



# A rapid review strategy to identify allied health research assets in a start-up context

Dr Olivia King<sup>1, 2, 3</sup> and Dr Rosalie Boyce<sup>1, 2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Barwon Health

<sup>2</sup>South West Healthcare

<sup>3</sup>Monash Centre for Scholarship in Health Education

# Background



New allied health research and translation lead roles across Victoria

Olivia King + Rosalie Boyce = 1.0EFT

Barwon Health and South West Healthcare conjoint role

Support research and evidence-based practice through research capacity building (RCB) (DHHS, 2018)



Start-up context:

- 1) Brand new roles
- 2) Limited existing allied health research infrastructure



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Health and Human Services

# Research capacity building

- Clinician engagement with research is fundamental to high quality healthcare (Pickstone et al., 2008; Research Australia, 2015; Slade et al., 2018)
- Varying levels of engagement within the allied health workforce:



Adapted from the Victorian allied health research framework, 2018

<https://www2.health.vic.gov.au/-/media/health/files/collections/research-and-reports/a/allied-health-victorian-research-framework.pdf?la=en&hash=AFA09DBC506626C113AE2679B1AA7098C560BFE4>

# Regional Allied Health Research & Translation Lead: Start-up Framework



Start-up Strategy

**ASSETS**

- Allied health
- Partnerships
- Enablers
- Amplifiers
- Funders



**PLANS**

- Map baseline
- AH research continuum
- Research active+
- Capacity growth



**ACTIONS**

1. Research capacity building
2. AH workforce / translation research
3. Community of practice
4. Contribute to regional research strategy



**EVALUATION MEASURE DOMAINS**

- Traditional research KPIs (Alt/Metrics)
- Reputational capital growth
- Impact: providers/orgs/system/practice
- Community of Practice (CoP)
- DHHS



**ADVANCEMENT & INNOVATION**

- Strategic planning
- Focal priorities
- Emerging opportunities

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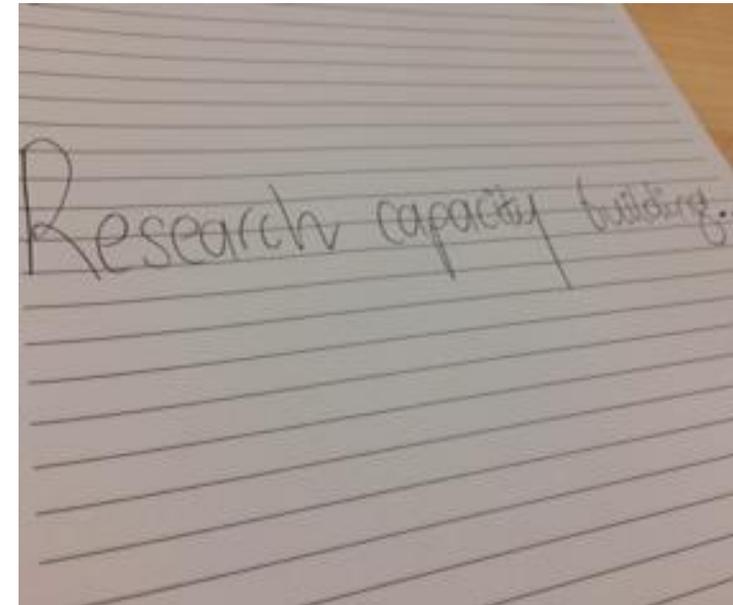


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# Aims and research questions

Key aim of the review was to accelerate research capacity building through:

1. Describing and analysing baseline research activity using existing secondary data sources
2. Identifying patterns of engagement and mapping activity to the Allied Health Research Continuum
3. Assessing research literacy and potential to convert research-active allied health professionals to higher levels of engagement, achievement and impact



# Methods

Rapid review (Grant and Booth, 2009)  
Documentary analysis of existing  
secondary data sources:

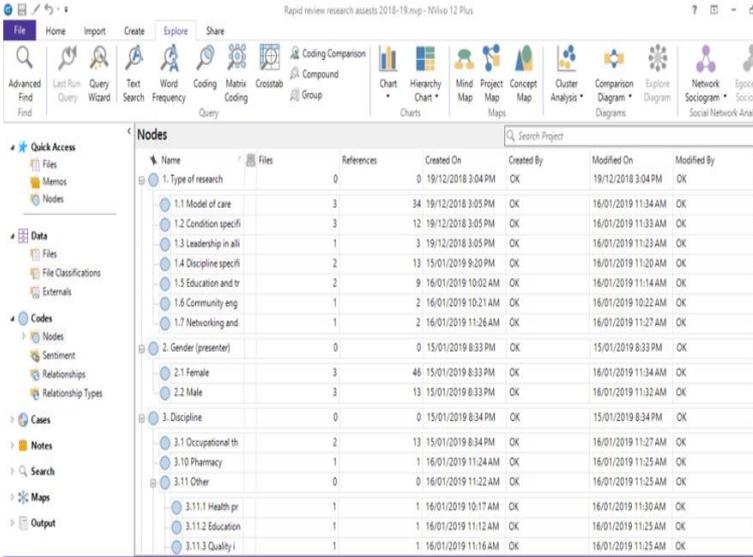
Barwon South Western and Grampians Allied  
Health Conference (2016, 2018)

Victorian Allied Health Research Conference  
(2017, 2019)

Others: SARRAH Conference (2016, 2018) and  
PHCR Conference (2018) – no presenters from the  
region

Content analysis (Heieh & Shannon, 2005)

