



**Darling Downs Health**

# Annual Research Report 2024



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# Meet the team



Top left corner: Lisa Seymour (DDHIRC Coordinator)

From left to right: Kate Henning (*Research Coordinator*), Mandy Hubbard (*Research Ethics and Governance Officer*), Deborah Wainwright (*Research Ethics & Governance Officer*), Dr Anna Tynan (*Director of Research*), Abil Saj (*Clinical Trials Manager*), Donna Rouse (*Research – Senior Support Officer*).

# A message from the Executive Director Transformation, Analytics & Governance and the Director Research

2024 has been a year of remarkable growth and achievement for Darling Downs Health, solidifying our position as a leading regional hub for research and clinical trials excellence. We've seen a significant leap forward in both the breadth and depth of our research activities, marking an exciting new chapter in our journey toward innovative, evidence-based healthcare.

This year alone, we launched 8 new clinical trials, including 3 tele-trials, expanding access to cutting-edge treatments across the region. Our commitment to supporting the activity of research within Health Services was further demonstrated a 20% increase in Research Ethics and Governance applications compared to the previous year. This is a testament the dedication of our Research Ethics and Governance Officers and Human Research Ethics Committee (HREC). Alongside this, 55 exemptions for quality activities were approved by our HREC chair. With the number of active clinical trials rising and HREC applications being submitted it is clear that our research landscape is thriving, and our dedication to ethical, impactful research continues to grow.

Our Research Support team has remained a key pillar in this growth, maintaining consistent consultation numbers with research active and research curios clinicians. Of note is the obvious increased engagement with medical staff, thanks to the focused efforts of our research coordinator. Alongside this, the demand for research education has surged, with nearly 10 additional sessions delivered to staff across various departments and disciplines, enhancing their knowledge and involvement in research.

In 2024, we placed a significant emphasis on nurturing a sustainable research culture at Darling Downs Health. A major initiative was the formation of our Research Culture Working Group, which is developing strategies to celebrate research achievements and highlight our collective successes. As a result, we are excited to announce the creation of a comprehensive calendar of research events for 2025, which will further elevate the visibility of research within our community.

We continued engagement in the successful Intensive Research Training Program (IRTP) provided through our Darling Downs Health Innovation and Research Collaborative (DDHIRC), which supports novice clinician-researchers to start a project with a designated university mentor. In addition, we introduced the new "Research Training for Busy Clinicians" program, utilizing a flipped classroom model to make key research skills more accessible and adaptable for busy healthcare professionals. This program is already helping to cultivate the next generation of researcher-leaders at Darling Downs Health.

2024 also marked a significant increase in our research publication output and the securing of over \$3 million in research grant funding. With the successful receipt of Medical Research Future Fund and state research grants, we are well-positioned to translate these discoveries into meaningful healthcare solutions that will directly benefit our communities.

This annual report reflects the exciting momentum we've built in research at Darling Downs Health. It captures the successes, challenges, and opportunities that have defined this year, and outlines our ongoing commitment to building a vibrant, research-driven health service. The key message emerging from this report is clear: the continued support and development of our research-engaged workforce is essential to ensuring a bright, impactful future for both our health service and the communities we serve.

Thank you to all our staff and researchers for their dedication to advancing healthcare through research. Together, we look forward to a future brimming with greater opportunities for innovation, collaboration, and excellence in healthcare research.

# Research Highlights 2024

Quality exemption projects approved	55
Research projects approved	46
Publications	48
Total grants awarded	\$3,060,906.22
Total in-kind funding committed	\$426,972.24
Total active research projects	228

## Research spotlight | Dr Chris Wall



Director of Orthopaedics at Toowoomba Hospital Dr Chris Wall has been awarded the Higher Degree Research Student Excellence Award at The University of Queensland's (UQ) 2024 Medical School Excellence Awards. The award recognises researchers who have made an exceptional contribution through their research, and translation of research into practice and/or policy into improved health care or education practice. Award winners must clearly demonstrate they have demonstrated significant and outstanding achievement and meaningful and lasting impact from their research. Dr Wall was the sole clinical researcher winner within the School of Medicine amongst a cohort of applicants across the state and beyond. Dr Wall's PhD is entitled, "The influence of obesity on knee replacement outcomes in Australia" and he has been completing it alongside his busy clinical work.

# 1. Clinical trials

## 1.1 Clinical trials manager report | Dr Abil Saj

Clinical trials are fundamental to modern healthcare, providing essential insights that inform evidence-based medical practice. They offer patients access to innovative investigational therapies and alternative treatment options, particularly for those with unmet medical needs beyond the standard of care.

At Darling Downs Health (DDH), clinicians conducting trials receive comprehensive support through the Clinical Trials Hub (CTH). Our dedicated team includes a Clinical Trials Manager, Clinical Trials Coordinators, a Clinical Trials Pharmacist, Research Nurses, and other supporting personnel. For further details, please visit our website: <https://www.darlingdowns.health.qld.gov.au/research/clinicaltrials>

### Implementation of the National Clinical Trials Governance Framework

The year 2024 marked a significant milestone for clinical trials at DDH, as we worked diligently toward the sustainable implementation of the National Clinical Trials Governance Framework (NCTGF). The framework aligns with the National Safety and Quality Health Service (NSQHS) Standards, particularly the Clinical Governance Standard and Partnering with Consumers Standard. Compliance with the NCTGF is mandatory for health service organizations and clinical trial sites, ensuring clinical trials are conducted safely and with a commitment to high-quality patient outcomes. At DDH, the implementation of NCTGF actions was overseen by the NCTGF Working Group.

The framework comprises five key components, with the first four aligned with NSQHS Standard 1 and the fifth reflecting NSQHS Standard 2:

1. Governance, Leadership, and Culture
2. Patient Safety and Quality Improvement Systems
3. Clinical Performance and Effectiveness
4. Safe Environment for the Delivery of Care
5. Partnering with Consumers

While substantial progress has been made in implementing all components, additional efforts are required to fully meet the requirements of Standard 2: Partnering with Consumers.

### Assessment and Maturity Rating

A formal assessment of clinical trials at DDH against the NCTGF Standards was conducted from October 23–25, 2024, as part of the organization's Short Notice Assessment. The evaluation followed a maturity scale:

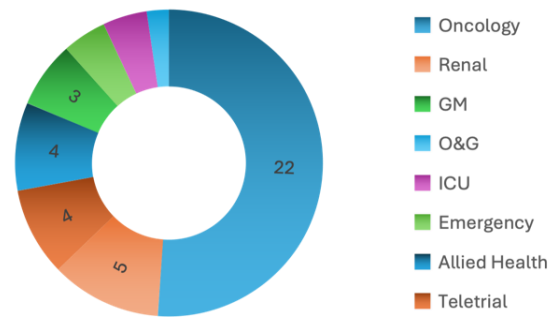
- Established System
- Growing System
- Initial System

DDH received a maturity rating of 2.0 for Standard 1 (Growing System) and 1.67 for Standard 2 (Initial System), resulting in an **overall maturity rating of 1.88 (Initial System)**. These results indicate that while progress has been made, further work is needed for the full implementation of all NCTGF action items. Several opportunities for improvement, outlined in the NCTGF Assessment Report, will be instrumental in advancing DDH toward an Established System.

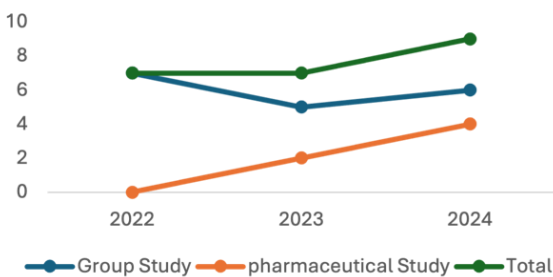
## Clinical Trial Activities and Growth

Currently, CTH provides extensive support to clinicians conducting clinical trials across multiple specialties, including Oncology, Haematology, Allied Health, Emergency, General Surgery, Intensive Care, Nephrology, Obstetrics & Gynaecology, and Urology. In the latter part of 2024, significant progress was made in initiating trials in Cardiology and Mental Health. Additionally, we are expanding our capacity to conduct Teletrials, with continued support from the Queensland Regional Clinical Trial Coordinating Centre (QRCCC).

