
Staff Available for Honours Supervision 2023

This section contains details of staff within or associated with the College of Nursing & Health Sciences and available for potential supervision for the Bachelor of Health Sciences (Honours) program in 2023. Next to each name and email address are the research areas of expertise that they would be available to supervise.

Also see <https://www.flinders.edu.au/caring-futures-institute/researcher-profiles> for overall research areas.

If you have an interest in carrying out an Honours research project in an area listed next to the staff name please email the staff member direct to discuss potential projects and supervision arrangements.

Please contact the Honours coordinator (jessie.shipman@flinders.edu.au) if you have an area of research interest that is not listed.

Caring Futures Institute

Professor Joanne Arciuli; joanne.arciuli@flinders.edu.au; human communication across a variety of languages and cultures, child development and disability; wellbeing in disadvantaged and marginalised groups, parenting, and clinical practice.

Dr Lemma Bulto; lemma.bulto@flinders.edu.au; Telehealth Education And Counselling program to optimise secondary prevention of Heart disease for patients with cardiovascular disease in rural Australia: Cardiovascular disease treatment and prevention guidelines

Professor Raymond Chan; raymond.chan@flinders.edu.au; optimising models of care and health services' responses to address the needs of people affected by cancer in the survivorship phase.

Dr Fiona Crawford-Williams; Fiona.crawfordwilliams@flinders.edu.au; cancer survivorship, cancer follow-up care, health service models, rural and regional health, health behaviours, qualitative methods.

Dr Rebecca Feo; rebecca.feo@flinders.edu.au; Fundamental care, care provider-care recipient relationships, nurse-patient relationships, men's health and help-seeking, qualitative methods

Dr Lemlem Gebremichael; lemlem.gebremichael@flinders.edu.au; medication adherence; appropriate use of medications; Guideline recommended medications for patients with CVD; quality use of medications; cardiac rehabilitation, Patient Reported Experience Measures (PREMS); Patient Reported Outcome Measures (PROMS); systematic review.

Professor Rebecca Golley; rebecca.golley@flinders.edu.au; applied research to inform, develop, test, and disseminate public health initiatives to improve children's diet quality, prevent obesity and support children's growth, learning and development.

Dr Nicholas Hart; nicolas.hart@flinders.edu.au; cancer survivorship and supportive care issues (including exercise, nutrition, psychosocial, and toxicity management), and (2) cancer outcomes (including disease biology, disease progression, and overall survival).

Dr Sarah Hunter; sarah.hunter@flinders.edu.au; Knowledge translation; Fathering and Masculinities.

Dr Claire Hutchinson; claire.hutchinson@flinders.edu.au; quality of life, psychosocial well-being and lived experiences of social care recipients (older adults, adults with disability), social return on investment analysis, aged care workforce

Dr Brittany Johnson; brittany.johnson@flinders.edu.au; Child nutrition, School food, Health behaviour change, Early childhood obesity prevention, Eating disorder risk in weight management, Food social norms, Playgroups.

Dr Jyoti Khadka; jyoti.khadka@flinders.edu.au; healthy ageing, patient-reported outcomes, and the application of psychometric methods to develop quality of life assessment instruments.

Professor Alison Kitson; alison.kitson@flinders.edu.au; Fundamentals of Care, Knowledge Translation & Implementation Science, Evidence Based Clinical Practice in Health Care.

Dr Michael Lawless; michael.lawless@flinders.edu.au; ageing; frailty; health communication; qualitative methods; knowledge translation

Dr Elizabeth Lynch; elizabeth.lynch@flinders.edu.au; stroke rehabilitation; implementation science; guidelines; co-design.

Dr Christine Mpundu-Kaambwa; christine.mpundu-kaambwa@flinders.edu.au; Health economics of child health, Health economics of disability, public health.

Professor Julie Ratcliffe; julie.ratcliffe@flinders.edu.au; economic evaluation for health and social care sectors; measurement and valuation of health, quality of life and wellbeing outcomes for economic evaluation

Aged Care & Palliative Care

[Aged Care Research and Industry Innovation Australia](#) (ARIIA) is working with the aged care work force to assist the implementation of translational research projects utilising co-design approaches. ARIIA will support aged care workers to undertake effective and practical co-design with older people, who are often difficult to engage or hard-to-reach, through training and resource development. Information about the ARIIA team can be found here: <https://www.ariaa.org.au/our-team>

The [Flinders Research Centre for Palliative Care Death and Dying](#) has experts who focus on end of life and palliative care across the life course, throughout the community and offer unique perspectives on life and death. We are home to national palliative care resources, including CareSearch, End of Life Essentials and palliAGED.

Our supervisors are currently working on projects spanning advanced symptom management, ageing, end of life care in acute settings, equitable access to palliative care services and bereavement.

[Dr Deidre Morgan](#)

Dr Caroline Phelan; Caroline.Phelan@flinders.edu.au; pain assessment and management (acute, chronic, cancer, neuropathic, sub-acute, palliative), decision making, advanced symptom management, thirst, sleep, delirium, qualitative methodologies, critical theory.

[Dr Sara Javanparast](#)

[Professor Jennifer Tieman](#)

Contact Dr Caroline Phelan (caroline.phelan@flinders.edu.au) to discuss any other project ideas related to Palliative Care.

Audiology

Dr Eloise Doherty; eloise.doherty@flinders.edu.au; auditory processing, paediatric audiology, music in healthcare, psychology of music, qualitative research methods

Professor Raj Shekhawat; giriraj.shekhawat@flinders.edu.au; Tinnitus: Several projects are outlined here: <https://shekhawatlab.weebly.com/research.html>

Contact Professor Raj Shekhawat (giriraj.shekhawat@flinders.edu.au) to discuss any other project ideas related to Audiology.

Clinical Rehabilitation

Contact A/Prof Maayken van den Berg (maayken.vandenberg@flinders.edu.au) to discuss any other project ideas related to Clinical Rehabilitation.

Disability & Community Inclusion

Dr Irene Belperio; irene.belperio@flinders.edu.au; ageing and disability; ageing in culturally and linguistically diverse communities; family dynamics and intergenerational caring roles; women and intergenerational caring roles; qualitative methods

Dr Claire Hutchinson; claire.hutchinson@flinders.edu.au; disability employment

Dr Fiona Rillotta; fiona.rillotta@flinders.edu.au intellectual disability, self advocacy, inclusion, higher education, disability

Professor Sally Robinson; sally.robinson@flinders.edu.au; violence and abuse against people with disability, participation/voice of children and young people with disability, ethics, inclusive research methods.

Contact Dr Fiona Rillotta (fiona.rillotta@flinders.edu.au) to discuss any other project ideas related to Disability and Community Inclusion.

Exercise Science

A/Prof Claire Drummond; claire.drummond@flinders.edu.au; physical activity, exercise, and sports science

A/Prof Maarten Immink; maarten.immink@flinders.edu.au; mind, brain and human performance, neurocognitive processes, skill acquisition, mindfulness and exercise cognitive training modalities and non-invasive brain stimulation.

Dr Joyce Ramos; joyce.ramos@flinders.edu.au; Clinical Exercise Physiology

Dr Matthew Wallen; matthew.wallan@flinders.edu.au; Exercise & cancer

Contact Dr Joyce Ramos (joyce.ramos@flinders.edu.au) to discuss any other project ideas related to Exercise Science.

Health Sciences

Professor John Coveney; john.coveney@flinders.edu.au; public health nutrition; history of food and health; food policy; and social and cultural factors that influence food patterns and food intake

A/Prof Ivanka Prichard; ivanka.prichard@flinders.edu.au; Health psychology; body image across the lifespan, physical activity, food consumption; social media.

Dr Jessie Shipman; jessie.shipman@flinders.edu.au; Menstruation; Contraception; Sexual Health; LGBTQIA+ Health; Qualitative Methods.

Contact Dr Jessie Shipman (jessie.shipman@flinders.edu.au) to discuss any other project ideas related to Health Sciences.

Midwifery

Helena Anolak; helena.anolak@flinders.edu.au; perinatal mental health; law and ethics; creative arts in midwifery practice and education.

Dr Maryam Bazargan; maryam.bazargan@flinders.edu.au; Pharmacology; Comparative midwifery between Australian and Iran.

