



Government of **Western Australia**
Department of **Health**

Department of Health Western Australia Human Research Ethics Committee

Project Summaries for Approved Proposals

October to December 2018 Quarter

Project summaries for proposals approved by the Department of Health Human Research Ethics Committee – October to December 2018 quarter.

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 Department of Health Human Research Ethics Committee (DOH HREC). It contains lay description/summaries of projects approved in the October to December 2018 quarter.

Project Title	Risk management of waterborne pathogens in public swimming pools and splash parks.		
Principal Investigator	Professor Una Ryan		
Institution	Murdoch University		
Start Date	16/09/2018	Finish Date	30/04/2021
<p>Cryptosporidiosis caused by the parasite <i>Cryptosporidium</i> has been a notifiable disease in Australia since 2001 and is the leading cause of swimming pool-derived gastrointestinal illness. Unlike most other pathogens, it is resistant to normal chlorine levels used for pool disinfection, can survive in the environment for months if kept moist and presents an ongoing infection risk. This project will use the latest Next-Generation Sequencing techniques to determine the diversity and prevalence of <i>Cryptosporidium</i> subtypes in notified cryptosporidiosis to determine <i>Cryptosporidium</i> subtypes identified in sporadic cases.</p>			

Project Title	Follow-up of the long-term effects of a physical activity intervention on cognition, mental health, physical activity, quality of life and the utilisation of health services.		
Principal Investigator	Associate Professor Kay Cox		
Institution	The University of Western Australia		
Start Date	01/10/2018	Finish Date	01/10/2019
<p>This study aims to conduct the first ever long-term follow-up of people at risk of Alzheimer's disease who participated in a 6-month physical activity program with an initial 12-month follow-up. The current study will identify the number of people diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease, other major health problems or who are deceased. The study will examine how these conditions are related to cognitive and physical health. Information will also be collected on what community health services have been used. Potentially this study may significantly influence the recommendations for physical activity and good brain health for those at increased risk of Alzheimer's disease.</p>			

Project Title	Descriptive and comparative analysis of elective orthopaedic foot surgery waiting times within the West Australian public health system.		
Principal Investigator	Associate Professor Reza Naraghi		
Institution	The University of Western Australia		
Start Date	21/09/2018	Finish Date	20/03/2019
<p>This project aims to investigate elective surgery waiting times for elective orthopaedic foot procedures within the WA public health system from financial year 2013/14 to 2017/18 within the three clinical urgency categories for surgery. It also aims to compare several elective orthopaedic foot surgery waiting times with elective orthopaedic non-foot procedures to gain an appreciation for the differences in wait times within the two groups. The rationale behind the study revolves around the hypothesis that elective orthopaedic foot surgery wait times are unacceptably high and they can potentially be reduced by introducing Podiatric surgeons (podiatrist who have undertaken further training in foot and ankle surgery) into Australia's public health system, as they are currently not utilised within the public sector.</p>			

Project Title	Clinical outcomes of Alternative model of Cardiac rehabilitation for Cost Effective Secondary prevention (ACCES) project.		
Principal Investigator	Dr Linda Coventry		
Institution	Edith Cowan University		
Start Date	22/10/2018	Finish Date	20/12/2020
<p>A research translation project was undertaken at Royal Perth Hospital in 2014 entitled, an Alternative model of Cardiac rehabilitation for Cost Effective Secondary prevention (ACCES). It was designed to improve efficiencies and increase the flow of patients following a heart attack to cardiac rehabilitation services, without increasing staff or resources. This 2014 study demonstrated improved throughput and cost effectiveness through a redesign of the service. The purpose of this research is to further evaluate this previous project and look at the long term outcomes of these patients. These outcomes include death and readmission to hospital. This will help determine whether the effect of increased cardiac rehabilitation uptake demonstrated in the ACCES group translates to fewer hospital readmissions and less deaths.</p>			

Project Title	Case-control study of the effectiveness of rotavirus vaccination during a G2P[4] rotavirus epidemic in the Northern Territory & Western Australia		
Principal Investigator	Associate Professor Thomas Snelling		
Institution	Menzies School of Health Research		
Start Date	01/12/2018	Finish Date	31/10/2020
<p>This study will conduct a retrospective case-control study of a rotavirus outbreak in Central Australia and rural/remote Western Australia. This study will determine the real-world vaccine effectiveness of oral Rotarix (RV1) rotavirus vaccine and oral RotaTeq (RV5) rotavirus vaccine amongst children aged \geq six weeks, during a rotavirus epidemic that occurred between March and June 2017. Secondary analysis will compare the protection afforded by complete versus partial vaccination, and investigate for evidence of waning immunity in the second year of life.</p>			

