



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

Department of Health Western Australia Human Research Ethics Committee

Project Summaries for Approved Proposals

October to December 2017 Quarter

Project summaries for proposals approved by the Department of Health Human Research Ethics Committee – October to December 2017 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 available for the October to December 2017 quarter.

Project Title	The Injury Comorbidity Index Study		
Principal Investigator	Dr Janneke Berecki-Gisolf		
Institution	Monash University Accident Research Centre		
Start Date	01/01/2018	Finish Date	01/09/2018
<p>This project is about exploring the effect of comorbidity in an injured population with the purpose of providing injury-specific comorbidity indices that will be of practical use in clinical care, epidemiological research and health services planning and financing for injury. Furthermore, this knowledge will help policy makers to anticipate the effect of population ageing on the burden of injury, as comorbidity prevalence increases steeply with increasing age. It is expected that the indices could be used Australia wide.</p>			

Project Title	Mathematical Modelling to Inform National Seasonal Influenza Vaccination Policy		
Principal Investigator	Dr Hannah Moore		
Institution	Telethon Kids Institute		
Start Date	12/10/2017	Finish Date	1/12/2019
<p>The Telethon Kids Institute are the successful bidders for a government contract to perform an independent mathematical modelling study to assess the current influenza disease burden in Australia and the potential impacts of a range of influenza vaccination strategies. The findings from this project will help to inform seasonal influenza vaccination policy in Australia.</p>			

Project Title	The Western Australian Child Development Atlas		
Principal Investigator	Dr Megan Bell		
Institution	Telethon Kids Institute		
Start Date	12/10/2017	Finish Date	12/10/2027
<p>This project will geographically map aggregated area-level data on child health, social, learning, and development indicators, overlaid by locations and catchment areas of child and family oriented services and programs. The Child Development Atlas (CDA) will be an online, interactive mapping tool that will enable the profiling of geographic areas within the State, to inform the planning and development of policies, services, and programs aimed at improving the outcomes of Western Australian children. Translation of findings from this mapping project will primarily be aimed at a government agency level, with significant benefits expected to be realised for the Western Australian community.</p>			

Project Title	The D-Health Trial: Data Linkage		
Principal Investigator	Associate Professor Rachel Neale		
Institution	QIMR Berghofer Medical Research Institute		
Start Date	15/11/2017	Finish Date	31/12/2024
<p>The D-Health trial was established in 2014 to meet the need for large population based trials. Over 21,000 adults have been recruited and randomised to receive vitamin D or placebo once per month for 5 years. The primary outcomes are mortality and cancer, and there is a wide range of other outcomes. These health outcomes are captured through annual surveys completed by participants.</p> <p>Laboratory and observational epidemiological studies suggest that vitamin D may play a role in many diseases, such as cardiovascular disease, diabetes, and cancer risk and survival. However, most studies supporting a role for vitamin D in prevention of or survival from chronic disease have been observational, and inferring causality is problematic, due to the potential for confounding and reverse causation. The only way to confidently establish the benefits (or otherwise) of supplementation is through randomised trials; few trials have been large enough to provide robust estimates of effect for even the most common of chronic disease endpoints, such as mortality or cancer, and these have had limitations.</p>			

Project Title	Surveillance of disease outcomes and management of people diagnosed with hepatitis B or hepatitis C virus infection in Western Australia: A population-based linkage study		
Principal Investigator	Professor Donna Mak		
Institution	Department of Health WA		
Start Date	02/10/2017	Finish Date	01/05/2019
<p>In Australia, infection with hepatitis B virus (HBV) or hepatitis C virus (HCV) is associated with poor health outcomes, deaths, and a burden on the healthcare system. Effective treatment for both infections is available and is associated with a reduction in poor health outcomes, and a prevention of deaths due to HBV and HCV infection. Given this, reducing HBV and HCV infections and improving the health outcomes of people living with HBV and HCV have been outlined as key goals in both Western Australian Hepatitis B and Hepatitis C Strategies 2015-2018.</p> <p>This project will aim to monitor HBV and HCV related health outcomes and deaths, and will evaluate the management, diagnosis, treatment uptake and treatment outcomes of people with HBV and HCV infections within Western Australia (WA). This project will evaluate trends and identify populations at increased risk of HBV and HCV related health outcomes and deaths. It will also compare treatment uptake and outcomes among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples with those of non-Indigenous people in WA, and identify any equity issues for accessing treatments that may exist for people living in non-metropolitan areas. This project will inform policy in WA.</p>			

Project Title	Monitoring the impact of the Western Australian Preterm Birth Prevention Initiative on preterm births		
Principal Investigator	Professor John Newnham		
Institution	King Edward Memorial Hospital Obstetrics, Gynaecology and Imaging Directorate		
Start Date	28/02/2018	Finish Date	31/12/2021
<p>Preterm birth (PTB) is the single greatest cause of death and disability in children under five years of age in the developed world. In Western Australia (WA), the rate of PTB is 8-9% resulting in 2,800 children born too early each year.</p> <p>PTB remains one of the great healthcare challenges of our time. Many of these children will be at risk of early death or a lifetime of disability. The costs to our population in terms of human suffering and economic burden to our healthcare system demand that we discover how to prevent this major complication of pregnancy.</p>			

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