Professor Annette Briley; annette.briley@flinders.edu.au; IOL rates/reasons/outcomes; Pregnancy after full dilatation caesarean section/ after a preterm birth; Knowledge around supplementary iron in pregnancy; e-Cigarettes in pregnancy; Prenatal screening decisions; Sources of information accessed by women in pregnancy & postpartum; Breastfeeding in obese women; Women's understanding & management of gestational diabetes; Estimation of blood loss at birth: triggers to escalate management; Antenatal education/preparation; Workload through the antenatal day unit; Resilience within midwifery staff.

Dr Megan Cooper; megan.cooper@flinders.edu.au; Water immersion/water birth; Women's experiences of maternity care; Induction of labour; Informed consent/choice; Respectful maternity care; Physiological labour/birth; Postnatal care; Midwifery models of care; Birth centres; Student competence in emergencies; Digital learning; Inquiry and scenario-based learning; Communication in midwifery; Shoulder dystocia

Liz McNeill; liz.mcneill@flinders.edu.au; Communications skills; Missed care; Simulation learning; Authentic and programmatic assessment; Military midwifery; Diverse gender midwifery experiences; Birth trauma & PTSD – veterans, women, midwives, students; Interprofessional learning; Digital learning.

Contact Liz McNeill (liz.mcneill@flinders.edu.au) to discuss any other project ideas related to Midwifery.

Nursing

Jessie Anderson; jessie.anderson@flinders.edu.au; Emergency Nursing; Health Workforce Development; Comprehensive Primary Health Care; Remote and Indigenous Health; Nursing education.

Dr Didy Button; didy.button@flinders.edu.au; health professional education; simulation and health professional learning; patient safety; fundamentals of care.

Professor Robyn Clark; robyn.clark@flinders.edu.au; cardiac rehabilitation programs related patient reported experience/patient satisfaction (PREMS), patient reported outcomes (PROMS), medication adherence, evidence-based-pharmacotherapy)

Dr Tiffany Conroy; tiffany.conroy@flinders.edu.au; Systematic review, fundamentals of care, knowledge translation, leadership, nursing, qualitative methods, evidence-based practice

Dr Hila Dafny; hila.dafny@flinders.edu.au; Nursing; Workplace violence, Wellbeing, burnout, support, self-care and care for others.

Dr Anita De Bellis; anita.debellis@flinders.edu.au; health, nursing, aged care, dementia care, end of life care, qualitative methodology.

Bridget Henderson; bridget.henderson@flinders.edu.au. Nursing education, emergency nursing, and nursing in defence.

Professor Jeroen Hendriks; jeroen.hendriks@flinders.edu.au; nursing science, novel models of care delivery, integrated care, multidisciplinary teams, cardiac arrhythmias, atrial fibrillation, associated cardiovascular conditions.

Dr Lauren Lines; lauren.lines@flinders.edu.au; child health & wellbeing, paediatric nursing, child abuse and neglect, supporting families experiencing social/economic adversity, qualitative methods.

A/Prof Amanda Müller; Amanda.muller@flinders.edu.au; epidemiology, infectious diseases, social determinants of health, public health, culturally and linguistically diverse populations, healthcare communication, applied linguistics, language skills, writing skills, health psychology, educational research, e-learning, social media, assistance dog research. (Quantitative: parametric, non-parametric, Rasch, survey validation; qualitative; and mixed methods).

Dr Yvonne Parry; yvonne.parry@flinders.edu.au; community clinic; the role of Nurse Practitioners in the community to support children and families; The Nurse Practitioner Role and children with developmental and ASD conditions and pathways to care; health needs of children living in housing instability; vulnerable children; paediatric care.

Dr Nina Sivertsen; nina.sivertsen@flinders.edu.au; Nursing and workforce development, First Nations People's health, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women's and children's health needs, rural and remote health, cultural diversity in health, cultural safety, Nursing care, curriculum design, Indigenous health in global contexts, qualitative methods.

Contact Dr Nina Sivertsen (nina.sivertsen@flinders.edu.au) to discuss any other project ideas related to Nursing.

Nutrition

Dr Anthea Brand; anthea.brand@flinders.edu.au; Nutrition, remote health, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health, primary health care, public health, qualitative methods

Dr Lucy Bell; lucy.bell@flinders.edu.au; Child nutrition, Grandparents, Health behaviour change, Early childhood obesity prevention

Dr Brittany Johnson; brittany.johnson@flinders.edu.au; Child nutrition, School food, Health behaviour change, Early childhood obesity prevention, Eating disorder risk in weight management, Food social norms, Playgroups

Professor Michelle Miller; michelle.miller@flinders.edu.au; health services research including clinical nutrition intervention studies, aged care nutrition and food services research, nutrition and frailty, cancer cachexia, nutrition in prevention and treatment of chronic disease including cardiovascular disease

Dr Jolene Thomas; jm.thomas@flinders.edu.au; nutrition and vascular surgery; clinical dietetics.

Dr Alison Yaxley; alison.yaxley@flinders.edu.au; Healthy ageing; Aged Care; Malnutrition; Body composition; Inflammation; Tool development; Food service.

Contact Dr Alison Yaxley (alison.yaxley@flinders.edu.au) to discuss any other project ideas related to Nutrition

Occupational Therapy

Professor Stacey George; stacey.george@flinders.edu.au; occupational therapy intervention; stroke and brain injury rehabilitation; healthy ageing; allied health practice; telehealth.

Contact Professor Stacey George (stacey.george@flinders.edu.au) to discuss any other project ideas related to Occupational Therapy.

Optometry

Prof Nicola Anstice; nicola.anstice@flinders.edu.au; children's vision, vision screening, myopia management

Dr Ranjay Chakraborty; ranjay.chakraborty@flinders.edu.au; Myopia (or short-sightedness) and eye growth in humans; <https://www.flinders.edu.au/people/ranjay.chakraborty>

Contact Dr Ranjay Chakraborty (ranjay.chakraborty@flinders.edu.au) to discuss any other project ideas related to Optometry.

Paramedicine

James Pearce; james.pearce@flinders.edu.au; Paramedicine, prehospital care, paramedic education, scoping reviews, systematic reviews, health research reporting guidelines.

Contact Dr Tim Rayner (tim.rayner@flinders.edu.au) to discuss your ideas for projects related to Paramedicine.

Physiotherapy

Dr Claire Baldwin; claire.baldwin@flinders.edu.au; physical activity, sedentary behaviour, older adults, hospitalisation, outcome measures, physical function, physical therapy.

A/Prof Belinda Lange; belinda.lange@flinders.edu.au; virtual reality, digital health, app-based exercise, systematic reviews, scoping reviews, physiotherapy, brain injury, stroke.

Dr Tamina Levy; tamina.levy@flinders.edu.au; Physiotherapy, stroke, rehabilitation, adherence, behaviour change, implementation, chronic disease management.

A/Prof Lucy Lewis; lucy.lewis@flinders.edu.au; physical activity and sedentary behaviour across the lifespan, objective measurement of activity

Dr David Stevens; david.stevens@flinders.edu.au; sleep, concussion/TBI, physical activity, rehabilitation

Contact A/Prof Lucy Lewis (lucy.lewis@flinders.edu.au) to discuss any other project ideas related to Physiotherapy.

Speech Pathology

A/Prof Sebastian Doeltgen; sebastian.doeltgen@flinders.edu.au; swallowing disorders, swallowing biomechanics, pharyngeal high-resolution manometry; biofeedback; swallowing rehabilitation; systematic and scoping reviews.

Dr Joanne Murray; joanne.murray@flinders.edu.au; dysphagia rehabilitation; free water protocols; stroke rehabilitation; dementia related cognitive communication; oral healthcare; knowledge translation in health and aged sectors; health practice guidelines.

Contact Dr Jo Murray (joanne.murray@flinders.edu.au) to discuss any project ideas related to Speech Pathology.

Possible Honours Thesis Project Areas 2023

This section contains example projects within the College of Nursing & Health Sciences for the Bachelor of Health Sciences (Honours) program. Also see <https://www.flinders.edu.au/caring-futures-institute/researcher-profiles> for overall research areas. Please contact the Honours coordinator (jessie.shipman@flinders.edu.au) if you have an area of research interest that is not listed.

Students should contact potential supervisors to discuss Honours projects with them in more detail before submitting an Honours application.

