

# Closing the research gap/practise gap: The impact of knowledge brokerage on an Occupational Therapy Department



## INTRODUCTION

Commencing in July 2013, the Occupational Therapy department at Barwon Health has partnered with the Occupational Science and Therapy department at Deakin University around evidence based practice and building capacity for knowledge translation thru a knowledge brokerage model. The objective of this poster is to review the outcomes of this partnership, highlighting the key performance indicators, benefits and challenges associated with implementing this model of knowledge translation.

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## SWOT ANALYSIS



## KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

- Investigations undertaken in both clinical areas and professional development (i.e. practice education)
- Participation in the steering group which has developed the Translating Allied Health Knowledge (TAHK) framework
- Identification of research champions and establishment of 'champion / apprentice' mentorship relationships
- Additional research relationships built with Charles Sturt University, Florey Institute of Neuroscience, Latrobe University, Western Health and Melbourne Health
- Representation on the Non-Acute Directorate Research Advisory Committee
- Knowledge broker received 'Early Career Innovator' citation at the 2014 Smart Geelong Awards
- Nine successfully completed Innovation and Evaluation (QAS) projects in 2016, two of which are planned for publication

## Current developments in this partnership include:

- The development of a research literacy and aspiration tool for use at orientation and annual performance review
- Development of a TAHK framework module as part of Barwon Health's CPD program
- Commencement of biennial research planning forum
- A combined Mental Health / Primary Care initiative

**1**  
Successfully completed Honours studies

**23**  
Clinician conference presentations

**\$90,000**  
Successful grant applications

**4**  
Completed and published research studies led by clinicians

## CONCLUSION

This partnership has achieved substantive outcomes over the past three years, and clearly contributed to the development of a strong knowledge translation culture at Barwon Health. Knowledge brokerage has greatly enhanced the knowledge translation capacity of the Occupational Therapy department, to the benefit of both clinicians and the patients they serve. A key to its success has been its focus on implementation and translation, rather than strictly knowledge generation. This partnership has provided a model for the establishment of similar arrangements in other services, and places Barwon Health at the forefront of ensuring excellence and innovation in allied health practice