Active Clinical Trials at DDH



Number Clinical Trials initiated at DDH from 2022



Currently, there are 43 active clinical trials across various departments, including four Teletrials. These studies encompass pharmaceutical-sponsored trials, collaborative group trials, and investigator-initiated trials. Clinical trial metrics and activity data are maintained in table 1, 2 and 3 on the following page.

One of CTH's strategic goals is to attract more commercially sponsored trials to DDH. In 2024, two commercial studies have been initiated in Oncology & Haematology, with ongoing efforts to expand industry collaborations across other departments.

## Growth of the Regional Cancer Centre Trials Unit (RCCTU)

The Regional Cancer Centre Trials Unit (RCCTU) oversees Oncology and Haematology trials and has experienced substantial growth in 2024. Increased engagement with industry sponsors and clinical trial groups has contributed to a steady rise in patient recruitment. The unit continues to thrive as a key component of CTH, reinforcing DDH's commitment to advancing cancer research.

## Celebrating International Clinical Trials Day

On May 20, 2024, CTH celebrated International Clinical Trials Day by hosting an interactive booth at the Toowoomba Hospital foyer. The event provided an opportunity to engage with staff and consumers, offering informational sessions, Q&A discussions, brochures, and merchandise. The event was well-received, with enthusiastic participation and appreciation from attendees. Notably, many staff members gained new insights into clinical trial operations at DDH. Moving forward, we plan to continue this annual celebration, incorporating additional educational and interactive sessions.



## Looking Ahead

DDH remains committed to strengthening its clinical trial capabilities, enhancing governance structures, and fostering greater consumer engagement. With ongoing efforts to implement the NCTGF, attract industry-sponsored trials, and expand Teletrial capacity, we are confident in our ability to advance clinical research to benefit our patients and the broader healthcare community.

Table 1 | Active clinical trials by department

Active Clinical Trials by Department	2024			
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Allied Health	1	0	0	0
Emergency Department	1	1	2	2
General Surgery	1	2	2	2
Haematology	6	5	4	6
ICU	7	6	6	6
Nephrology	3	4	3	2
Obstetrics and gynaecology	1	0	1	0
Oncology	12	19	19	19
Urology	2	2	2	2
Teletrial	1	1	3	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>43</b>

Table 2 | Clinical trials breakdown

Clinical trials breakdown	2024			
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Commercial sponsor	4	3	3	4
Collaborative group	19	30	30	29
Clinician led	4	4	4	4
Tele-trial	1	1	2	4
Darling Downs Health Primary Site	0	0	1	1
Darling Downs Health Satellite Site	0	1	1	1
<b>Phase of trial</b>				
Phase II	8	8	6	8
Phase III	16	17	17	18
Phase IV	2	2	2	2
Device	3	4	4	4
Other	9	8	9	7

Table 3 | Clinical trial incidents

Clinical Trial Metrics	2024			
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Adverse events	1	0	0	0
Protocol breaches	1	0	0	0
Clinical incidents	0	0	0	0

## 2. Research Ethics and Governance

### 2.1 Snapshot



\*Funding accounted for through SSA Authorisations for this quarter, however actual funding may be received by the HHS through the duration of the project as per the funding schedule.

\*\*In-kind is related to the support provided within a local department or unit for this project to occur within standard work practices

## 2.2 Human Research Ethics Committee (HREC)

### A message from the HREC Chair

Another year has flown by for the Darling Downs Health (DDH) Human Research Ethics Committee (HREC) and it has been one of many and varied research topics to review. The Committee topped the 2023 submissions for review of exemptions, low risk and greater than low risk research with 100 applications. As always, we would like to say a huge thank you to the members of our HREC and Scientific Review Sub-Committee who give their time and expertise to reviewing these applications and the work of our Research Ethics and Governance Officers in providing their support to the HREC and to the researchers. This year also saw the advertisement and recruitment of a Deputy HREC Chair, Daniel McDonald, as the workload of the Committee and the drive for research across DDH continues to grow. Daniel has been a long-standing member of the HREC and spends his time assisting our staff in his role as the DDH Librarian.

Last year saw a number of research applications being submitted to our HREC for review from other Hospital and Health Services (HHSs) as capacity to review research applications peaked and the workload was shared between certified HRECs. Being a smaller regional HHS, this provided our Committee members with a great opportunity to gain experience in reviewing projects outside of their usual scope.

When reviewing research applications, the risk of the research is taken into account and different review pathways are utilised. For low-risk applications, one Scientific Review Sub-Committee member, two HREC members and then lastly the HREC Chair review for ethical and scientific acceptability. For greater than low-risk applications, all members of both Committees review and provide advice and feedback as required. This approach assists with managing timeframes for the review of all research applications.

We look forward to another exciting year ahead as the knowledge of research and research culture in DDH continues to develop and grow.

## 2.3 Submissions

Figure 2.1: provides a comparison of all authorised applications (Ethics, Governance and Not Requiring Ethical Review) processed by the Research Ethics and Governance Office in 2024. Comparisons are made for each quarter, as well as for the type of authorisation.

Research Ethics and Governance authorised applications have remained steady over the past few years. Figure 2.2: shows a comparison across the years of 2015 – 2024 for Research Ethics and Governance authorisation. Of note is the increase in complexity of site-specific assessments generated through clinical trials and increase in amendments, which is not reflected in the tables.

Figure 2.1: Research Ethics and Governance (REGO) Authorisation per quarter and total for 2024

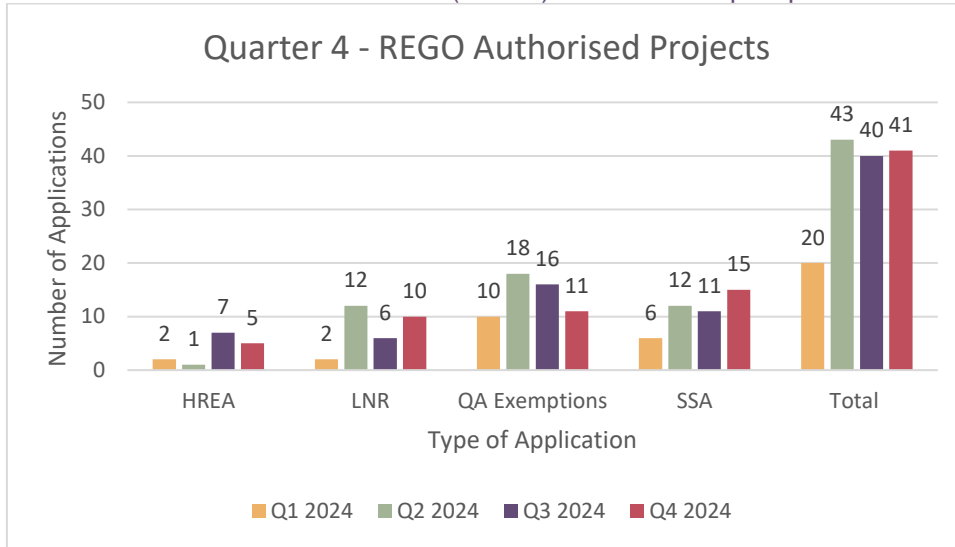
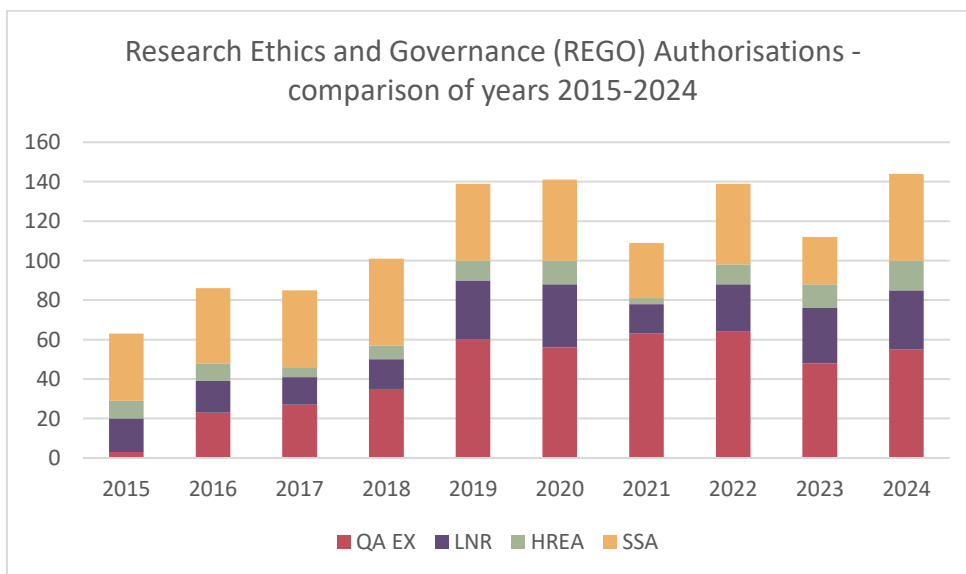


Figure 2.2: Research Ethics and Governance (REGO) Authorisation – comparison of years 2015-2024



Both Ethics and Governance submissions are monitored via clock days. A clock day constitutes each calendar day after a valid application has been received and is being processed by the DDH REGO office. It excludes time taken for the applicant to respond to queries with further information or time spent processing applications at other organisations for multi-organisational projects. That is, clock days are not a measure of total time elapsed since a valid application is received but, instead, are a measure of processing time by the Health Service. Ethics uses a 60-day clock target and Governance uses a 25-day clock target. Table 2.2 shows the average response time for ethics applications and SSA applications authorised for conduct within DDH in Q4 2024.

