



Government of Western Australia  
WA Country Health Service

# WACHS Human Research Ethics Committee

Summaries of Approved Projects  
January to June 2018

## Project Summaries for WACHS HREC Approved Projects – January to June 2018

The material contained in this document is made available to assist researchers, institutions and the general public in searching for projects that have ethics approval from the WA Country Health Service Human Research Ethics Committee (WACHS HREC). It contains lay summaries for projects approved between January and June 2018.

Please refer to the end of this document for explanations of specific terminology used throughout this report.

<b>Project Title</b>	RGS642 – Lighthouse hospital project phase 3 – Project evaluation		
<b>Co-ordinating Principal Investigator</b>	Ms Clare Saunders		
<b>Institution</b>	National Heart Foundation		
<b>WACHS Region(s)</b>	Goldfields and Kimberley		
<b>Target Population</b>	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples		
<b>Start Date</b>	1 April 2018	<b>Finish Date</b>	1 March 2021
<p>The National Heart Foundation has been engaged by the Commonwealth Department of Health to undertake an evaluation of Phase 3 of the Lighthouse Hospital Project (LHP).</p> <p>LHP Phase 3 is a continuous quality improvement project for hospitals to improve various aspects of their processes and practices supporting culturally safe and appropriate care for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander patients admitted for Acute Coronary Syndrome (ACS).</p> <p>The evaluation of LHP Phase 3 aims to validate the impact of the project on the health outcomes of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples diagnosed with ACS and to determine the costs and benefits of the project. Quantitative and qualitative methods will be used to collect data. Data will be extracted from hospital data management systems leveraging existing minimum data sets. Patient experience data will be captured through surveying and interviewing consenting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander patients. Hospital staff and project stakeholders will be surveyed and interviewed to collect process evaluation data.</p>			

<b>Project Title</b>	RGS915 – Realising the potential of remote art centres under consumer direct care: Opportunities to support older Aboriginal people and those living with dementia		
<b>Co-ordinating Principal Investigator</b>	Dr Scott Fraser		
<b>Institution</b>	Royal Melbourne Hospital		
<b>WACHS Region(s)</b>	Kimberley		
<b>Target Population</b>	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples		
<b>Start Date</b>	1 July 2018	<b>Finish Date</b>	29 May 2021
<p>This innovative project explores way in which art centres in remote communities can link older Aboriginal people to services under the policy of Consumer Directed Care (CDC). The project will use a Participatory Action Research (PAR) approach. This highly participatory methodology has been chosen for its emphasis on collaboration between the researchers and the participants, which respects Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal ways of being, knowing and doing.</p> <p>Researchers will collaborate with stakeholders from participating art centres, local health and aged care providers to identify how they are currently supporting older Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and explore opportunities to</p>			

enhance these practices within the context of CDC. This project aims to identify the potential role that these centres may play in supporting older members of their communities and facilitate the acquisition of resources enabling them to achieve it. Findings will inform the development of a model that can be applied by remote art centres located across Australia to better support older Aboriginal community members.

Project Title	<b>RGS1039 A study investigating x - ray operators' perception of competence and issues experienced in general radiography practice in Western Australia.</b>		
Co-ordinating Principal Investigator	Miss Fiona Chen		
Institution	Curtin University		
WACHS Region(s)	All Regions		
Target Population	No primary participant category		
Start Date	1 June 2018	Finish Date	29 May 2021
<p>In Australia, rural health professionals typically nurses and general practitioners can undergo a short training course in radiography to become approved x-ray operators. This allows them to practice limited radiography under a permit system, providing residents in rural and remote locations with access to basic imaging services. This would otherwise be unavailable due to impracticality in employing a full-time radiography in a small community with limited workload.</p> <p>This project expects to gain an insight and contribution to the little existing knowledge of this unique profession, providing baseline information on x-ray operator population. Additionally, x-ray operators' perspectives and experiences can generate valuable feedback regarding the Curtin University x-ray operator course in WA allowing for education improvements. Furthermore, it offers health organisations the opportunity to implement evidence-based, individualised solutions to improve work situations to improve service quality. This may contribute to better health outcomes for rural and remote populations in WA, increasing both patient safety and satisfaction.</p>			

Project Title	<b>RGS770 – Evaluation of the integrated chronic disease care program in rural Western Australia</b>		
Co-ordinating Principal Investigator	Professor Sandra Thompson		
Institution	WA Centre for Rural Health, University of Western Australia		
WACHS Region(s)	All Regions		
Target Population	No primary participant category		
Start Date	1 June 2018	Finish Date	16 May 2021
<p>Western Australia Primary Health Alliance (WAPHA) has commissioned Western Australia Centre for Rural Health (WACRH) to conduct an evaluation of a new health service program titled the Integrated Chronic Disease Care (ICDC) program that is being rolled out across country WA in 2017-2018. Country WA includes the following regions: Goldfields-Esperance, Great Southern, Kimberley, Mid West-Gasgoyne, Pilbara, South West and Wheatbelt. WAPHA's primary objective is to improve health outcomes and patient experiences through the commissioning of appropriate services where they are most needed. WACRH has been contracted to undertake the evaluation of this program to ensure that the contracted services are offering appropriate, quality, evidence based care.</p>			

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## Glossary

### Co-ordinating Principal Investigator

The individual who takes overall responsibility for the research project and submits the project for ethical and scientific review for multi-centre projects. They are responsible for ongoing communication with the Human Research Ethics Committee and passing on any such communications to the Principal Investigators. For single-centre research, the CPI and Principal Investigator's roles are synonymous.

### Institution

The organisation that the Coordinating Principal Investigator is associated with.

### WACHS Regions

- Goldfields
- Great Southern
- Kimberley
- Midwest
- Pilbara
- South West
- Wheatbelt

### Target Population:

According to Chapter 4.1 of the National Statement on Ethical Conduct in Human Research 2007, in addition to the ethical considerations pertaining to all research participants, specific issues arise in the design, conduct and ethical review of research involving the following primary participant categories:

- Women who are pregnant and the human foetus;
- Children and young people (i.e. <18 years);
- People in dependent or unequal relationships;
- People highly dependent on medical care who may be unable to give consent;
- People with a cognitive impairment, an intellectual disability or a mental illness;
- People who may be involved in illegal activities;
- Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander peoples;
- People in other countries;
- People whose primary language is other than English.