Caring Futures Institute

Supervision team
<p>Primary supervisor: Professor Robyn Clark</p> <p>Secondary supervisor: Dr Lemlem Gebremichael</p>
Proposed Honours Project
<p>Satisfaction of consumers of the cardiac rehabilitation telephone service</p> <p>We have four years data (2016 to 2021) collected on patients' satisfaction on the cardiac rehabilitation program service provided by CATCH telephone. The honours student can analyse and interpret these data that will help in improving the service to participants as they are the centre of the service and core component of the service. Cardiac rehabilitation program is effective in improving modifiable risk factors, their awareness on their health, medication, diet and physical activity. These factors are perfectly associated with the overall health and quality of life of patients. Improving patients' health and clinical outcomes, and quality of life is the basis of the Caring Futures Institute. To provide the highest quality of service to patients can be achieved by engagement with them and asking their feedback to improve the service.</p> <p>This project best fits with the Better care team</p> <p>Suggested reading: Hawrysz, L.; Gierszewska, G.; Bitkowska, A. The Research on Patient Satisfaction with Remote Healthcare Prior to and during the COVID-19 Pandemic. <i>Int. J. Environ. Res. Public Health</i> 2021, <i>18</i>, 5338. https://doi.org/10.3390/ijerph18105338</p>
Additional information/Skills required
Any Health Sciences degree

Supervision team

Primary supervisor: Dr Rachel Milte, Health economics, <https://www.flinders.edu.au/people/rachel.milte>

Secondary supervisor: Professor Julie Ratcliffe, Health Economics, <https://www.flinders.edu.au/people/julie.ratcliffe>

Proposed Honours Project

Measuring quality of life via the EQ-5D-5L and other instruments

Currently worldwide one of the most used quality of life instruments is the EuroQol family of questionnaires, which includes the EQ-5D-5L. This instrument is used to measure the impact of new health interventions and pharmaceuticals and used in deciding whether they should be listed on Medicare or Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme. More recently a number of other instruments have been developed which have a greater focus on older people and social care interventions. However, there are currently many questions about how these instruments should be used for people living with cognitive impairment, including those with dementia. One potential option when people are unable to answer on their own behalf is to ask a family member to answer for them. However, this raises a number of questions, including when a family member should be asked to answer, how they should answer these questions, and which of the available questionnaires should be used.

This project will use data already collected from around residents living in aged care and their family member carers to answer important questions about how to measure quality of life in this group. The student will be embedded within a highly active research-focused team with diverse backgrounds, involved in a large range of clinical and research studies.

Suggested reading related to this topic: Cleland, J., Hutchinson, C., Khadka, J., Milte, R., & Ratcliffe, J. (2019, Dec). A Review of the Development and Application of Generic Preference-Based Instruments with the Older Population. *Applied Health Economics and Health Policy*, 17(6), 781-801. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s40258-019-00512-4>

This project aligns with the Caring Futures Institute: Quality Aged Care area of focus

Additional information/Skills required

No knowledge of health economics or quality of life is required – we will teach you what you need to know, particularly skills in quantitative data analysis. The project would suit any student with an interest in health and quality of life of older people.

Supervision team

Primary supervisor: Professor Julie Ratcliffe, Health Economics,

<https://www.flinders.edu.au/people/julie.ratcliffe>

Secondary supervisor: Dr Rachel Milte, Health Economics,

<https://www.flinders.edu.au/people/rachel.milte>

Proposed Honours Project

Measuring quality of life in aged care: Implementing a new older person specific instrument

In 2017-2018, almost one million older Australians (aged 65 years and above) accessed home care services and over 230,000 people were permanently living in residential care. In common with many countries internationally, these estimates are expected to increase exponentially in the coming decades as a consequence of rapid advances in the ageing of the population. Despite the growing older population accessing health and aged care services, most of the methods used to assess whether services are considered good value for money and should be funded have been developed on the general adult population. However, there is growing evidence that these methods fail to capture what is important about health and aged care services to older people. To fill this gap, we have developed a new quality of life instrument with older people using aged care services. However, there remain questions about how to implement this tool in practice, including how to use it with people with cognitive impairment.

This project will use data already collected from residents living in aged care and their family members to answer important questions about how to measure quality of life in this group. The student will be embedded within a highly active research-focused team with diverse backgrounds, involved in a large range of clinical and research studies.

Suggested reading related to this topic: Ratcliffe, J., Cameron, I., Lancsar, E., Walker, R., Milte, R., Hutchinson, C. L., Swaffer, K., & Parker, S. (2019, May 24). Developing a new quality of life instrument with older people for economic evaluation in aged care: study protocol. *BMJ Open*, 9(5), e028647. <https://doi.org/10.1136/bmjopen-2018-028647>

This project aligns with the Caring Futures Institute: Quality Aged Care area of focus

Additional information/Skills required

No knowledge of health economics or quality of life is required – we will teach you what you need to know, particularly skills in quantitative data analysis. The project would suit any student with an interest in health and quality of life of older people.

Supervision team
<p>Primary supervisor: Dr Michael Lawless</p> <p>Research Fellow, College of Nursing and Health Sciences, Flinders University P: +61 8 8201 3655 E: michael.lawless@flinders.edu.au https://researchnow.flinders.edu.au/en/persons/michael-lawless-2 Areas of interest: ageing; frailty; health communication; qualitative methods; knowledge translation</p> <p>Secondary supervisor: TBD</p>
Proposed Honours Project
<p>Web-based Self-management Interventions for Older Adults with Multimorbidity: A Scoping Review</p> <p>In response to the growing burden of chronic disease among older people living in the community, various web-based tools and interventions have been developed to support chronic disease self-management. However, most existing tools do not consider all aspects of disease management and are usually not developed to meet the needs of older people with multimorbidity (i.e., the presence of two or more chronic conditions), created for sustained use, and are primarily focused on single diseases. With increasing implementation of web-based self-management support interventions, there is a need to examine the characteristics of these interventions and determine gaps in the literature to inform research and knowledge translation. The aim of this project is to systematically identify and describe web-based self-management interventions for older people with who are managing at least two chronic conditions in community-based settings.</p> <p>Suggested reading related to this topic: Lawless, M. T., Tieu, M., Feo, R., & Kitson, A. L. (2021). Theories of self-care and self-management of long-term conditions by community-dwelling older adults: A systematic review and meta-ethnography. <i>Social Science and Medicine</i>, 287, 114393. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.socscimed.2021.114393</p> <p>This project aligns with the Caring Futures Institute theme: Better Care</p>
Additional information/Skills required
There are no specific skills required to complete this project. Training and support will be provided.

Supervision team
<p>Primary supervisor: Dr Michael Lawless</p> <p>Research Fellow, College of Nursing and Health Sciences, Flinders University P: +61 8 8201 3655 E: michael.lawless@flinders.edu.au https://researchnow.flinders.edu.au/en/persons/michael-lawless-2 Areas of interest: ageing; frailty; health communication; qualitative methods; knowledge translation</p> <p>Secondary supervisor: Dr Sarah Hunter</p>
Proposed Honours Project
<p>The Rainbow Connection: Experiences of Social Isolation and Loneliness among Older Gay and Bisexual Men</p> <p>Over the past two years of COVID lockdowns, many of us have experienced the pain of loneliness and social isolation. Loneliness and social isolation are linked with lower quality of life, worse mental and physical health, and early death. Older gay and bisexual men (aged over 65) often face a range of health challenges and report more loneliness compared to heterosexual people. This is in part because of factors including lifetime experiences of disadvantage and discrimination and exclusion from youth-oriented gay culture. The aim of this study is to review qualitative research and grey literature (e.g., policy and community organisation documents) on older gay and bisexual men' experiences of loneliness and identify needs and priorities for interventions to enhance social connectedness and quality of life.</p> <p>Suggested reading related to this topic: Eres, R., Postolovski, N., Thielking, M., & Lim, M. H. (2020). Loneliness, mental health, and social health indicators in LGBTQIA+ Australians. <i>American Journal of Orthopsychiatry</i>, 91(3), 358–366. http://doi.org/10.1037/ort0000531</p> <p>This project aligns with the Caring Futures Institute theme: Better Communities</p>
Additional information/Skills required
There are no specific skills required to complete this project. Training and support will be provided.

Supervision team
<p>Primary supervisor: Sarah Hunter</p> <p>Secondary supervisor: Georgia Middleton and Brittany Johnson</p>
Proposed Honours Project
<p>Navigating the Early Years System in South Australia: Summary of End User Needs</p> <p>A previous qualitative study was conducted that explored end users' experiences engaging with the Early Years System in South Australia. The Early Years System include all government and non-government programs, services and supports available to caregivers of children up to age 6. In this study, we conducted 37 interviews with a mix of caregivers, service providers and organisation representatives. This dataset is available for secondary analysis. This is a rich dataset that examines the complex and diverse needs of South Australian families.</p>
Additional information/Skills required
This project would suit students from any discipline.