Table 2.3 | Average response time for Ethics applications and Research Governance applications authorised for conduct within Darling Downs Health – 2024

2024 Average response time	Days
For Ethics applications	24.23
For SSA applications	6.54 (clock days)

Table 2.4 lists the research projects given full authorisation for conduct within Darling Downs Health, by professional division. In the case of Darling Downs Health-led projects, this requires both ethics approval and research governance (i.e., Site Specific Assessment -SSA) authorisation. In the case of collaborations, this may mean both ethics approval and governance authorisation from Darling Downs Health or, where the study holds approval from an HREC which is signatory to the National Mutual Agreement, this may mean obtaining ethics approval from a signatory HREC, and governance authorisation (i.e., SSA only) from Darling Downs Health.

Table 2.4 | Research projects (SSA's) authorised for conduct within Darling Downs Health

Darling Downs Health		Collaborative		External projects	
Allied Health	2	Allied Health	2	Allied Health	0
Nursing & Midwifery	1	Nursing & Midwifery	6	Nursing & Midwifery	1
Medicine	13	Medicine	6	Medicine	0
Other	3	Other	2	Other	5

Table 2.5 lists the total projects submitted to the HREC chair not requiring ethical review (NRER). NRER or QA exemptions means investigators who conduct quality assurance or quality improvement activities (hereafter; QA), or write case reports, to publish their findings in peer reviewed journals. Through this process quality projects are subjected to scientific review, which aims to ensure the scientific rigor of the evaluation project.

Table 2.5 | Quality exemption projects approved authorised for conduct within Darling Downs Health – 2024

Darling Downs Health		Collaborative	
Allied Health	1	Allied Health	0
Nursing & Midwifery	0	Nursing & Midwifery	0
Medicine	6	Medicine	0
Other	3	Other	0

## 2.4 Research projects approved

Research projects approved by the HREC, both low/negligible risk and greater than low risk.

### Q1 2024 | Approved projects

Using a Professional Symposium to explore perceived barriers to entering the nurse practitioner workforce

Further Education and Career Progression Opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Workers in Rural Southern Queensland

Breast cancer outcomes in regional Queensland

Stakeholders' perspectives on breast cancer-related lymphoedema self-management and the role of technology

Using a Professional Symposium to explore perceived barriers to entering the nurse practitioner workforce

Further Education and Career Progression Opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Workers in Rural Southern Queensland

Breast cancer outcomes in regional Queensland

Stakeholders' perspectives on breast cancer-related lymphoedema self-management and the role of technology

### Q2 2024 | Approved projects

An exploration of the relationship between professional identity and personal identity in consultant medical staff

Group Reflective integrated Practice with Safewards (GRiP-S) \*\*

Investigating hospital associated infection surveillance activities – perspectives of infection control practitioners in Queensland hospitals \*\*

C-Reactive Protein and White Cell Count as Predictors of Infective Aetiology in Emergency Department Patients \*\*

Developing education and management systems that successfully support early career nurses: A longitudinal study \*\*

Accuracy, acceptability, and impact of Lyrebird Ambient listening technology in an outpatient context: a mixed methods evaluation (HO)

Identifying People at Risk of Frailty in Primary Care

Pharmacist Recruitment and Retention on the Darling Downs

Evaluating and enhancing an innovative dietetic model of nutrition care for regional patients with head and neck cancer \*\*

Perinatal mortality and medication use by birthweight centile in gestational diabetes in Queensland \*\*

Flap Outcomes in a regional head and neck centre \*\*

Exploring the landscape of IPECP in the radiography workforce in Queensland \*\*

Morbidity and mortality following minor amputations in a regional hospital \*\*

### Q3 2024 | Approved projects

Cost Benefit Micro-Analysis of Performing Pre-Procedural Urinalysis to Prevent Urosepsis\*\*

Mapping Healthy Days scores to EuroQoL-5 Dimensions-5 Level (EQ-5D-5L) utility values to assess healthrelated quality of life (HRQoL) by single and joint modifiable risk factors for chronic disease

Oncoplastic breast surgery in rural Queensland: Does it make a difference to outcomes? \*\*

Oncoplastic breast surgery in rural Queensland: Does it make a difference to outcomes? \*\*

Hereditary Haemorrhagic Telangiectasia and Management of Pulmonary Arterio-Venous Malformations in Pregnancy: A Case Series (HO)

Characterising pancreatic dysfunction and its influence on long-term outcomes after surgery for oesophagogastric cancer (HO)

Diagnostic yield of routine echocardiography for clozapine induced cardiomyopathy in an Australian regional context\*\*

Myocardial native T1 and T2 reference values at 3T, an Australian experience \*\*

Making interdisciplinary pain management programs more patient-centred: a qualitative study of patients' perceptions of the ENGAGE pain group (HO)

Determining the role of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) in treatment-resistant epilepsy (HO)

Co-designing food fortification in residential aged care (HO)

Exploring Haematological Cancer Patient's Experiences of Pharmacist-Led Education when commencing a new anti-cancer treatment in an outpatient setting\*\*

Evaluation of the First Nations Immunisation Course (FNIC) for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health workers and health practitioners\*\*

An Australian first trial of an anti-racism intervention at a major public hospital: acceptability, feasibility, and outcomes development (HO)

### Q4 2024 | Approved projects

Attitude of Mental Health Professionals to Total Smoking Ban Policies in Inpatient Mental Health Units

Diagnostic utility of imaging features on brain MRI for idiopathic intracranial hypertension – A retrospective study

Digital Aptitude and Readiness Training

Developing a Risk Stratification Tool to Minimize Patient Transfers for Suspected Snakebites in Queensland

Qualitative evaluation of a rural Community Integrated Care (r-CIC) service

Enhancing Prostate Cancer Diagnosis: Concordance and Potential of the Biobot Device

CMV – a deafening epidemic (Part IA Toowoomba Study)

Parental knowledge, experience and perception of dental caries in 4-12years old children in rural Darling Downs

Cost analysis of pre- and post-implementation of Tele oncology Model of Care for people with cancer in Southwest Queensland, Australia

Evaluation of a Public Orthopaedic Outreach Service in Southwest Queensland

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Research Our Way: Closing the gap in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health human research ethics governance in Queensland

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Establishing Normal Values of Tibial Compound Muscle Action Potential (CMAP) from Medial Gastrocnemius Muscle

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Connection and Kinship: Culturally Safe and Responsive Care for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children and Families

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Aeromedical Retrieval of people with Acute Behavioural Disturbance in Queensland - ELEVATE Study

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Southwest Primary Care Pilot

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An Australian first trial of an anti-racism intervention at a major public hospital: acceptability, feasibility, and outcomes development

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## 2.5 Quality exemption projects approved.

Non-research activities exempt from ethics review include quality assurance activities and case reports. Quality assurance activities and case reports, where there is intent to disseminate findings outside Darling Downs Health, must be submitted to the HREC Chair for confirmation of status and provision of an NRER letter.

### 2024 | Quality exemption projects approved

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An Amyand Hernia with concurrent Appendicitis secondary to a Mucinous Neoplasm: A Case Report

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Urology Services to Rural Areas

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Perioperative management of anaemia in patients undergoing major elective orthopaedic and oncological surgery

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Teleoncology Service Evaluation Protocol

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Monitoring research culture in Darling Downs Health

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Case Study: Intestinal malrotation in an adult patient as an uncomplicated scenario

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An evaluation of Drug Burden Index (DBI) minimisation in Hospital In The Home Community Aged Care (HITH-CAC) patients at Toowoomba Hospital.

