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

Dr Olivia King\textsuperscript{1, 2, 3} and Dr Rosalie Boyce\textsuperscript{1, 2}

\textsuperscript{1}Barwon Health
\textsuperscript{2}South West Healthcare
\textsuperscript{3}Monash Centre for Scholarship in Health Education
Background

New allied health research and translation lead roles across Victoria

Olivia King + Rosalie Boyce = 1.0EFT

Barwon Health and South West Healthcare conjoint role

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

Start-up context:

1) Brand new roles
2) Limited existing allied health research infrastructure
• Clinician engagement with research is fundamental to high quality healthcare (Pickstone et al., 2008; Research Australia, 2015; Slade et al., 2018)

• Varying levels of engagement within the allied health workforce:

  - Evidence consumers
  - Advanced research literacy
  - Actively undertaking research
  - Leaders in research
  - Generators of research
  - Translators of research

Adapted from the Victorian allied health research framework, 2018

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

**ASSETS**
- Allied health
- Partnerships
- Enablers
- Amplifiers
- Funders

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

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

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

**ADVANCEMENT & INNOVATION**
- Strategic planning
- Focal priorities
- Emerging opportunities

© Boyce & King
March 2019
Key aim of the review was to accelerate research capacity building through:

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

Rapid review (Grant and Booth, 2009)

Documentary analysis of existing secondary data sources:

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

Victorian Allied Health Research Conference (2017, 2019)

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

Content analysis (Heieh & Shannon, 2005)

Titles, abstracts, biographies
Findings: SNAPSHOT

64 allied health professionals

14 disciplines

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

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

Glen Watson Photography, 2018

OUR VALUES / RESPECT / COMPASSION / COMMITMENT / ACCOUNTABILITY / INNOVATION
Physiotherapists (31%) and occupational therapists (22%) presented their research work more frequently than those from the other AH disciplines. Dietitians (9%), exercise physiologists (8%), allied health assistants (8%) and podiatrists (5%) also represented.

Presenters were more frequently female (78%).
More than half (53%) of the research presented related to **service models** or **models of care**

22% related to **discipline specific** (e.g. physio hydrotherapy service, OT upper limb rehab)

20% related to a particular **health condition** (e.g. diabetes, stroke ...)

16% related to **education and training** (qualified allied health and students on placement)

http://www.flickr.com/photos/ntubrackenhurst/4350388699/
Findings: research topics according to disciplines

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

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

Dietitians presented more frequently on models of care.

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

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

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

Some have presented at discipline or condition-specific conferences

Multi-site clinical trials
Opportunities

- Identification of a research-engaged cohort across the region
- Linkages of researcher clinicians advancement along the research engagement continuum
- Establish patterns in terms of research strengths and interests across the region
- Aid in developing and encouraging networks and opportunities for collaboration
Next steps

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

Thank you *Conference Design*
Anna Patterson and Liz Hafner
for assistance

This Photo by Unknown Author is licensed under CC BY-SA
References