Titles, abstracts, biographies



Name	Files	References	Created On	Created By	Modified On	Modified By
1. Type of research		0	19/12/2018 3:04 PM	OK	19/12/2018 3:04 PM	OK
1.1 Model of care		3	19/12/2018 3:05 PM	OK	16/01/2019 11:34 AM	OK
1.2 Condition speci		3	19/12/2018 3:05 PM	OK	16/01/2019 11:33 AM	OK
1.3 Leadership in all		1	19/12/2018 3:05 PM	OK	16/01/2019 11:23 AM	OK
1.4 Discipline speci		2	13/15/01/2019 9:20 PM	OK	16/01/2019 11:20 AM	OK
1.5 Education and tr		2	9/16/01/2019 10:02 AM	OK	16/01/2019 11:14 AM	OK
1.6 Community eng		1	2/16/01/2019 10:21 AM	OK	16/01/2019 10:22 AM	OK
1.7 Networking and		1	2/16/01/2019 11:26 AM	OK	16/01/2019 11:27 AM	OK
2. Gender (presenter)		0	0/15/01/2019 8:33 PM	OK	15/01/2019 8:33 PM	OK
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3.1.1.1 Health pr		1	1/16/01/2019 10:17 AM	OK	16/01/2019 11:30 AM	OK
3.1.1.2 Education		1	1/16/01/2019 11:12 AM	OK	16/01/2019 11:25 AM	OK
3.1.1.3 Quality i		1	1/16/01/2019 11:16 AM	OK	16/01/2019 11:25 AM	OK



# Findings: SNAPSHOT

64 allied health professionals

14 disciplines

The majority of presenters were from **South West Healthcare (44%)** and **Barwon Health (41%)**

The vast majority of the presentations were delivered **orally (91%)**



Glen Watson Photography, 2018  
<https://www2.health.vic.gov.au/allied-health-conference>

# Findings: disciplines and gender

**Physiotherapists (31%)** and **occupational therapists (22%)** presented their research work more frequently than those from the other AH disciplines

**Dietitians (9%), *exercise physiologists* (8%), allied health assistants (8%) and podiatrists (5%)** also represented

Presenters were more frequently **female (78%)**



# Findings: research topics

- More than half (53%) of the research presented related to **service models** or **models of care**
- 22% related to **discipline specific** (e.g. physio hydrotherapy service, OT upper limb rehab)
- 20% related to a particular **health condition** (e.g. diabetes, stroke ...)
- 16% related to **education and training** (qualified allied health and students on placement)



<http://www.flickr.com/photos/ntubrackenhurst/4350388699/>



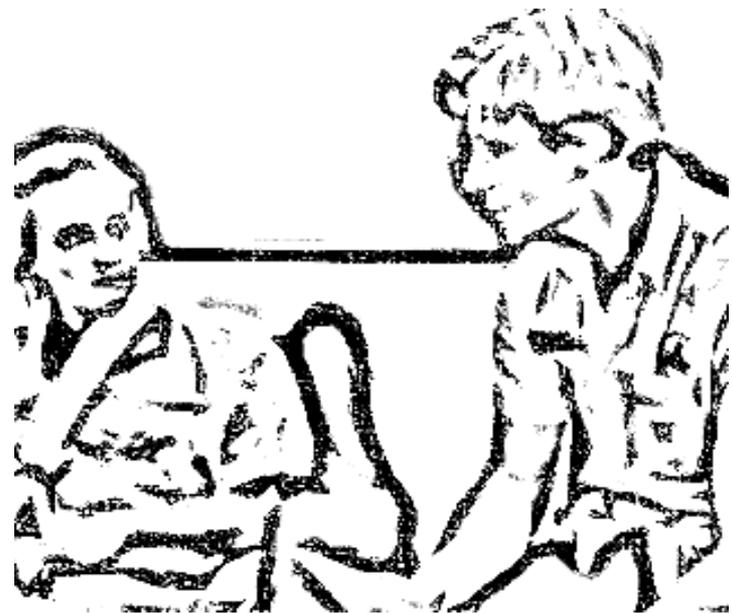
# Findings: research topics according to disciplines

Physiotherapists presented more frequently on **models of care**, condition-specific and on education and training

OTs presented more frequently on discipline-specific, models of care and education and training

Dietitians presented more frequently on **models of care**

Exercise physiologists presented more frequently on models of care and condition-specific



# Limitations

Not exhaustive in identifying the research endeavours of ALL allied health professionals in the region

Since undertaking the rapid review, more research-active AHPs have been identified

Some have presented at discipline or condition-specific conferences

Multi-site clinical trials



# Opportunities

Identification of  
a research-  
engaged cohort  
across the region

Establish  
patterns in terms  
of research  
strengths and  
interests across  
the region

Linkages of  
researcher  
clinicians →  
advancement  
along the  
research  
engagement  
continuum

Aid in developing  
and encouraging  
networks and  
opportunities for  
collaboration



# Next steps

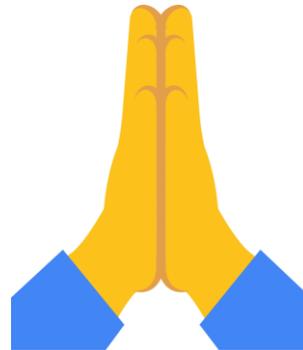
- Continue to engage with research-active AHPs across the BSW region
- Consider funding opportunities based on demonstrated research interest and expertise
- Further explore patterns in the data
- Explore barriers and enablers to converting to higher level of research engagement



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