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A review of zoonotic disease notifications in Darling Downs and South West

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A review of vaccine preventable diseases notifications in Darling Downs and South West

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Right Ventricular Thrombus

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Introduction of MagSeed for localisation of breast lesions in a regional centre

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Head injury in adults - a retrospective cohort study of patient characteristics, management and outcomes in a rural Queensland population.

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Clinician evaluation of consumer driven clinical escalations (Ryan's Rule)

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Monitoring of outcomes and adverse effects in patients receiving Electro-Convulsive Therapy (ECT) at a regional psychiatric hospital - a clinical audit

Evaluation of a multi-site, rural Community Integrated Care (r-CIC)

New Graduate Physiotherapist Rural Handbook

Evaluation of the Toowoomba Hospital Pharmacy On-Call Service for 2022 and 2023

Allergy Recording: A Service Evaluation of CHARM

A case of tele-health support for emergency front of neck access

Evaluation of current Physiotherapy services at Kingaroy Hospital to inform future service development

As assessment of pharmacological management plans for discharged congestive cardiac failure patients from Darling Downs Health facilities

Who, what, where, when, why: mapping mental health emergency department presentations in rural Queensland.

Hospital Outreach and Telehealth for the rural areas of Darling Downs Service (HOTRODS): Mapping and Analysis of a digital health outreach service

An audit of early pregnancy bleeding: assessment, management and follow up care in Rural Darling Downs Hospitals.

Serious Borderline Tumour of Female Genital Tract

Ergometrine-induced coronary artery vasospasm post caesarean section and postpartum haemorrhage in patient identifying as a Jehovah's Witness

Positive outcome in large 11cm placental chorioangioma

Assessing management, care, and outcome of febrile children up to 3 months of age who present in Darling Downs hospitals

Diagnosis, management, and outcomes of cholecystitis and appendicitis in rural Darling Downs hospitals

Adherence to Post-Tonsillectomy Advice Amongst Patients Undergoing Tonsillectomy in a Regional Centre

An audit into pharmacists' and anaesthetists' recommendations in the pre-admission clinic (PAC) for patients on anticoagulation undergoing gastroscopy at Toowoomba Hospital

Time to Computed Tomography in Trauma Patients: Outcomes and Challenges in a Regional Hospital Setting

Evaluating the management of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) exacerbations at Stanthorpe Hospital

Evaluation of non-LAM inpatient medication supply for apixaban and melatonin at Toowoomba Hospital

Outbreak Investigation: 2023-2024 Pertussis Epidemic Darling Downs and South West Region.

Cryptosporidiosis outbreak in Darling Downs and South West regions during 2023-2024

Epidemiological study of respiratory syncytial virus distribution across Darling Downs and South West regions

Height and Weight: Are We Getting it Right? Elevating Patient Care Through Accurate Measurements

Assessing Elective Surgery Patient Cancellations at Bunya Centre Day Surgery Hospital

Creatinine Kinase (CK) Negative Myositis as the Presentation of ANCA Vasculitis (AAV): A Case Study

After hours medication supply in a rural hospital emergency department

Internal Hernia secondary to Omental Tear resulting in a Closed Loop Small Bowel Obstruction: Delayed Presentation Following Paediatric Blunt Trauma

Evaluating the Single Session Family Consultation (SSFC) framework being implemented into Darling Downs Health Mental Health Alcohol and Other Drugs Service (DDH MHAODS)

Utilisation of intraoperative parathyroid hormone monitoring during non-malignant parathyroidectomies in Toowoomba Base Hospital

Open partial nephrectomy - A safe procedure in a regional centre? Outcomes of a clinical audit

Evaluation of the use of a Physician Assistant (PA) workforce in the Toowoomba Hospital emergency Department

Discovering life stories with consumers to foster person-centered care and meaningful engagement (Phase B Scale Up)

Evaluation of outpatient special orders and inventory stock holdings at Toowoomba Hospital Pharmacy Department from July to September 2024

Perioperative Anemia Optimisation Service Evaluation

Evaluating the usability of Toowoomba Hospital Pharmacy Cancer Care Unit's Complementary and Alternative medicines (CAMs) interaction database.

Trends in Pertussis vaccination coverage before and after the removal of on-site vaccination services at Toowoomba Base Hospital

A review of Enterobius Vermicularis found during appendicectomy 2019-2024

Limb-saving emergent procedural sedation and joint reduction via telehealth: a case report

Yezidi Audit 2024 Toowoomba Hospital

A Case Report of Chronic Complete Right Internal Carotid Occlusion in the context of Radiotherapy Induced Vasculopathy

## 2.6 Site Specific Assessments Authorised (SSAs)

All research projects wanting to be completed at Darling Downs Health require a Site-Specific Assessment (SSA) before the research can commence. An SSA considers regulatory and professional standards; risk; impacts and legal requirements at each site. The SSA also helps a site to decide if there are enough resources available to effectively conduct the research.

### 2024 | Site authorised projects

A randomised phase III trial of accelerated versus standard BEP chemotherapy for participants with intermediate and poor-risk metastatic germ cell tumours

De-Stress - QLD Snapshot

Using a Professional Symposium to explore perceived barriers to entering the nurse practitioner workforce

Evaluation of an implementation intervention to enhance multi-national translation of nurse-initiated protocols for fever, hyperglycaemia and swallowing management following stroke: a cluster randomised controlled trial

Digital Survey on Mental Well-being and Psychological Resilience among Health Care Workers of Alcohol and Other Drugs Services (AODS) in Queensland, Australia during COVID-19 (2020-2022)

Development and implementation of a heat matrix to support health staff awareness of vulnerability and protective factors for older and health compromised adults during periods of extreme heat.

Female Urethroplasty Outcomes at Toowoomba Hospital

An evaluation of the full scope of practice physiotherapy-led assessment and management of paediatric orthopaedic variant.

Mapping clinical practice and policy to the 'Management of Peripheral Intravenous Catheters Clinical Care Standard': A multi-site point prevalence study

DCQR - Diabetes Clinical Quality Registry

MRFF Oral health in Aged Care: Addressing oral health inequality and unmet dental care needs in residential aged care.

XPORT-EC-042 A PHASE 3, A Phase 3, Randomised, Placebo-Controlled, Double Blind, Multicentre Trial of Selinexor in Maintenance Therapy after Systemic Therapy for patients with P53Wild-Type, Advanced or Recurrent Endometrial Carcinoma

Optimising Care: Phase III Trial in women with metastatic breast cancer to optimise their quality of life via exercise and diet.

Breast cancer outcomes in regional Queensland

Empowering Career Advancement for First Nations Healthcare Workforce: A Survey and Interviews to Explore Furthering Career Access, Education and Opportunity.

Health Professionals, health information and families with young children

C-Reactive Protein and White Cell Count as Predictors of Infective Aetiology in Emergency Department Patients.

Perinatal mortality and medication use by birthweight centile in gestational diabetes in Queensland.

The FEBCON-ED study: a stepped-wedge cluster randomised controlled clinical trial of usual care vs regular antipyretics for children presenting with a Febrile Convulsions to the Emergency Department.

Medicinal Cannabis (Med Can 3) - a randomised, multicentre, double blind placebo controlled trial to assess THC/CBD (1:20) to relieve symptom burden in patients with cancer.

Exploring use of life story work in residential aged care to enable person-centred communication and relational care: a video-reflexive ethnography study

Exploring the landscape of IPECP in the radiography workforce in Queensland

Group Reflective integrated Practice with Safewards (GRiP-S)

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Regional head and neck centre flap outcomes

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The patient experience, benefits and challenges of a nurse led Teleoncology service at Roma Hospital

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Exploring Haematological Cancer Patient's Experiences of Pharmacist-led Education when commencing a new anti-cancer treatment in an outpatient setting

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Australian and New Zealand Neonatal Register for Clinical Audit

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Oncoplastic breast surgery in rural Queensland: Does it make a difference to outcomes?

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An immune-therapeutic salvage strategy for 'functional' high-risk (FHR) multiple myeloma incorporating Ibrdomide, Isatuximab, and Dexamethasone (Iber-ISADex) - the IBIS study.

