



Government of **Western Australia**
Department of **Health**

Department of Health Western Australia Human Research Ethics Committee

Project Summaries for Approved Proposals

October to December 2020 Quarter

Project summaries for proposals approved by the Department of Health Human Research Ethics Committee – October to December 2020 quarter.

The material contained in this document is made available to assist researchers, institutions and the general public in searching for projects that have ethics approval from the Department of Health Human Research Ethics Committee (DOH HREC). It contains lay description/summaries of projects approved in the October to December 2020 quarter.

Project Title	Follow-up after curative treatment for colorectal cancer		
Principal Investigator	Dr Mary Theophilus		
Institution	Royal Perth Hospital		
Start Date	9 December 2020	Finish Date	9 December 2023
<p>This study will identify the current practice in Western Australia with respect to the follow-up of colorectal cancer patients who have undergone treatment. The study will be limited to the three main tertiary institutions based in Perth where 80% of patients are treated and their subsequent care is coordinated. The variation in practices between different hospitals will be assessed. In addition, the team will assess compliance with follow-up regimes outlined in the National Health and Medical Research Council recommendations. Gaps in the provision of services and barriers to implementing optimal follow-up care will be assessed along with an attempt to quantify unmet needs. This could relate to providing a treatment summary to patients and GPs, managing any adverse effects after cancer treatment and providing adequate support and advice, including any necessary lifestyle changes.</p>			

Project Title	Understanding and responding to the cost and health impact of short-term health staffing in remote and rural Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community-controlled health services		
Principal Investigator	Dr Deborah Russell		
Institution	Menzies School of Health Research		
Start Date	10 December 2020	Finish Date	10 December 2023
<p>Over the past decade, there has been increasing reliance on a short-term or 'fly-in, fly-out'/'drive-in, drive out health workforce and proliferation of private staffing agencies contributing to this workforce trend. Heavy reliance on short-term or agency staff has raised significant concerns about negative impacts on patient care, on resident health service staff and on health system costs.</p> <p>This study aims to generate new knowledge about: 1) the impact of short-term staffing in remote & rural Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services; 2) the potential mitigating effect of community control; and 3) the effective context-specific, evidence-based retention strategies.</p>			

Project Title	Predicting the future post-stroke- contributing factors and age differences for readmission		
Principal Investigator	Ms Elise Tan		
Institution	Deakin University		
Start Date	17 November 2020	Finish Date	17 November 2023
<p>It is not uncommon for patients to be rehospitalised after a stroke. Stroke patients already constitute a costly burden to the health system and the economy, and readmissions not only further compound this, but may also result in negative health outcomes. Advanced age has been inconsistently identified as a predictor of readmission. However, evidence is limited about the extent to which age contributes to readmissions and the differences in readmission rates by age. Understanding the scale of the problem and the factors influencing readmissions across different age groups can help improve post-discharge care and reduce avoidable rehospitalisations.</p> <p>This study aims to: 1) identify readmission rates and reasons for readmission after index stroke by age; 2) identify the factors associated with readmission by age, and 3) estimate the cost of readmissions by age. Department of Health hospital data from Western Australia will be analysed at the patient level across various time points (1, 5 and 10 years) following the index event. Study findings will contribute to evidence around resource allocation, guideline setting and policy formulation for stroke.</p>			

Project Title	Multimorbidity in the Busselton Healthy Ageing Study (BHAS)		
Principal Investigator	Dr Kevin Murray		
Institution	University of Western Australia		
Start Date	22 December 2020	Finish Date	22 December 2023
<p>This project links health outcomes data to the Busselton Healthy Ageing Study cross-sectional survey data for the purpose of identifying effective intervention and prevention strategies to give a greater understanding of the risk factors for, and cumulative effects of, chronic disease processes and their effects on function and quality of life.</p> <p>The study aims to enhance understanding of ageing by relating the clustering and interactions of common chronic conditions in adults to function and health outcomes.</p> <p>This study will enable a thorough characterisation of multiple disease processes and their risk factors within a community-based sample of individuals to determine their singular, interactive and cumulative effects on ageing.</p>			

Project Title	Nutrition Monitoring Survey Series		
Principal Investigator	Miss Lauren Humphreys		
Institution	Department of Health		
Start Date	22 December 2020	Finish Date	22 December 2023

The Nutrition Monitoring Survey Series (NMSS) is a series of surveys which have been administered by the Department of Health every three to five years in Western Australia since 1995. It is currently the longest running state-based nutrition survey in Australia.

The NMSS aims to monitor knowledge, attitudes, behaviours and intentions of Western Australian adults as they relate to nutrition; measure attempts at dietary change, and barriers and promoters to making behaviour changes consistent with dietary recommendations; and knowledge, perceptions and attitudes towards government public health nutrition activities.

Data collected through the NMSS is used to inform the development and delivery of tailored public health nutrition interventions. The data is also used for developing evidence-based policy responses to poor nutrition, including guiding the strategic directions for agencies implementing these policy responses.

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