Supervision team
<p>Primary supervisor: Brittany Johnson https://www.flinders.edu.au/people/brittany.johnson</p> <p>Secondary supervisor: Lene Seidler (NHMRC Clinical Trials Centre, University of Sydney) https://ctc.usyd.edu.au/about-us/our-people/academics-research-fellows/anna-lene-seidler/</p>
Proposed Honours Project
<p>TOPCHILD Project</p> <p>Although early childhood obesity prevention is receiving more attention, little is known about how such interventions, seek to change behaviour and which components do and do not work. We have collated the largest databases of early childhood obesity prevention interventions via establishing a global alliance of clinical trials identified in our systematic review—The TOPCHILD Collaboration. TOPCHILD has brought together trial investigators from around the world, including 50 clinical trials with >40,000 participants. These rich databases provide opportunities to perform secondary analyses and to explore the scalability of interventions to inform translation of this evidence base to practice.</p> <p>Suggested reading: Johnson et al. Unpacking the behavioural components and delivery features of early childhood obesity prevention interventions in the TOPCHILD Collaboration: a systematic review and intervention coding protocol. <i>BMJ Open</i>. 2022; 12(1):e048165. DOI: 10.1136/bmjopen-2020-048165</p> <p>This project aligns with the Caring Futures Institute Better Lives theme and the building block of methodological innovations.</p>
Additional information/Skills required
<p>This project would suit a student with a background in health sciences, allied health, nursing, psychology or students with an interest in early childhood activity, nutrition, or sleep.</p>

Supervision team
<p>Primary supervisor: Dr Nina Sivertsen</p> <p>https://www.flinders.edu.au/people/nina.sivertsen</p>
Proposed Honours Project
<p>A systematic review of health students' preparation to working with First Nations Peoples and communities.</p> <p>I am proposing a systematic review around decolonisation of health education; exploring evidence around how health students learn about First Nations perspectives in curriculum, and how they are prepared to work with First Nations recipients of care.</p> <p>See an example:</p> <p>Sivertsen, N., Anikeeva, O., Deverix, J., Grant, J. (2020). Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander family access to continuity of health care services in the first 1000 days of life: a systematic review of the literature. BMC Health Services Research 20, 829 (2020). https://doi.org/10.1186/s12913-020-05673-w</p> <p>I would be interested in working with students around any Honours project involving Indigenous health, cultures, identities and/or restorative policy and practice. My research interests include Nursing and workforce development, First Nations People's health, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women's and children's health needs, rural and remote health, cultural diversity in health, cultural safety, Nursing care, curriculum design, Indigenous health in global contexts, qualitative methods.</p>
Additional information/Skills required
<p>Students need academic writing skills and be able and interested in learning about research processes, research methods and how to translate research findings into positive outcomes for the community.</p>

Aged Care & Palliative Care

Supervision team
Primary supervisor: Stephanie Champion stephanie.champion@ariia.org.au Secondary supervisor: Rebecca Bilton
Proposed Honours Project
Inclusive consumer engagement: a resource for aged care workers to facilitate co-design for innovation implementation with hard-to-reach ageing populations Sector improvements are urgently needed to ensure high-quality aged care for older Australian's. To understand their needs, we need to involve consumers in the implementation of aged care industry innovations. The Aged Care Research and Industry Innovation Australia (ARIIA) is working with the aged care work force to assist the implementation of translational research projects utilising co-design approaches. ARIIA will support aged care workers to undertake effective and practical co-design with older people, who are often difficult to engage or hard-to-reach, through training and resource development. The aim of this project will be to develop a practical resource, comprised of tools, strategies, recommendations, and case studies, to support aged care workers to develop, plan and undertake inclusive consumer co-design with hard-to-reach older populations, to implement innovations that are fit for purpose. This project would involve: 1) undertaking a scoping review to identify contemporary strategies used to recruit older, hard-to-reach populations into co-design research. Review findings will be used to compile a practical resource developed for the aged care workers, to help them recruit diverse consumer collaborators for their co-design projects. 2) conducting a small-scale pilot, recruiting older people from hard-to-reach populations to be interviewed about the perceived barriers to participation in co-design research. The interview outcomes will be used to assess the effectiveness of the resource and make recommendations for improvements. Fit to CFI research themes: Better care, Quality aged care Shaghghi A, Bhopal RS, Sheikh A. Approaches to recruiting 'hard-to-reach' populations into research: a review of the literature. <i>Health Promotion Perspectives</i> . 2011;1(2):86. Kammerer K, Falk K, Herzog A, Fuchs J. How to reach 'hard-to-reach' older people for research: The TIBaR model of recruitment. https://edoc.rki.de/handle/176904/6328 , 2019
Additional information/Skills required
Knowledge of qualitative research methods would be required.

Supervision team
<p>Primary supervisor: Dr Sara Javanparast, sara.javanparast@flinders.edu.au</p> <p>Areas of research: Palliative Care, Death and Dying</p> <p>Website: https://www.flinders.edu.au/people/sara.javanparast</p> <p>Secondary supervisor: TBC</p>
Proposed Honours Project
<p>The examination of death literacy amongst families and carers of patients with serious illnesses and opportunities and gaps in access to support services</p> <p>Death literacy is the knowledge and skills that people need to make it possible to gain access to, understand, and make informed choices about end of life and death care options. This study will employ quantitative and qualitative studies using death literacy index and interviews with families and carers or patients with serious illness to examine the level of death literacy as well opportunities and gaps that could support carers.</p> <p>Suggested reading: Leonard, R., Noonan, K., Horsfall, D., Psychogios, H., Kelly, M., Rosenberg, J., Rumbold, B., Grindrod, A., Read, N., and Rahn, A. (2020). Death Literacy Index: A Report on its Development and Implementation. Sydney: Western Sydney University. https://doi.org/10.26183/5eb8d3adb20b0</p>
Additional information/Skills required
<p>The student will be situated in the Research Centre for Palliative Care, Death and Dying which is a multi-disciplinary centre consisting of researchers working on clinical and public health palliative care projects. There is a vibrant and collegial academic atmosphere at the centre. The student will get the opportunity to attend the Centre's fortnightly seminars and other networking events. For the purpose of this study, the student will work with Carers SA and other carers support organisation.</p> <p>A basic knowledge of quantitative and qualitative research methodologies is required.</p>

Disability and Community Inclusion

Supervision team
Primary supervisor: Professor Sally Robinson
Secondary supervisor: To be determined, based on student's methodology
Proposed Honours Project
Working relationships between people with intellectual disability and their paid support workers The quality of working relationships between people with intellectual disability and their paid support workers is fundamental for both people in the relationship. But how can we better recognise and respond when there are concerns about the way that support workers and people interact? This honours project will be part of a large Australian Research Council Linkage project which aims to identify everyday harms experienced by people with intellectual disability and develop a practice framework to prevent violence and abuse in these relationships and promote wellbeing. This project is an opportunity for an honours student to take part in a large project seeking to change policy and practice. Precise components will be determined with the candidate, but the project will include a systematic review on abuse prevention and the opportunity to work with a group of academic researchers, community researchers with intellectual disability and project industry partners to co-design and implement research about abuse prevention. Robinson, S., Fisher, K., Graham, A., Ikaheimo, H., Johnson, K. & Rosengarten, T. (2022) Recasting harm in support: misrecognition between people with intellectual disability and paid workers. <i>Disability & Society</i> DOI:10.1080/09687599.2022.2029357 Robinson, S., Graham, A., Fisher, K.R., Neale, K., Davy, L., Johnson, K. & Hall, E. (2020) Understanding paid support relationships: possibilities for mutual recognition between young people with disability and their support workers. <i>Disability & Society</i> , 36,9, 1423-1448 DOI: 10.1080/09687599.2020.1794797
Additional information/Skills required
Experience in working with people with intellectual disability or knowledge of the disability field.

Supervision team

Primary supervisor: [Dr Fiona Rillotta](#) – research focus: inclusive higher education for people with intellectual disability at Australian universities.

Secondary supervisor: TBA

Proposed Honours Project

School teachers' perceptions of students with intellectual disability transitioning to university

This project will be part of Dr Fiona Rillotta's body of research about the Up the Hill Project and inclusive higher education/ university for people with an intellectual disability. See: <https://www.flinders.edu.au/engage/community/clinics/up-the-hill-project>

This qualitative project will investigate attitudes and perceptions of school teachers about the capability of people with intellectual disability to transition to university. Outcomes

could include recommendations about information school teachers' need in order to encourage school leavers to consider university as a post-school pathway and opportunity.