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Inspire Beyond ICU - An audit of usual care physiotherapy in Australian and New Zealand ICUs

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A retrospective review of associations between demographic and situational factors compared to graduate registered nurse workplace performance at one, three and nine months.

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Diagnostic yield of routine echocardiography for clozapine induced cardiomyopathy in an Australian regional context

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A Phase 3, Multicenter, Randomized, Open-Label Study of Epcoritamab Plus Lenalidomide Compared to Rituximab Plus Gemcitabine and Oxaliplatin in Participants with Relapsed or Refractory Diffuse Large B-Cell Lymphoma

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Digital Aptitude and Readiness Training

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Intensive care doctors and nurses' attitudes towards withdrawal of life-sustaining treatments and end-of-life practices in the Intensive Care Unit.

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Myocardial native T1 and T2 reference values at 3T, an Australian experience

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Pharmacist Recruitment and Retention on the Darling Downs

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Enhancing Prostate Cancer Diagnosis: Concordance and Potential of the Biobot Device

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Improving the health system's response when patients are harmed: A mixed methods study

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Cryptococcal infections in Queensland, Australia: The CryptiQ Study

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Establishing Normal Values of Tibial Compound Muscle Action Potential (CMAP) from Medial Gastrocnemius Muscle

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A single arm, open-label, phase II signal-seeking trial of tiragolumab and atezolizumab in patients with advanced solid tumours. (MoST-TAP)

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# Quality Spotlight | Pharmacy Students

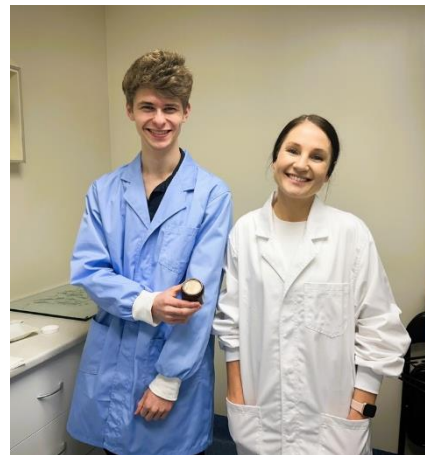
At Toowoomba Hospital, the pharmacy department collaborates with universities to allow 4th-year Pharmacy students to engage in Quality Improvement Projects (QIPs) and research during their placements. This experience helps students apply their learnings in their future careers as pharmacists. Students learn about ethics applications for their research proposals, submit them to the Darling Downs Health HREC for review, and gather data. They also present their findings at the end of their placements, contributing to organisational and clinical improvements across Darling Downs Health Departments.

## Project Highlights – Samuel Beale 4th Year QUT Student

Samuel Beale from Queensland University of Technology (QUT) worked with the oncology pharmacy team to audit allergy documentation in the chemotherapy prescribing software, CHARM. He reviewed data for 544 patients, finding a 27% allergy recording rate in CHARM compared to 39%

in the dispensing software, iPharmacy. His findings will inform process changes and training, with a re-audit scheduled for October 2024 and a poster presentation planned for the COSA ASM in November 2024. Samuel also rotated through various clinical areas including medical, surgical, oncology, mental health and anti-microbial stewardship.

*I really appreciated Ashleigh's guidance and encouragement as I worked through my research project. She treated me with respect and I felt welcomed and appreciated throughout my time with her and the oncology team." - Samuel*



Samuel Beale (QUT Student) and Erin Jessen (Clinical Educator – Pharmacy)

## Project Highlights – Hayley Granzien 4th Year UQ Student



Hayley Granzien from the University of Queensland (UQ) teamed up with the pharmacists working in the community aged care setting, HITH-CAC. Hayley's QIP evaluated whether elderly patients admitted to HITH-CAC had a reduction in their Drug Burden Index (DBI) after a pharmacy medication review. DBI quantifies a patient's exposure to medications with anticholinergic and sedative effects, with high DBI scores indicating an increased risk of side effects such as falls, confusion, cognitive decline, constipation, and urinary retention.

Hayley audited 69 patients and compared the DBI scores on admission

and on discharge with an overall decrease of 9.5%. This information has been shared with the HITH-CAC team and the results will be published with the Advanced Pharmacy Australia.

Hayley gained experience in various clinical areas and plans to join the team for her internship in 2025.

*"Jess assisted me greatly on my project, offering her time to help me understand and apply myself to the research as best I could." - Hayley*

The pharmacy department appreciates the encouragement and support the Darling Downs Health Research Development and Engagement Team provides our department in undertaking QIPs and research. Our department is committed to continuing to inspire our pharmacy students to participate in research while on placement in addition to providing them with a wholistic view of hospital pharmacy service.

# 3. Research Development and Engagement

## 3.1 The Darling Downs Health Innovation and Research Collaborative (DDHIRC)

DDHIRC is a network of health care educators and providers within the Darling Downs region with a vision to facilitate research translation to improve health outcomes for Darling Downs and Southwest QLD residents, of which Darling Downs Health (DDH) is a founding member.

### DDHIRC events for 2024

- Welcomed consumer representative onto DDHIRC Steering Committee.
- 8 research novice clinicians participated in a 5-month DDHIRC Intensive Research Training Program (IRTP)
  - Comprising of 7 DDH (3 rural) and 1 St Vincent's staff
  - Participants were supported by 12 research mentors
  - 4 participants completed the program, a further 3 are continuing with their research project
- Offered 22 in-person research skills workshops open to all DDHIRC partners with 46 registrations beyond the IRTP participants
- Tapan Shah, an IRTP graduate was named a finalist in the research category of the 2024 DDH Staff Awards
- Activities showcased in media and through other organisations:
  - Newspaper article in the Goondiwindi Argus [‘First patients received chemotherapy through tele-oncology at Goondiwindi Hospital’](#)
  - Seven news Toowoomba reported on the [DDHIRC Research Symposium and a radiology research project](#)
  - Health Translation QLD published and featured [‘Life-changing cancer treatment for patients in South West Queensland’](#)
- Endorsement from all partners to utilise a collaborative research agreement template ‘Multi-Jurisdictional Multi-Party Non-Clinical Trial Collaborative Research Agreement’ for collaborative projects within our network.
- Hosted Annual DDHIRC Research Symposium themed ‘Perspectives and Innovations in the rural health workforce’
  - Keynote presentations
    - Dr Carl Wet (Executive Director Medical Services & Clinical Governance, SWHHS) ‘Heat, heroes and horseshoes – What it is like to work in South West Queensland’
    - Prof Lisa Nissen (Program Director for Health Workforce Optimisation, UQ) ‘Health Workforce: Is it time for a revolution, not an evolution?’
  - 4 Rising Researcher presentations
  - 63 registrations
  - 5 pitch applications
- 3 research projects received funding
  - ‘Implementation and refinement of a Heat Risk Reduction Tool to Support Health Staff Awareness’ awarded \$276,239 by the Queensland Resilience and Risk Reduction Fund
  - Awarded \$9,941 ‘Inspiring the next generation of Nurses through film: Highlighting the rewards and challenges of rural Gerontology Nursing’
  - Conditionally awarded \$10,000 ‘Oral rehabilitation protocol for patients undergoing Buccal Mucosal Grafts to reduce post-operative morbidity’

- Funding applications for 2 research projects are awaiting an outcome
  - Rural Med Ed led submission to the NHMRC 2023 Indigenous Health Research Grant scheme 'Strengthening Indigenous research capacity in healthcare: Approaches to reducing cultural load'
  - UniSQ led, DDHIRC submission of NHMRC 2024 Collaborations in Health Services Research application for \$988,078 to fund 'Regional and Rural Innovation for Health Service Excellence – The RISE Program'. The application includes 6 small-scale, health service-focussed collaborative research projects from within the DDHIRC network.
- Letters of support provided for 3 grant applications
  - 'Strengthening Indigenous research capacity in healthcare: Approaches to reducing cultural load' NHMRC 2023 Indigenous Health Research Grant
  - 'Transforming wound care from carer to clinician: Protecting lives and limbs among vulnerable Australian communities' DoHA Quality Use of Diagnostics Therapeutics and Pathology Program - Health Professional Education
  - 'The PhoToo Project' Queensland Multicultural Affairs Empowering Multicultural Communities Grant
- Received 7 expressions of interest (EOIs) from clinicians and researchers who have not previously been involved in DDHIRC activities requesting involvement in research. Of these EOIs, 3 came from organisations outside the DDHIRC network. Research connections and collaborations have been developed in each of these instances
- Contributed to the UniSQ led grant submission to fund SQRCHER Facility, a rural health research and education facility to be housed on Bailey Henderson campus.
- Participation in the Queensland Training for Research Active Clinicians (QTRAC) Working Group
- Partner organisation of the Rural Research Collaborative Learning Network (RR-CLaN)