Project Title	Exploring health and justice outcomes in Aboriginal children: a follow-up study of the Western Australian Aboriginal Child Health Survey cohort using data linkage		
Principal Investigator	Mr Francis Mitrou		
Institution	Telethon Kids Institute		
Start Date	01/01/2019	Finish Date	30/12/2026
<p>Aboriginal children and families face the highest levels of disadvantage of any population group in Australia across health, education, child protection, justice and other human service domains, but longitudinal data to inform policy is scant. The overall aim of this project is provide evidence-based information to Aboriginal communities, governments and non-government agencies to guide changes to policy and practice to improve life outcomes for Aboriginal children. This project will investigate multiple (social, health, environmental) influences on Aboriginal children's pathways towards and <i>away from</i> contact with the child protection, police and justice system in Western Australia. It will also examine early life influences on long-term educational and health outcomes, as well as intergenerational outcomes.</p> <p>This is a data linkage study primarily linking prospectively and retrospectively the survey interview records of 11,404 participants in the WA Aboriginal Child Health Survey (WAACHS) to administrative data collected by State Government health, education, child protection and justice agencies (including police, courts, and corrections data). Of the 11,404 participants, data was collected on 5,289 children aged 0-17 years, and 6,115 other family members and relatives (2,113 primary carers and 1,040 other carers) living in the household. WAACHS children will be aged 17–36 years by the end of 2018 and many will have children themselves.</p> <p>Findings will be disseminated via a variety of formats including ongoing feedback to our Aboriginal stakeholder organisations, peer reviewed journal articles, issue reports to government, internet websites, and through conference presentations. The dissemination format will be decided by agreement with our government and Aboriginal stakeholders with the research outputs designed for direct translation into policy and practice.</p>			

Project Title	Contribution of Western Australian data to a global RSV Mortality Database (RSV GOLD-WA)		
Principal Investigator	Professor Louis Bont		
Institution	Wilhelmina Children's Hospital, University Medical Center NETHERLANDS		
Start Date	22/11/2018	Finish Date	31/12/2020
<p>Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) is an important cause of hospitalisation in young children. RSV has also been associated with deaths in infants younger than 12 months of age. However, there is lack of information regarding RSV-related deaths overall in young children aged less than 5 years. There is currently no vaccine against RSV but several vaccine candidates are in late stage clinical trials being conducted around the world. "RSV GOLD – a Global RSV Mortality Database" is a global study being conducted by researchers in the Netherlands to determine the worldwide age distribution of children dying from RSV and to understand the clinical and socio-economic characteristics of these children. On-going research investigating respiratory infections in a total population birth cohort of Western Australia and a high-risk cohort of infants also in Western Australia has identified a significant burden of RSV including some deaths. RSV GOLD-WA has been established in order to contribute these RSV-related deaths to the RSV GOLD global mortality database.</p>			

Project Title	An empirical framework for assessing mortality and morbidity in people with psychotic disorders: A 7-year prospective and 10-year retrospective follow-up of 2075 participants in the Survey of High Impact Psychosis (SHIP) using linked registers		
Principal Investigator	Professor Vera Morgan		
Institution	The University of Western Australia		
Start Date	17/12/2018	Finish Date	31/12/2020
<p>This study builds on a rare opportunity to extract and analyse mortality and physical health morbidity outcome data from State and national administrative registers for a comprehensively characterised and a nationally representative sample of 1988 out of 2075 people with psychotic illness, who were first interviewed and assessed in 2010/2012 as part of the national Survey of High Impact Psychosis (SHIP) and who have provided consent for linkage. Its objective is to fill the knowledge gap on mortality and morbidity and address health inequities in people with psychotic illness. First, it will establish much needed Australian benchmarks on mortality and morbidity for monitoring the impact of public health policies and procedures on changes in mortality and morbidity rates. Second, it will form the basis for reformulating risk prediction for cardio-metabolic disease specifically for people with severe mental illness. Finally, accurate data on the economic burden of mortality and morbidity in psychotic illness from both governmental and societal perspectives will provide further imperative to reformulate public health interventions.</p>			

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