



Government of Western Australia
WA Country Health Service

WACHS Human Research Ethics Committee

Summaries for Approved Projects

January to June 2015

*Working together for a healthier **country WA***

Our Values: Community | Compassion | Quality | Integrity | Justice

To provide feedback on this publication email wachscomms@health.wa.gov.au. Alternative formats can be provided on request. ©WA Country Health Service

Project Summaries for WACHS HREC Approved Projects – January to June 2015

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 2015.

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

Project Title	2014/23 - The impact of collecting biological markers in blood during heart scans in the management of coronary disease		
Co-ordinating Principal Investigator	Mr Peter Tually		
Institution	Curtin University		
WACHS Region(s)	South West, Goldfields and Midwest		
Target Population	No primary participant category		
Start Date	12 June 2015	Finish Date	31 July 2017
<p>Cardiovascular disease remains the leading cause of death in Australia. New strategies that lead to better assessment of the risk of developing significant coronary vascular disease, or those that can limit the progression and impact of established disease, represent national health priorities. Following its discovery in 1988, a biological marker and its co-secreted natriuretic have established roles in the diagnosis and prognosis of heart failures.</p> <p>The purpose of this research is to confirm or refute earlier investigations that proposed myocardial ischaemia could be detected by stress induced changes in biological marker levels by analysing a larger cohort of patients in a multicentre study. The aims of the research are to determine whether a relationship exists between changes in biological marker concentrations and the presence of inducible ischaemia as determined by heart scans; and to evaluate the utility of measuring biological marker levels in predicting an adverse coronary event over time.</p>			

Project Title	2015/02 - Testing the feasibility and acceptability of routine needs assessment for cancer patients in regional WA		
Co-ordinating Principal Investigator	Dr Moira O'Connor		
Institution	Curtin University		
WACHS Region(s)	South West		
Target Population	People highly dependent on medical care		
Start Date	7 May 2015	Finish Date	7 May 2016
<p>The main aim of this study is to test the feasibility and acceptability of routine assessment for distress in cancer patients in the South West region of Western Australia. The study will establish the prevalence and level of distress identified by participants and the areas in which participants identify problems; identify the support services participants are referred to; examine staff and patient perceptions of screening and referral; and see if the education program on psycho-social education and screening, presented as part of this project, is adequate and appropriate in a regional setting.</p>			

Working together for a healthier country WA

Project Title	2015/05 - Audit of suicide and self-harm data collected by Kimberley Mental Health and Drug Service 2007-2014		
Co-ordinating Principal Investigator	Associate Professor Sivasankaran Balaratnasingam		
Institution	Kimberley Mental Health and Drug Service		
WACHS Region(s)	Kimberley		
Target Population	No primary participant category		
Start Date	10 April 2015	Finish Date	1 May 2016
Kimberley Mental Health and Drug Service (KMHDS) received funding by WA Health Department to provide mental health services in the Kimberley region. As part of the daily clinical work of the KMHDS psychiatrists, an internal register of self-harm and suicide notifications directed to them from various community sources (hospitals, police, other government organisations) has been compiled. The intention is to audit this data in order to provide an up-to-date picture of the age, gender, ethnicity and location of those completing suicide or self-harming in the Kimberley. The project will also assess variables such as mental illness, engagement with health services and risk factors for suicide through access to KMHDS.			

Project Title	2015/03 - A mixed method study on nursing graduate support programs in rural and remote areas of WA		
Co-ordinating Principal Investigator	Ms Amanda Fowler		
Institution	Edith Cowan University		
WACHS Region(s)	All WACHS regions		
Target Population	No primary participant category		
Start Date	20 March 2015	Finish Date	31 August 2016
The aim of this study is to examine the experiences of new graduate nurses in rural and remote Western Australia. The study will determine if the current graduate programs adequately support the nurses during their transition and appropriately prepare the nurses for rural and remote practice. The overall aims are to provide an in-depth understanding of the barriers and facilitators of high quality graduate programs in order to inform policy and improve practice, and ultimately reduce the attrition rates of rural and remote nursing graduates.			

Working together for a healthier country WA

Project Title	2015/08 - Amphetamine psychosis in a large Western Australian country town: A retrospective cross sectional study		
Co-ordinating Principal Investigator	Dr Lisa Smith		
Institution	WA Health (WACHS)		
WACHS Region(s)	Great Southern		
Target Population	People with a cognitive impairment, an intellectual disability or a mental illness; People who may be involved in illegal activity		
Start Date	17 April 2015	Finish Date	1 April 2016
<p>The aim of this research is to investigate the number of presentations to Albany Regional Hospital during the years 2004, 2009 and 2014 in which patients have been diagnosed with an illicit drug induced psychosis. The research then seeks to see if the rate of amphetamine psychosis is increasing, decreasing or stable in the Albany catchment area and to compare this to other Australian data. The research also aims to identify if methamphetamines caused a larger portion of amphetamine induced psychoses in 2014 than in 2004 and 2009.</p>			

Project Title	2015/09 - Quality improvement in indigenous primary health care: lessons from the best to better the rest		
Co-ordinating Principal Investigator	Associate Professor Sarah Larkin		
Institution	James Cook University		
WACHS Region(s)	Kimberley		
Target Population	Aboriginal and/or Torres Trait Island peoples		
Start Date	17 April 2015	Finish Date	1 December 2017
<p>Improving the quality and consistency of primary health care (PHC) provided to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people is an essential part of the Federal Government's Close the Gap program. A range of Indigenous PHC centres provide primary health care services for Indigenous people, however, the quality of care provided by such services, and the intermediate health outcomes achieved, varies significantly.</p> <p>Little previous research has investigated the contextual factors around a particular service that influence the success of quality improvement initiatives. In line with National Health Medical Research Council research priorities and the Close the Gap strategy, this project aims to transfer knowledge about the processes that facilitate the success of quality improvement initiatives in these services through systematic study of services able to dramatically improve their performance.</p>			

Working together for a healthier country WA

Project Title	2015/10 - Audit-C screening and brief intervention: Midwifery education project		
Co-ordinating Principal Investigator	Dr Tracy Reibel		
Institution	Telethon Kids Institute		
WACHS Region(s)	Pilbara		
Target Population	Women who are pregnant and the human fetus		
Start Date	28 May 2015	Finish Date	30 September 2016
<p>It is known that a large proportion of Australian women consume alcohol during pregnancy and this is associated with a range of adverse effects on the fetus, encompassed in the term Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD). This project is part of a broader strategy being undertaken by the Alcohol and Pregnancy Research Group at the Telethon Kids Institute aimed at the prevention, intervention, diagnosis and management of FASD.</p> <p>This project is aimed at improving the capacity of midwives to routinely use a screening tool with pregnant women and provide a brief intervention during the usual course of antenatal care. It is a direct result of research with midwives which identified that midwives believe this is an important aspect of antenatal care, but do not always feel well equipped to either screen for alcohol use or provide brief intervention.</p>			

*Working together for a healthier **country** WA*

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 outcomes from this 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, 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.
-

*Working together for a healthier **country** WA*