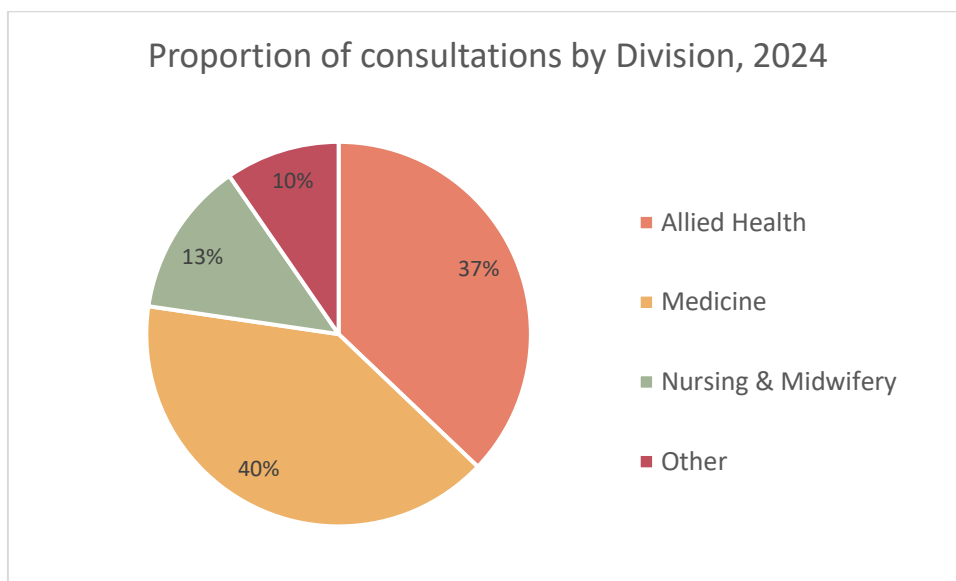
## 3.2 Staff consultations

The Research Support Office provides support to staff for both research and quality assurance and quality improvement (henceforth QA) activities. QA activities typically include clinical audit, service development and service evaluation projects and do not require ethics approval. While these projects typically utilise simple study designs and are aimed at informing local practices, their impact on the Health Service can be considerable, often leading to changes in clinical practices in response to findings. Support may also be provided for case reports, which, while neither research nor QA, are classified as QA for the purposes of this report.

During this reporting period 291 consultations were provided by the Research Support Office to staff. Figure 3.1 provides a comparison of consultations by professional division. The 'Other' category consisted of consultations by Workforce, Public Health Unit, Clinical Governance, Programs and Planning, Indigenous Health, Art Therapy and interprofessional teams.

Figure 3.1: Comparison of consultations by professional stream.

Note: Allied Health n=108; Medicine n=117; Nursing and Midwifery n=38; Other n=28.



The majority of consultations was from staff based in Toowoomba (82.4%). Rural consultations comprised staff from Western Cluster 3.8%, South Burnett Cluster 6.6%, Southern Cluster 6.9%, and outside Darling Downs (e.g., Brisbane) less than 1%.

### 3.3 Education

This section represents pre-arranged opportunities to provide research education to Darling Downs Health staff. The research education provided by the Research Development and Engagement Unit includes those events provided by external partners but facilitated by the Research Development and Engagement Unit, as well as activities presented by Darling Downs Health staff, made available to partner organisations and internal staff through the DDHIRC collaborative. Forty-six education sessions were provided to Darling Downs Health staff in 2024. Details are provided in Table 3.2.

Table 3.2: Education sessions, 2024.

Note: \*Although IRTP sessions are open to DDHIRC partner organisations, only Darling Downs Health attendee numbers are recorded in the table.

Month	Topic	Darling Downs Health Attendees	
January 2024	Quality activities and research	14	Pharmacy
February 2024	Getting started in research.	25	Nurse Practitioners
March 2024	Quality activities vs research	35	RMEA students
	Endnote Basics	6	Multidisciplinary
	Good Clinical Practice Workshop	15	Multidisciplinary
April 2024	Identifying and drafting your aims, objectives, and outcome measures	6	Multidisciplinary
	How to write literature review	6	Multidisciplinary
	Selecting relevant and robust literature to review	6	Multidisciplinary

Month	Topic	Darling Downs Health Attendees	
	<b>An overview of quantitative and qualitative research methodologies</b>	6	Multidisciplinary
May 2024	<b>Research, quality, and case reports</b>	17	Paediatrics
	<b>Research &amp; Quality</b>	10	Multidisciplinary
	<b>Getting started in research</b>	4	O&G
	<b>Research Support</b>	38	Orthopedics
	<b>Research Support</b>	6	Haematology
	<b>Q&amp;A Research Methodologies</b>	6	Multidisciplinary
	<b>Beginners' guide to qualitative data collection</b>	5	Multidisciplinary
	<b>Beginners' guide to quantitative data collection and analysis</b>	1	DDH
	<b>Developing an interview guide and performing thematic analysis</b>	5	Multidisciplinary
	<b>Basic Quantitative survey design</b>	1	DDH
	<b>Research and QA</b>	4	Surgery
June 2024	<b>Introduction to research</b>	26	Nurse Educators
	<b>Research Support</b>	4	O&G
	<b>Research Support</b>	7	Oncology Clinical Trials
	<b>EndNote for writing</b>	5	Multidisciplinary
	<b>Completing an ethics application</b>	5	Multidisciplinary
	<b>Budgets and contracts for research governance</b>	5	Multidisciplinary
July 2024	<b>Tips for getting through research ethics</b>	8	Urology
	<b>Identifying a research problem and refining a research question</b>	2	DDH
	<b>Literature searching and EndNote basics</b>	4	DDH
August 2024	<b>Research, QAs and PHU, Q&amp;A</b>	11	Public Health Unit
	<b>Intro to research process &amp; support</b>	5	Medical Education and Medical
	<b>Introduction to research and quality activities</b>	15	Multidisciplinary
	<b>Getting started in research</b>	10	In person
	<b>Promotion of research, building a research culture</b>	10	In person
	<b>Plan monthly tutorial sessions</b>	2	
September 2024	<b>Beginner's guide to qualitative data collection</b>	2	DDH
	<b>Developing an interview guide for qualitative research</b>	3	DDH
October 2024	<b>Introduction to research in Darling Downs Health</b>	11	Various
	<b>Endnote and academic writing</b>	2	Various
	<b>Research ethics and submitting an ethics application</b>	2	Various

Month	Topic	Darling Downs Health Attendees	
	<b>Identifying a research problem and formulating a research question/Lecture</b>	13	Various
November 2024	<b>Literature searching, EndNote /Lecture</b>	7	General Medicine Doctors
	<b>Literature searching, EndNote /Lecture</b>	13	General Medicine Doctors
	<b>Literature searching, EndNote /Tutorial</b>	6	General Medicine Doctors
December 2024	<b>Writing a literature review / Lecture</b>	13	General Medicine Doctors
	<b>Writing a literature review / Tutorial</b>	1	General Medicine Doctors

## 3.4 Projects

The following are projects that have been completed outside of business-as-usual activities. They are outlined according to the [Darling Downs Health Research Strategy 2023-2028](#). This provides an interim update as aligned with the Darling Downs Health Integrated planning framework.