This project aligns with the Better Communities Caring Futures research theme.

Recommended Reading/ Reference:

Davies, H. (2019) The motivations of people with an intellectual disability choosing to attend higher education or not: A phenomenological approach. Unpublished Honours Thesis, Flinders University South Australia.

Ineland, J., Karhina, K. & Vikstrom, L. (2021). School-to-work transitions for students with intellectual disabilities: Teachers' perceptions and experiences of a recent workplace-based reform in Sweden, *Journal of International Special Needs*, 24 (2), pp.

Ookeditse, G. & Mukhopadhyay, S. (2021). Teachers' transition attitudes for students with disabilities in two regions of Botswana, *SAGE Open*, pp. 1-13

Robinson, D. B. & Young, D. (2019). The relationship between teachers' inclusion-related knowledge, skills, and attitudes and student outcomes: A review of recent literature, *Exceptionality Education International*, 29 (2), pp. 18-41

Additional information/Skills required

Interest in intellectual disability inclusion and qualitative research. Good interpersonal skills required.

Supervision team
Primary supervisor: Amanda Müller
Secondary supervisor: TBA
Proposed Honours Project
A Needs Analysis of Assistance Dog Handlers This project involves a qualitative text analysis of the Facebook comments about the challenges and benefits of working with an Assistance Dog. The text is already extracted and the ethics approved, so this project will require ethics modification, qualitative analysis of comments, thematic grouping, some descriptive counts, and write-up of results. This research falls into the category of inclusion and disability.
Additional information/Skills required
The student will need excellent communication and writing skills.

Nursing

Supervision team

Primary supervisor: [Dr Tiffany Conroy](#): areas of research focus-higher education, nursing, fundamentals of care, knowledge translation, systematic review, qualitative research

Secondary supervisor: [Dr Katrina Breaden](#): areas of research focus-nursing education, international student experiences, chronic breathlessness, palliative care, online learning and teaching, student support, death and dying and young women diagnosed with advanced breast cancer

Proposed Honours Project

An exploration of the offshore undergraduate student experience

The COVID-19 pandemic has created unprecedented challenges for University staff and students. To facilitate student enrolment and progression in undergraduate programs, traditionally delivered face to face, academics were required to be innovative and flexible. A rapid reorganization of the curriculum was undertaken as commencing CNHS international students were unable to commence their studies onshore.

This “offshore student cohort” were required to participate in lectures and tutorials online. Adaptation of course materials, teaching activities and assessments for online delivery was required. The experience of the students who have recently transitioned to onshore has not been explored. It is vital to explore their experience of the transition to onshore study and how well prepared they were for on campus study by their offshore studies. Even when commencing their studies onshore, international students find assimilating into the University setting difficult (Fraser and Simpson, 2012).

Ref: Fraser, C. & Simpson, P. (2012). Offshore – onshore: How international students’ expectations of the New Zealand academic environment compare to their lived experience. In M. Protheroe (Ed.) Navigating the River: Proceedings of the 2011 Annual International Conference of the Association of Tertiary Learning Advisors of Aotearoa/New Zealand (ATLAANZ) (pp. 1 - 15). Auckland, New Zealand: ATLAANZ.

Additional information/Skills required

Ethical approval has been received and data from a focus group has been collected, allowing for the Honours candidate to commence their project immediately.

The Honours candidate will be supported through the process of literature review, data analysis and reporting.

Supervision team
Primary supervisor: Jeroen Hendriks Secondary supervisor: Lemma Bulto
Proposed Honours Project
<p>Telehealth Education and Counselling program to optimise blood pressure control and secondary prevention of heart disease for Hypertension patients living in Rural Australia (TEACH-RA study)</p> <p>The purpose of the TEACH-RA study is to evaluate the feasibility of an innovative, tailored telehealth education and counselling program in patients with hypertension and associated cardiovascular conditions living in rural South Australia. This program aims to improve secondary prevention and management of cardiovascular conditions, by providing tailored education and empowering patients to self-manage their condition and reduce their risk of heart disease.</p> <p>This will be achieved by providing tailored telehealth counselling and education: A nurse will provide tailored tele-health counselling and education for each patient during three sessions over six months period. The content of the education and counselling intervention will be delivered based on the individual needs and preferences of the patients (based on baseline data), and with input from the Heart Foundations' guideline for diagnosis and management of hypertension in adults and Australian guidelines for recommended lifestyle behaviours. Through tele-health (phone call), patients will be provided with education and guidance regarding the management of hypertension and other cardiovascular risk factors as well as their lifestyle modification.</p> <p>This study aligns with the research themes of Better Care within the Caring Futures Institute.</p>
Additional information/Skills required
Nursing, preferably in the field of cardiology / cardiovascular care

Supervision team
<p>Primary supervisor:</p> <p>Dr Hila Dafny</p> <p>Secondary supervisor:</p> <p>Dr Nasreena Waheed/ Dr Stephanie Champion/ A/Prof Yvonne Parry</p>
Proposed Honours Project
<p>Improving the well-being and reducing the burnout of nursing students by minimizing workplace violence toward nursing students in their clinical placements</p> <p>The workplace violence (WPV) experienced by nursing students contributes to students exiting their training. Up to 20% of nursing students in the UK and 15% of Israeli students have considered leaving their program due to WPV. Just witnessing WPV is enough to negatively impact how students view their future profession.</p> <p>This research aims to improve the well-being and reduce the burnout of nursing students by minimizing workplace violence (WPV) toward nursing students in their clinical placements. This research project aligns with better communities' research themes as it may improve the mental health, wellbeing, quality of life, and retention of nursing students, increase professional productivity, and provide improved patient care. There are several available research projects for Honours students to conduct their research and be part of the WPV research team as this study has several research projects, including:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Systematic Review - Conducting a systematic review to determine the prevalence of WPV among nursing students during their clinical practice. 2. Qualitative study - interviews nursing students who experience WPV during clinical placements in hospitals or other healthcare settings to find out what can be done to reduce the violence towards them, retain nursing students and improve their wellbeing. 3. Quantitative study – surveying the prevalence of WPV towards nursing students and exploring their suggestions to prevent WPV and improve their wellbeing. 4. Following the data collection and analysis of the qualitative and quantitative findings, implementation of the nursing students' suggestions to minimize violence in their clinical placements along with implementing recommendations to the clinical facilities to improve the health and safety of nursing students. <p>The beneficial outcomes arising from this research are relevant to clinical practice. They will contribute new knowledge and greater insight into the prevalence of workplace violence toward nursing students. Then the recommendations from the nursing students will be implemented at the university level, notifying stakeholders and implemented within the clinical settings and potentially changing the clinical practice and guidelines.</p>
Additional information/Skills required
<p>The Honours students preferred to be from nursing or public health backgrounds interested in preventing workplace violence in clinical settings. Any knowledge or skills in research involving the systematic review, qualitative and quantitative, will be beneficial to undertaking these research projects. However, the honours students will be supervised and learn the required research skills during the research projects.</p>

Supervision team
<p>Primary supervisor:</p> <p>Dr Lauren Lines; lauren.lines@flinders.edu.au; child health & wellbeing, paediatric nursing, child abuse and neglect, supporting families experiencing social/economic adversity, qualitative methods</p> <p>https://www.flinders.edu.au/people/lauren.lines</p> <p>Secondary supervisor:</p> <p>Mrs Ariane Plowright; mailto:ariane.plowright@flinders.edu.au; Child and Family Health nursing; Nurse practitioner; International Board-Certified Lactation Consultant (IBCLC); culture and diversity in families; infant and maternal mental health</p>
Proposed Honours Project
<p>Exploring cultural safety education in postgraduate child and family health nursing curriculum</p> <p>Cultural safety is an essential skill for Australian child and family health nurses (CFHNs) due to the diversity of our population. According to Ramsden (2002, p. 117), cultural safety is ‘an outcome of nursing and midwifery education... and is achieved when the recipients of care deem the care to be meeting their cultural needs’. However, cultural safety preparation for CFHNs in postgraduate education is variable, and families continue to report experiences of culturally unsafe care. This project will explore cultural safety education in postgraduate CFHN in Australian universities. In doing so, this project aims to identify existing strengths and challenges, and explore ways to further develop cultural safety education for CFHNs.</p> <p>Recommended reading: https://equityhealthj.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s12939-019-1082-3#Sec6</p>
Additional information/Skills required
No specific existing knowledge or skills are required.

