard T, de Costa J, Chew GL, Issac M, Ng M. Less Than Full-Time Training in General Surgery: Who Benefits and Who Carries the Cost? ANZ J Surg. 2026 Jun 26. doi: 10.1111/ans.70808. Epub ahead of print. [PMID: 42363441](#).
- Wardak YH, Chung YE, Maingard J, Asadi H, Kok HK, Mitreski G. Quality of Life Following Endovascular Treatment of Proximal Lower Limb Deep Vein Thrombosis: A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis. J Vasc Interv Radiol. 2026 Jul;37(7):108762. doi: 10.1016/j.jvir.2026.108762. Epub 2026 Mar 27. [PMID: 41905683](#).
- Bramston C, Cotchett M, Francis A, Jessup RL. Provision and use of focused rigidity casts in the public health setting: a modified Delphi study. J Wound Care. 2026 Jul 2;35(7):578-585. doi: 10.12968/jowc.2023.0330. Epub 2026 Jul 3. [PMID: 42397771](#).
- McCabe N, Clarnette N, Cabbabe K, Xi Y, Jarman A, Yin C, Fantenberg K, Ferguson E, Haege E, Thomas J, Hannan J, Arvanitis T, Wu V, Bowdler L, Dent L, Koutsofrigas L, Harding C, Hodgson R. Operating Theatre Waste Generation and Segregation in a Tertiary Hospital: A Prospective Waste Audit. ANZ J Surg. 2026 Jul 1. doi: 10.1111/ans.70831. Epub ahead of print. [PMID: 42386656](#).

- Company D, Rotella JA. A Systematic Review of Pathological Demand Avoidance (PDA): A Veritable Diagnosis or a Case of Circular Logic? J Autism Dev Disord. 2026 Jul 9. doi: 10.1007/s10803-026-07432-y. Epub ahead of print. [PMID: 42423879](#).

If you would like to feature any items on the Research Digest, [Please contact us](#).

Research Development & Governance Unit

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