### 1. Grow and sustain our own research experts.

- *Research Integrity course* finalised for all staff undertaking research in DDH and mandated from April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024. Researchers have the option of completing course on local health service training platform or external providers.
- *The Research Ambassador program* was redesigned and launched July 2024. The Ambassadors (voluntary health service staff) will provide basic information and referrals to members of their team or unit related to how to get started in research. There is no requirement to undertake research as part of the role. The role is to be the 'eyes and ears' of the Research Support Unit across the health service, simply referring staff who express an interest in research to the appropriate source of help.
- *Research Skills Training.* A new research training course begun in November 2024, in response to interest expressed by clinicians in the General Medicine Department, titled 'Research Training for Busy Clinicians'. The course is aimed to develop the knowledge, skills, and confidence of clinicians to conduct high quality, yet manageable, research projects along with success in publication. The course curriculum is designed to allow clinicians to develop a research project as they progress through the course and covers research topics such as study design, biostatistics, quantitative and qualitative research, ethics and governance. With consideration of clinicians' busy clinical workload and limited time, this course is being delivered in monthly modules over 1 year in a manner that allows a degree of flexibility to cover the content. This involves the 'flipped classroom' model where a recorded lecture is made available 1 week prior to face-to-face tutorials for opportunity for practical application. Following on from this, the intention is to use the recorded lectures to develop an online research training course, which will become available on Darling Downs Learning on Line (DDLLOL) and accessible by all DDH clinical staff.

### 2. Enable environments, systems, and processes to support the expansion of research activity.

- *Roll out of statewide instance of REDCap.* Darling Downs Health has completed the implementation of the statewide instance of Research Electronic Data Capture (REDCap). The Queensland Health Research Electronic Data Capture (QH REDCap) is a single enterprise instance of the Research Electronic Data Capture (REDCap) application hosted by eHealth

Queensland in a managed Queensland Health (QH) data centre environment, providing a secure, web-based and customisable data collection platform for building and maintaining online surveys and databases.

The roll out has included the development of a robust local governance framework for the administration, oversight and implementation of the application. Access to this application will provide health service staff with the option of a secure platform to capture research data and collaborate with external organisations.

### 3. Develop our clinical trials capability.

- Inaugural Good Clinical Practice face to face training delivered. Darling Downs Health now has a certified trainer in GCP.
- Documents developed and published related to the implementation of the National Clinical Trials Governance Framework:
  - Policy Document
    - Darling Downs Health Research Policy
  - Procedure
    - Darling Downs Health Research Governance Procedure
    - Standard Operating Procedures for clinical trials and tele trials: Local implementation of National Standard Operating Procedures
    - Clinical Trials Coordination Procedure
    - Financial management of research projects - Procedure - Darling Downs Health
  - Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs)
    - Regional Cancer Centre Trials Unit - Informed Consent - Standard Operating procedure - Darling Downs Health
    - Research Cancer Centre Trials Unit - Safety Reporting - Standard Operating procedure - Darling Downs Health
    - Regional Cancer Centre Trials Unit - Source Document Management - Standard Operating procedure - Darling Downs Health
    - Regional Cancer Centre Trials Unit - Risk Management - Standard Operating procedure - Darling Downs Health
- Completed initial gap analysis for the National Clinical Trials Governance Framework.
- Commenced The Nurse Grade 7 Clinical Trials Coordinator for QRCCC – Australian Teletrials program (node 3) administered through the Office of Research (ORI) and Innovation Department of Health. The position is based in Toowoomba but required to engage in frequent travel throughout the Darling Downs, Southwest and Gold Coast region.

### 4. Strengthen our research partnerships.

- Regional Precincts and Partnerships Program – Precinct Delivery Grant submitted for the Southern Queensland Regional Centre for Health Education and Research (SQRCHER), a physical building to be built on the Baillie Henderson Campas. The University of Southern Queensland (UniSQ), Darling Downs Health and the University of Queensland (UQ) have formed a consortium and have been working towards the establishment of this dedicated health education, training and research facility.
- Honorary and Adjunct Researcher Positions:  
In June 2024, the procedure for appointing honorary (departing Darling Downs Health staff) and adjunct (external research partners) researchers to Darling Downs Health was finalised. The appointment of honorary and adjunct researchers will supplement the research capability of the health service and support the growth of research skills within the workforce, as well as facilitating closer ties with our external research partners in the region. Associate Professor Srinivas Kondalsamy Chennakesavan from the University of Queensland's Rural Clinical School has been appointed as the inaugural DDH Honorary Researcher Position.

## 4. Research grants awarded

### 4.1 Toowoomba Hospital Foundation and Pure Land Learning College Research Grants 2024

Each year the Toowoomba Hospital Foundation through generous support from Pure Land Learning College Toowoomba hold two Research Grant rounds for Darling Downs Health staff. The research grants enable Darling Downs Health staff who are novice or experienced researchers access to funding to support their research endeavours. This year, a total of \$59,694.33 was awarded to 4 research projects.

Details of the recipients are as follows:

#### Round 1 Recipients — April 2024

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<b>Primary investigator</b>	Chelsea Thompson – Novice researcher
<b>Research</b>	<i>Utilising Neurofeedback to Support Phase One Trauma Therapy in the Darling Downs</i>
<b>Grant</b>	\$16,747.40
<b>Synopsis</b>	Thirty to sixty percent of individuals seeking treatment for Substance Use Disorder (SUD) also meet criteria for Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), most commonly Complex PTSD. Neurofeedback (NFB) may provide an adjunct to talking therapy by targeting attentional and processing difficulties and allowing consumers to move forward to Phase Two therapy.

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<b>Primary investigator</b>	Nicola Gearon – Novice researcher
<b>Team</b>	Jade Cartwright (University of Tasmania), Anna Tynan (DDH)
<b>Research</b>	<i>Exploring life story work use in residential aged care to enable person-centred communication and relational care: a video-reflexive ethnography study</i>
<b>Grant</b>	\$13,477.60
<b>Synopsis</b>	Although life story work is an evidence-based approach, it has not been successfully implemented in routine care within the residential aged care setting. To bridge this gap, a new research project using video-reflexive ethnography (VRE) will explore the perspective and experiences of staff, residents and families on how life story work can enhance relationships in care.

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#### Round 2 recipients – September 2024

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<b>Primary investigator</b>	Dr Augustine Mugwagwa – Novice researcher
<b>Team</b>	Panorea Hudson (DDH), Andrew Page (DDH), Robert Gluer (DDH), John Younger (DDH)
<b>Research</b>	<i>Myocardial native T1 and T2 reference values at 3T, an Australian experience</i>
<b>Grant</b>	\$17,602.53

## Synopsis

Cardiac Magnetic Resonance (CMR) imaging is a diagnostic tool that is becoming more available in Australian hospitals, and is now available at Toowoomba Hospital. Doctors use CMR to improve the detection and monitoring of heart disease.

The purpose of this study, is to establish the normal reference ranges for CMR imaging in the Toowoomba and Darling Downs Region. The establishment of normal ranges for CMR imaging will assist cardiologists in the region to provide accurate diagnosis of heart conditions for their patients.

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**Primary investigator** Kate Johnson – Novice researcher

**Team** Dr Priya Martin (UQ), Dr Matthew McGrail (UQ)

**Research** *Exploring the landscape of Interprofessional Education and Collaborative Practice in the radiography workforce in Queensland'*

**Grant** \$11,866.80

**Synopsis** This research project aims to address the gaps in Interprofessional Education and Collaborative Practice (IPECP) for radiographers, particularly focusing on the post-qualification radiography workforce in Queensland. The goal is to investigate the current landscape of IPECP, identify existing gaps, and explore potential opportunities for improvement. By doing so, this project intends to establish a baseline understanding within the profession, aiming to advocate for resources and opportunities that promote and enhance IPECP among radiographers.

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Figure 4.1: Megan O'Hara Sullivan, Kate Johnson, Dr Augustine Mugwagwa, Nicola Gearon & Anna Tynan (on behalf of Chelsea Thompson).

## 4.2 Other research grants awarded 2024

A number of other research grants were awarded to Darling Downs Health Staff in 2024 totalling 3,001,211.89. Details of these grants are as follows:

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<b>Grant Name</b>	Medical Research Future Fund – Rapid Applied Research Translation Initiative
<b>Project</b>	TRIP: OT led environmental assessment and modification for falls prevention
<b>Chief Investigator (B)</b>	Anna Tynan
<b>Team</b>	Team – Alison Pighills (CIA, MHHS/James Cook University); Priya Martin (UniSQ), Lindy Clemson (University of Sydney); Sharon Mickan (Bond University); Lucylynn Lizarondo (Joanna Briggs Institute); Susan Melchert (James Cook University); Ashlyn Sahay (Central Queensland University); and Linda Furness (Southern Cross University).
<b>Grant</b>	\$2,645,198.00
<b>Synopsis</b>	The aim of this project is to implement and evaluate the roll out and scale up of Occupational Therapy led environmental assessment and modification across Australia. A hybrid type III implementation study involving a pragmatic, multi-centre, stepped wedge cluster randomised controlled trial and concurrent mixed methodologies will be conducted. This design will enable investigation of implementation strategies across public, private and non-government health services of an already established clinically effective intervention. The will be provided to clusters with a minimal level of 'organisational readiness'. The project will cumulate in a set of resources and tailored implementation strategies for an intervention that is predicted to reduce community falls by 39%.