Supervision team
<p>Primary supervisor:</p> <p>Dr Craig Phillips</p> <p>Secondary supervisor:</p> <p>Assoc Prof Amanda Muller, Dr Anita De Bellis</p>
Proposed Honours Project
<p>Transition to professional practice programs in residential care settings: A scoping review.</p> <p>Transition to professional practice programs (TPPP) are designed to support newly qualified graduate nurses in their first year of practice, as they transition from student to registered nurse. TPPPs are commonplace in acute care settings yet are scarce to non-existent in residential/aged care settings (Kenny et al., 2021). Aside from the education component, orientation to a health service and the appointment of experienced registered nurses to precept and mentor new graduates, TPPPs are a workforce strategy for ongoing recruitment and retention of nurses.</p> <p>The findings from the recent Royal Commission into Aged Care, highlighted the need for a skilled and capable workforce, one that is highly skilled to effect positive patient care. More recently, the Federal Government has announced the need for a registered nurse to be on every shift, so that such transgressions of poor patient care and negative consequences can be ameliorated. Having programs that have newly qualified nurses entering this space would be a first step in improving practice outcomes in aged care.</p> <p>Healthy workforce is a key component in the Better Systems within the Caring Futures Institute. This project would involve a review of the literature and a publication reporting evidence of TPPPs in residential care.</p> <p>Reference:</p> <p>Kenny, A., Dickson-Swift, V., McKenna, L., Charette, M., Rush, K. L., Stacey, G., Darvill, A., Leigh, J., Burton, R., & Phillips, C. (2021). Interventions to support graduate nurse transition to practice and associated outcomes: A systematic review. <i>Nurse education today</i>, 100, [104860]. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.nedt.2021.104860</p>
Additional information/Skills required
Use of databases in the library, conducting a literature search and reporting findings

Nutrition

Supervision team

Primary supervisor: Dr Lucinda Bell

Research area: Dietary intakes, Dietary assessment, Child obesity prevention

<https://www.flinders.edu.au/people/lucy.bell>

Secondary supervisor: Professor Rebecca Golley

Research area: Behavioural nutrition, Dietary assessment, Child obesity prevention

<https://www.flinders.edu.au/people/rebecca.golley>

Proposed Honours Project

A standardised approach to measuring outcomes in obesity-prevention interventions

Childhood obesity is a global public health problem. In recent years there has been an increase in obesity prevention interventions targeting lifestyle-related health behaviours including poor nutrition, inadequate levels of physical activity and sleep, and sedentariness in early life. However, these interventions have demonstrated inconsistent findings, largely due to the variability in *what* outcomes are measured and *how* they are measured. A core outcome set of *what* outcomes are essential to measure in evaluating interventions to prevent childhood obesity has recently been developed. Determining *how* to measure these outcomes is an essential next step. This will be addressed in the broader project, EPOCH-COMS, which aims to develop a core outcome measurement set (COMS) for evaluating the effectiveness of early prevention of childhood obesity (EPOCH) trials. This Honours project will sit within EPOCH-COMS and contribute to identifying existing instruments for measuring the recommended core outcomes.

Brown et al (2022) *A scoping review of outcomes commonly reported in obesity prevention interventions aiming to improve obesity-related health behaviours in children to age 5 years*. *Obes Rev*, 23(5)e13427 (<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/35122457/>)

This project aligns within the Caring Futures Institute Better Lives Theme, 'Healthy Start to Life' research group <https://www.flinders.edu.au/caring-futures-institute/healthy-start-to-life>

Additional information/Skills required

This project would suit a student with a background in lifestyle-related health behaviours and with an interest in developing/refining their literature searching skills and critical appraisal skills.

Supervision team
<p>Primary supervisor:</p> <p>Dr Alice Day, Department of Gastroenterology; Department of Nutrition & Dietetics, The Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Central Adelaide Local Health Network</p> <p>Main areas of research focus:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diet and microbial based therapies for inflammatory bowel disease. • Diet-enhanced models of care for gastrointestinal and surgical clinical services <p>Profile: https://www.basilhetzelinstitute.com.au/profile/alice-day/</p> <p>Email: alice.day@sa.gov.au</p> <p>Secondary supervisor:</p> <p>Senior Dietitian & Surgical-Lead Dietitian at The Queen Elizabeth Hospital</p> <p>Flinders Supervisor TBA. Please contact Jessie Shipman jessie.shipman@flinders.edu.au</p>
Proposed Honours Project
<p>Liver disease and gastrointestinal surgery nutrition</p> <p>Myopenia and sarcopenia are increasingly prevalent in people with gastrointestinal disease, including those requiring gastrointestinal surgery. These terms broadly refer to clinically relevant muscle wasting as a result of illness or ageing and beyond impaired functional capacity are associated increased risk infections, hospital admissions, post-operative surgical complications, and increased length of hospital stay. Current nutrition screening and assessment tools used in the inpatient and outpatient setting still tend to quantify nutrition-risk using body weight however this is inadequate.</p> <p>We have several projects available in the areas of liver disease and gastrointestinal surgery nutrition that will examine these issues to inform the re-design of diet services within multidisciplinary gastrointestinal and surgical services. These projects align with the Clinical and Community Partnerships Caring Futures Institute theme.</p> <p>Suggested reading: Holmes CJ, Racette SB. The Utility of Body Composition Assessment in Nutrition and Clinical Practice: An Overview of Current Methodology. <i>Nutrients</i>. 2021 Jul 22;13(8):2493. doi: 10.3390/nu13082493. PMID: 34444653; PMCID: PMC8399582.</p>
Additional information/Skills required
<p>Specific degree: Nutrition & Dietetics</p> <p>Interests: in gastrointestinal nutrition, surgical prehabilitation and general gut health</p> <p>Training: will be provided on nutrition screening, anthropometric measurements and body composition assessments.</p>

Occupational Therapy

Supervision team

Primary supervisor:

Stacey George, Occupational Therapist, Professor Healthy Ageing, Support and Care

<https://www.flinders.edu.au/people/stacey.george>

Secondary supervisor: Lesley Habel, Sally Nguyen, Adelaide Primary Health Network

Proposed Honours Project

Development of an evidence informed framework in Ageing across the continuum of primary care

The Adelaide Primary Health Network is focused on improving health outcomes, and experiences of primary healthcare within the Adelaide metropolitan region. This includes for individuals to connect and facilitate a quality health system, with the right care, in the right place, at the right time, with the right provider. In 2022 a new Aged Care program has commenced at the PHN which includes initiatives such as: Out of hours care in residential care; Early intervention to support healthy ageing; and Greater choice in palliative care. With this new program of work the PHN requires the development of an evidence informed framework that integrates aging, continuum of care and chronic disease approaches to inform the overarching aged strategy. This project will involve a systematic review of the literature and cocreation of a framework.

This project aligns with the Caring Futures Institute themes with its dedication to the study of self-care and caring solutions across the lifespan leading to better lives, better care and better systems.

Reading:

https://www.ourphn.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2022_PHN_004_CQWBSCPHN-Healthy-Ageing-Strategy-2022-2027_v1.0.pdf

Additional information/Skills required

Ability to liaise with library to develop systematic search, high level of verbal communication skills, developing critical thinking and academic writing skills.

Supervision team
<p>Primary supervisor:</p> <p>Stacey George, Occupational Therapist, Professor Healthy Ageing, Support and Care</p> <p>https://www.flinders.edu.au/people/stacey.george</p> <p>Secondary supervisor: Sandra Parr, Executive Director of Allied Health, Northern Allied Local Health Network</p>
Proposed Honours Project
<p>7 day services: Allied Health Service utilisation</p> <p>Allied health managers in the hospital setting allocate services based on a range of factors including funding provision, staff availability and historical factors. An equivalent amount of allied health therapy is not provided over the 7 days at the Lyell McEwin Hospital. What is not known is what the impact of variability in Allied Health Service provision across 7 days is, such as in patient functional outcomes and length of stay, depending on the day of admission.</p> <p>This project will investigate the utilisation, quality, activity, outcomes and costs of the 7 day allied health services provided at the Lyell McEwin Hospital (LMH). This project will provide information to support allied health managers to make evidence informed decisions of resource allocation for 7 day service delivery in the acute setting.</p> <p>This project aligns with the Caring Futures Institute themes with its dedication to the study of self-care and caring solutions across the lifespan leading to better care and better systems.</p> <p>Reading: Sarkies MN, White J, Henderson K, Haas R, Bowles J. Additional weekend allied health services reduce length of stay in subacute rehabilitation wards but their effectiveness and cost-effectiveness are unclear in acute general medical and surgical hospital wards: a systematic review. Journal of physiotherapy. 2018 Jul 1;64(3):142-58.</p>
Additional information/Skills required
<p>Ability to work with quantitative data and academic writing skills. Allied health background not essential but may support understanding of the context.</p>

Supervision team

Primary supervisor:

Stacey George, Occupational Therapist, Professor Healthy Ageing, Support and Care

<https://www.flinders.edu.au/people/stacey.george>

Secondary supervisor: Elizabeth Lynch

<https://researchnow.flinders.edu.au/en/persons/elizabeth-lynch>

Proposed Honours Project

Best practice information provision to stroke survivors

Information needs are critically high in people after stroke, due to stroke's rapid onset, potentially life-long consequences and risk of recurrence.