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<b>Grant Name</b>	Darling Downs Health Innovation and Research Collaborative Research Grants
<b>Project</b>	Safe Yarns Build Bridges: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples' perspectives of cultural safety and comfort with Aboriginal Health Practitioners in the Darling Downs Hospital and Health Services.
<b>Primary investigator</b>	Marsha Dodd – First Nations Workforce Professional Lead
<b>Team</b>	Billy MacAskill (Rural Medical Education Australia/ Griffith University), Buishra Nasir (UQ), Snez Stolic (UniSQ), Sueanne Gola, (DDH)
<b>Grant</b>	\$19,957.00
<b>Synopsis</b>	The project seeks to address the research question " <i>What are Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples' perspectives of cultural safety with Aboriginal Health Practitioners in the Darling Downs Hospital and Health Service?</i> "

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<b>Grant Name</b>	Queensland Health Clinical Research Fellowships (Round 5)
<b>Project</b>	Evaluating and enhancing an innovative dietetic model of nutrition care for regional patients with head and neck cancer
<b>Primary investigator</b>	Anna Edwards -Clinical Dietician
<b>Team</b>	Teresa Brown (MNHHS), Brett Hughes (MNHHS), Judy Bauer (Monash University)
<b>Grant</b>	\$19,878.00
<b>Synopsis</b>	<p>This regional multidisciplinary, multiphase project aims to evaluate an innovative model of nutrition care for patients with head and neck cancer against evidence-based guidelines. This project will determine any differences in outcomes for patients treated with this model compared to the literature; and explore patient experiences of receiving nutrition care for head and neck cancer in a regional setting.</p> <p>This project will ensure the nutrition care offered is meeting the needs and expectations of regional, rural, and remote patients with head and neck cancer; and will generate new knowledge on patient experiences of receiving nutrition care regionally.</p>

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<b>Grant Name</b>	Queensland Health Clinical Research Fellowships (Round 5)
<b>Project</b>	Helping stroke survivors to reduce their psychological distress – co-design and formative evaluation of a stress reduction program
<b>Primary investigator</b>	Muuka Hlupho Dabali - Senior Psychologist
<b>Team</b>	Prajwal Gyawali (UniSQ), Anna Tynan (DDH)
<b>Grant</b>	\$19,989.00
<b>Synopsis</b>	<p>The project has two aims. <u>Aim 1</u>: To co-design a robust and locally feasible stress reduction program to meet the specific needs of stroke survivors in regional Australia. The co-design approach will involve stroke survivors, caregivers, stroke clinicians, allied health professionals and hospital executives in the Darling Downs Health district, which encompasses regional south-eastern Queensland. <u>Aim 2</u>: To undertake a formative evaluation of the program alongside stroke survivors, caregivers, and health care providers (clinicians and executives).</p>

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<b>Grant Name</b>	Queensland Health Clinical Research Fellowships (Round 5)
<b>Project</b>	Exploring life story work in residential aged care to enable person-centred communication and relational care: a video-reflexive ethnography study.
<b>Primary investigator</b>	Nicola Gearon - Senior Speech Pathologist
<b>Team</b>	Jade Cartwright (University of Tasmania), Anna Tynan (DDH)
<b>Grant</b>	\$19,952.73

**Synopsis** Although life story work is an evidence based approach, it has not been successfully implemented in routine care within the residential aged care setting. To bridge this gap, a new research project using video-reflexive ethnography (VRE) will explore the perspective and experiences of staff, residents and families on how life story work can enhance relationships in care. This money will be used in conjunction with funding received from the Toowoomba Hospital Foundation.,

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**Grant Name** Queensland Reconstruction Authority

**Project** Implementation and refinement of a Heat Risk Reduction Tool to Support Health Staff Awareness.

**Primary investigator** Toni Salmond – Director of Social Work

**Team** Alex King (DDH), Kelly Sheridan (MSHHS), Fiona Demnar (WMHHS), Lisa Beccaria (UniSQ), Alice Mathieson (MSHHS)

**Grant** \$276,239.16

**Synopsis** This project aims to implement, refine, and evaluate the Heat Risk Reduction Tool in supporting health professionals' practice in safe discharge and preventative health planning with older and health compromised adults in emergency departments and targeted hospital avoidance programs in the Toowoomba, Ipswich, and Logan hospitals' catchment areas.

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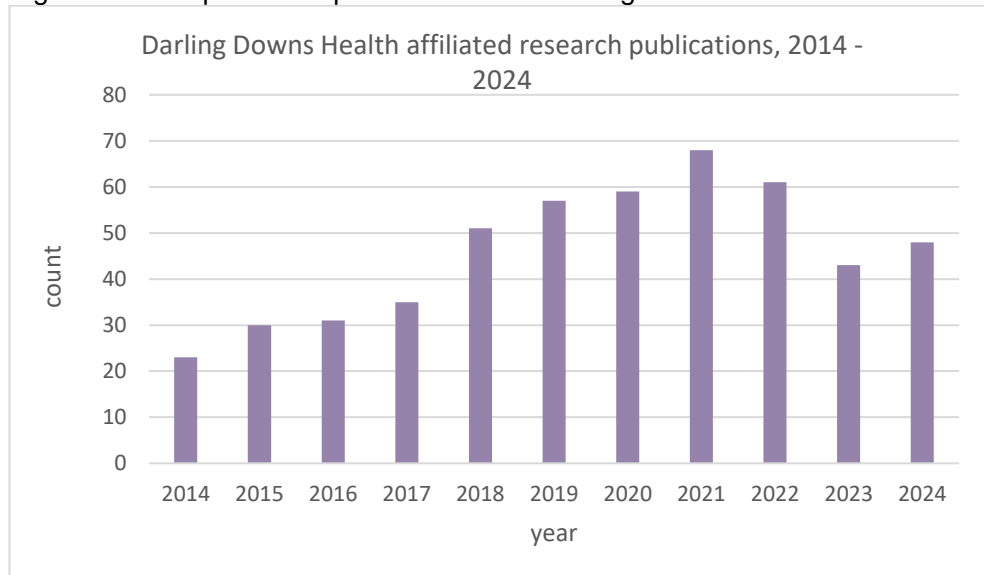
## 5. Research outputs

### 5.1 Publications

Forty-eight new research publications with Darling Downs Health author affiliations were identified as published this year, comprising 28 research reports, 9 reviews (e.g., systematic, scoping), 1 review with practice guidelines, 5 case reports, and 5 conference abstracts, along with 2 unpublished conference abstracts.

The majority of publications was from Medicine (35), with Nursing & Midwifery producing 8 publications, Allied Health producing 4, Cunningham Centre and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health both produced two publications, while Queensland Country Practice and the Research Office produced one each. (This adds up to 53 publications, as three publications had authors from more than one discipline.) Figure 5.1 provides a comparison of publication numbers since 2014. Medicine and Allied Health each presented one unpublished conference abstract.

Figure 5.1 Comparison of publications with Darling Downs Health author affiliation, 2014-2024



Publications identified for the year are listed below with Darling Downs Health affiliated authors in bold type. Where it can be ascertained, the professional division of the Darling Downs Health authors is recorded in parentheses following the reference; specialty is included where known.

## Journal Articles

(Note this includes conference presentations which are subsequently published in a scientific journal.)

- Arnold, N., Gough, K., Patsalou, A., **Carrigan, B.**, & MacAskill, W. (2024). Does on-site computed tomography matter? A cross-sectional study of stroke patients' door-to-scan-time in rural hospitals. *Australian Journal of Rural Health* (Early online). <https://doi.org/https://doi.org/10.1111/ajr.13140> [Medicine]
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## Unpublished conference papers

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- Srinivasan, G., Nasir, B., Kondalsamy-Chennakesavan, S., McGrail, M., & Garg, V.** (2024, 15-18 September 2024). *Chronic Respiratory Diseases and Depression Comorbidity in Australia: Urban-Rural Disparities* [Oral]. 17th National Rural Health Conference Perth, Australia. [Medicine/Psychiatry]