The aims of this project are to:

1. To explore the perspectives of individuals post stroke as to the timing and method of information provision related to recovery and support.
2. To explore the perspectives of clinicians about current practice about information provision related to recovery and identify suggestions for improvement.

This co-design project will ensure stroke survivors and clinicians work together to improve how information is provided in the acute/rehabilitation services. Data collection will occur at Lyell McEwin Hospital and Modbury Rehabilitation Centre.

Reading: Lynch, E.A., Lassig, C., Turner, T. et al. Prioritizing guideline recommendations for implementation: a systematic, consumer-inclusive process with a case study using the Australian Clinical Guidelines for Stroke Management. Health Res Policy Sys 19, 85 (2021).

This project aligns with the Caring Futures Institute themes with its dedication to the study of self-care and caring solutions across the lifespan leading to better care, by identifying the information needs to support engagement with therapy and recovery following stroke.

Additional information/Skills required

Any allied health or health background, high level of verbal communication skills, and academic writing skills.

Supervision team
<p>Primary supervisor:</p> <p>Stacey George, Occupational Therapist, Professor Healthy Ageing, Support and Care</p> <p>https://www.flinders.edu.au/people/stacey.george</p> <p>Secondary supervisor: Sandra Parr, Executive Director Of Allied Health, Northern Allied Local Health Network</p>
Proposed Honours Project
<p>Retrospective Audit and mapping: Towards a Hospital Based Funding model that considers the social determinants of health to improve quality of care and maximise health outcomes</p> <p>Health outcomes are estimated to be only 20% determined by clinical care, however the majority of health care investment is related to clinical care. Social needs have been demonstrated to have a large impact on health outcomes. Robust data related to patients' social needs is critical to health services efforts to improve the health of their patients and communities. Allied Health provide interventions to address the social needs of patients, however social aspects of healthcare are the business of all health professionals.</p> <p>In Australia hospital services are funded via casemix based on Diagnostic Related Groups (DRGs). Within the DRG system coders currently record, from a review of case notes, what is known as z-codes which relate to social needs. Within social work indicators for referral and activity are recorded in an allied health database</p> <p>This project aims to describe, measure and compare the z-codes, Social work IFI's and clinical activity codes to estimate how accurately the z-codes are capturing social disadvantage to inform a systematic approach within the health system.</p> <p>This project aligns with the Caring Futures Institute themes with its dedication to the study of self-care and caring solutions across the lifespan leading to better systems.</p>
Additional information/Skills required
Any health background, Ability to work with quantitative data and academic writing skills.

Supervision team
<p>Primary supervisor: Stacey George, Occupational Therapist, Professor Healthy Ageing, Support and Care https://www.flinders.edu.au/people/stacey.george</p> <p>Secondary supervisor: Michelle Bellon, https://www.flinders.edu.au/people/michelle.bellon</p>
Proposed Honours Project
<p>Public Health Service Utilisation – People with Intellectual Disabilities</p> <p>People with intellectual disabilities experience inequitable health outcomes compared to the rest of the population. The research highlights that people with intellectual disabilities experience higher rates of mental illness, undiagnosed physical health issues and premature death, yet little is known about how this cohort interact with public health services in South Australia. This project will investigate public health service utilisation for adults with a known intellectual disability through review of public health service separation data. This work will support:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Improvements in data capture/reporting in South Australian public health services - Improvements in the recognition of a person’s intellectual disability during health service contacts to support the provision of reasonable adjustments - Identification of targeted capacity building opportunities for services frequently used by adults with intellectual disabilities - Identification of opportunities to improve health service coordination for consumers with complex needs <p>This project aligns with the Caring Futures Institute themes which is dedicated to the study of self-care and caring solutions across the lifespan leading to better care and better systems to support the health care provision and outcomes for people with intellectual disabilities.</p> <p>Reading: Walker AR, Trollor JN, Florio T, Srasuebkul P (2022) Predictors and outcomes of recognition of intellectual disability for adults during hospital admissions: A retrospective data linkage study in NSW, Australia. PLoS ONE 17(3): e0266051. https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0266051</p>
Additional information/Skills required
Ability to work with quantitative data and academic writing skills.

Optometry

Supervision team

Primary supervisor:

Mr José Estevez

Secondary supervisor:

Prof Jamie Craig

Proposed Honours Project

Eye health

We have multiple eye health research projects available that integrate epidemiology, social determinants of health, biological risk factors and genomics. Of particular importance is the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population, whereby there are significant inequities with high rates of blindness and diabetes compared to other Australians. The project will utilise a large database with social, clinical, biological variables and vision outcomes to understand why some individuals suffer blindness while others are relatively protected. Personalised approaches to care that consider an individual's risk in context are likely to lead to better care for individuals and communities.

Some pre-readings here: "Working Towards Eye Health Equity for Indigenous Australians with Diabetes"

<https://www.mdpi.com/1660-4601/16/24/5060>

Key words: Indigenous Australians; blindness; diabetic retinopathy; vision impairment; eye health; equity; inequality; vision loss; diabetes; epidemiology; risk factors

Additional information/Skills required

Physiotherapy

Supervision team

Primary supervisor:

Jill Garner

Research area: neurological physiotherapy, clinical reasoning, clinical rehabilitation

jill.garner@flinders.edu.au

<https://www.flinders.edu.au/people/jill.garner>

Secondary supervisor:

Associate Professor Belinda Lange

Research Area: Digital Technologies for Health and Well-being

<https://www.flinders.edu.au/people/belinda.lange>

Proposed Honours Project

Use of robotic exoskeletons with treadmill training in subacute non-ambulant stroke: Clinician's experiences and perspectives

The Lokomat is a robotic treadmill training system that provides individuals with body weight support and assist with walking on a treadmill. While the Lokomat is used in the clinical setting, we don't know a lot about how clinicians are using the robotic device with their clients. The aim of this research is to gather information from clinicians about the protocols they use with clients who are non-ambulant following stroke. The research questions are: How do clinicians use the Lokomat body-weight support robot for clients who are non-ambulant following stroke? What are the barriers and facilitators to using the Lokomat body-weight support system with clients who are non-ambulant following stroke. The goal of this study is to determine if there are specific set up and progression protocols that clinicians use for clients who are non-ambulant.

Suggested reading related to this topic:

Louie DR, Eng JJ, Lam T. Spinal Cord Injury Research Evidence Research T. Gait speed using powered robotic exoskeletons after spinal cord injury: a systematic review and correlational study. J Neuroeng Rehabil. 2015;12:82

This project aligns with the Caring Futures Research Them: Better Lives and Better Care

Additional information/Skills required

There are no specific skills required to undertake this project. Training and support will be provided.

Supervision team

Primary supervisor:

Associate Professor Maayken van den Berg and Associate Professor Belinda Lange

Research Area: Digital Technologies for Health and Well-being

<https://www.flinders.edu.au/people/maayken.vandenberg> and

<https://www.flinders.edu.au/people/belinda.lange>

Proposed Honours Project

Use of robotic exoskeletons with treadmill training in subacute non-ambulant stroke: Clinician's experiences and perspectives

Stroke survivors experience challenges with upper limb awareness, which can make it difficult to participate in social and personal care activities. This can impact quality of life and increases the need for ongoing treatment. This study aims to provide evidence to support the impact of a home-based, low-cost, virtual reality intervention on upper limb awareness in stroke survivors. The study will apply quantitative and qualitative methods: 1. To determine the effect of an immersive VR intervention program on upper-limb awareness, and associated body perception, function, and quality of life and 2. To explore the lived experience of people undergoing an immersive VR intervention program to improve upper-limb awareness. This study could also take the form of a systematic review of the literature to explore evidence on this topic area.

Suggested reading related to this topic:

Laver KE, Lange B, George S, Deutsch JE, Saposnik G, Crotty M. Virtual reality for stroke rehabilitation. *Cochrane Database Syst Rev.* 2017 Nov 20;11(11):CD008349. doi: 10.1002/14651858.CD008349.pub4. PMID: 29156493; PMCID: PMC6485957.

This project aligns with the Caring Futures Research Them: Better Lives and Better Care

Additional information/Skills required

There are no specific skills required to undertake this project. Training and support will be provided.

Supervision team

Primary supervisor:

Associate Professor Belinda Lange

Research Area: Digital Technologies for Health and Well-being

belinda.lange@flinders.edu.au

<https://www.flinders.edu.au/people/belinda.lange>

Secondary supervisor:

Jill Garner <https://www.flinders.edu.au/people/jill.garner>

Dr. Tamina Levy <https://www.flinders.edu.au/people/tamina.levy>

Proposed Honours Project

Barriers and facilitators to improving activity levels in the inpatient setting

Rehabilitation should be structured to provide as much scheduled therapy as possible. Based on current evidence, a minimum of three hours of scheduled therapy per day with at least two hours of active task practice is recommended. A recent scoping review found limited activity levels patients of in inpatient rehabilitation during therapy and non-therapy time. Therapy duration ranged from 31 to 64 minutes and participants engaged in moderate-high therapeutic activity for only 22-66% of the time during therapy sessions. No time was spent in moderate-high therapeutic activity during non-therapy time. This study aims to use mixed methods to monitor activity levels of people receiving care in the inpatient setting and explore the barriers and facilitators to increasing activity levels through interviews with health professionals and patients.

Suggested reading related to this topic: Natalie A. Fini, Anne E. Holland, Jenny Keating, Jacinta Simek, Julie Bernhardt, How Physically Active Are People Following Stroke? Systematic Review and Quantitative Synthesis, Physical Therapy, Volume 97, Issue 7, July 2017, Pages 707–717, <https://doi.org/10.1093/ptj/pzx038>

This project aligns with the Caring Futures Research Them: Better Lives

Additional information/Skills required

There are no specific skills required to undertake this project. Training and support will be provided.

Supervision team

Primary supervisor:

Associate Professor Belinda Lange

Research Area: Digital Technologies for Health and Well-being

belinda.lange@flinders.edu.au

<https://www.flinders.edu.au/people/belinda.lange>

Secondary supervisor:

Jill Garner <https://www.flinders.edu.au/people/jill.garner>

Dr. Tamina Levy <https://www.flinders.edu.au/people/tamina.levy>

Proposed Honours Project

App-based exercise tool to support vestibular rehabilitation

Vestibular rehabilitation has been shown to be effective for people with vestibular hypofunction. Vestibular rehabilitation involves exercises to promote vestibular adaptation and substitution to improve gaze stability and postural stability. Vestibular rehabilitation exercise programs rely on the individual to follow paper-based instructions and monitor their performance and progress subjectively. This study aims to compare the use of a digital vestibular rehabilitation exercise program using eye-tracking improve dynamic visual acuity and reduce symptoms of vestibular hypofunction with a standard exercise program. A sample of individuals with vestibular hypofunction will be recruited to take part in a pilot randomised controlled trial over a 10-week intervention period provide information about the feasibility of the use of this type of technology and a greater understanding of how technology may be implemented into practice.

Suggested reading related to this topic: Meldrum, D., Jahn, K. Gaze stabilisation exercises in vestibular rehabilitation: review of the evidence and recent clinical advances. *J Neurol* 266, 11–18 (2019). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s00415-019-09459-x>

This project aligns with the Caring Futures Research Them: Better Lives and Better Care

Additional information/Skills required

There are no specific skills required to undertake this project. Training and support will be provided.

Supervision team
<p>Primary supervisor:</p> <p>Associate Professor Belinda Lange</p> <p>Research Area: Digital Technologies for Health and Well-being</p> <p>https://www.flinders.edu.au/people/belinda.lange</p> <p>Secondary supervisor TBD</p>
Proposed Honours Project
<p>Use of virtual reality to support art-based therapy in people with brain injury</p> <p>Recent research has identified that trauma arising from brain injuries can impact an individual's self-identity. Art therapy provides effective management for people with brain injury. Virtual reality technology has shown some promise in providing greater client engagement and has potential to be an effective intervention to promote self-identity. This study will build on a previous Honours project that interviewed five community art therapists about their experiences of virtual reality technology and views on their potential use in art therapy for clients with brain injury. Participants felt that conventional art therapy methods could be transferable into virtual reality and the virtual space was seen as an effective environment to support self-identity changes. This project will now aim to recruit a sample of people with brain injury to share their experiences and perceptions on the use of virtual reality art therapy to support self-identity.</p> <p>Suggested reading related to this topic: Audrey, A., & Cindy, L. B. (2021). A Systematic Review of the Use of Art in Virtual Reality. Electronics (Basel), 10(2314), 2314. https://doi.org/10.3390/electronics10182314</p> <p>This project aligns with the Caring Futures Research Them: Better Lives and Better Care</p>
Additional information/Skills required
There are no specific skills required to undertake this project. Training and support will be provided.

Supervision team

Primary supervisor:

Associate Professor Belinda Lange

Research Area: Digital Technologies for Health and Well-being

belinda.lange@flinders.edu.au

<https://www.flinders.edu.au/people/belinda.lange>

Secondary supervisor:

Dr. Sebastian Koenig

Research Area: Design and development of functional training and assessment tools in virtual reality

<https://www.katanasim.com/>

Proposed Honours Project

Does practice in virtual reality lead to improved performance in real world activities?

Virtual reality involves viewing a virtual environment through a head mounted display and allows the user to interact with objects in a similar way to what they would in the real world. Virtual reality applications have been used to support simulation and training activities in a range of settings. This study aims to work with key stakeholders to define and develop tasks that can be developed into virtual reality scenarios to support training of students and/or health professionals. There is scope to explore an area of interest to the student who takes on this project.

Suggested reading related to this topic:

Xie B, Liu H, Alghofaili R, Zhang Y et al., A review on Virtual Reality Skill Training Applications. *Frontiers in Virtual Reality*. 2021. <https://www.frontiersin.org/articles/10.3389/frvir.2021.645153/full>

This project aligns with the Caring Futures Research Theme: Better Lives and Better Care

Additional information/Skills required

There are no specific skills required to undertake this project. Training and support will be provided.

Supervision team

Primary supervisor:

Associate Professor Belinda Lange

Research Area: Digital Technologies for Health and Well-being

belinda.lange@flinders.edu.au

<https://www.flinders.edu.au/people/belinda.lange>

Secondary supervisor:

Jill Garner <https://www.flinders.edu.au/people/jill.garner>

Dr. Tamina Levy <https://www.flinders.edu.au/people/tamina.levy>

Dr. Sebastian Koenig Research Area: Design and development of functional training and assessment tools in virtual reality <https://www.katanasim.com/>

Proposed Honours Project

Does practice in virtual reality lead to improved performance in real world activities?

Virtual reality involves viewing a virtual environment through a head mounted display and allows the user to interact with objects in a similar way to what they would in the real world. Virtual reality applications have been used to support exercise and rehabilitation in a range of settings. We have developed a range of functional tasks that combine functional, cognitive and physical elements to create a realistic representation of the challenges that individuals with brain injury are faced with in their daily lives; e.g. preparing a meal while being distracted through various sources. This study aims to compare the virtual tasks with similar tasks performed within the real world to evaluate the validity and feasibility of using virtual reality scenarios in the clinical setting. This type of validation study is an important, and often overlooked, component of the evaluation of immersive virtual environments in clinical practice.

Suggested reading related to this topic:

Results from an earlier version of the system: Wall, K., Cumming, T., Koenig, S., & Copland, D. (2018). Using a non-immersive virtual reality approach to assess cognition in post-stroke aphasia: validating the Cognitive Assessment for Aphasia App (C3A). *Aphasiology*, 32. <https://doi.org/10.1080/02687038.2018.1485853>

This project aligns with the Caring Futures Research Them: Better Lives and Better Care

Additional information/Skills required

There are no specific skills required to undertake this project. Training and support will be provided.