ECU and the City of Wanneroo to promote Age-Friendly Strategy in community

The School of Nursing and Midwifery in collaboration with the City of Wanneroo and ECU Psychology and Exercise Physiology have undertaken the project “Strengthening Mind and Body Self-Management (SaMBa): A community facility based multifactorial intervention to improve health in older adults.

The program was developed as an intervention to enhance successful ageing, through the promotion of well-being for those 65 years or older, living with age-related functional disability or frailty. The benefit for this group is the promotion of successful ageing, spanning both mental and physical aspects to enhance quality of life, and for the wider Western Australian community, the potential continuation of a community facility led healthy ageing program.

Contents

Message from the Associate Dean Research
Centre for Nursing, Midwifery and Health Services Research
Our Researchers
Research Highlights
Applying for a Research Degree

ECU is committed to reconciliation and recognises and respects the significance of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples’ communities, cultures and histories. ECU acknowledges and respects the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, as the traditional custodians of the land. ECU acknowledges and respects its continuing association with Nyoongar people, the traditional custodians of the land upon which its campuses stand.
Message from the Associate Dean Research

The Centre for Nursing, Midwifery and Health Services Research is a centre of excellence in research, proudly attributing this success to the research programs we have implemented, as well as our research team with links to international experts, leaders in industry, and clinical professionals.

We offer supervision both on campus and online. This means that higher degree by research students can study in their home country with remote supervision or come to Perth or Bunbury to study.

Our research programs were developed with the vision to positively impact on health and well-being and our work is underpinned by three cross cutting principles:

- Engagement with service users, families and communities;
- Commitment to conceptual and methodological innovation;
- Translation – consideration of the policy relevance and practical application of findings.

Research at the Centre for Nursing, Midwifery and Health Services Research crosses the life span from health promotion, health maintenance and disease prevention through to end of life care, engaging with local and global communities.

I would like to acknowledge the staff of the Centre for Nursing, Midwifery and Health Services Research for their consistent hard work in undertaking and producing quality research and securing funding to achieve our goal of shaping policy and practice to implement change in health care and make a positive difference to the community.

Professor Lisa Whitehead
Associate Dean Research
School of Nursing & Midwifery

Flexible Study

At the School of Nursing and Midwifery, we understand that everyone is different. We all have different work arrangements, family responsibilities, learning styles and locations. That’s why we offer the flexibility of studying many of our postgraduate courses online. This includes postgraduate taught units, Masters by Research and Doctor of Philosophy, including the Integrated PhD for students both domestic and overseas.

Tutorials are delivered via virtual classrooms and can be accessed anywhere, at any time, with regular support allowing access to supervisors and the ability to ask real time questions. Our online students receive our full support, just like their on-campus equivalents.
Centre for Nursing, Midwifery and Health Services Research

Our research programs have consistently received the maximum rating (5) for quality through the Excellence in Research for Australia framework. Our research in the fields of chronic disease management, child and family health, workforce and health services are recognised as innovative and relevant to national and international audiences. We collaborate with world-class researchers, industry leaders and clinical experts in the development, conduct and application of our research in our drive to conduct high quality research with real world impact.

At the Centre for Nursing, Midwifery and Health Services Research, we undertake innovative research to develop knowledge, evaluate effectiveness and implement change in healthcare through interventions, treatments and knowledge to transform and shape policy and practice.

Safety and Quality in Healthcare
Research group focus:
- Workforce (policy, planning and delivery and mediators of healthcare system outcomes).
- Quality improvement and quality assessment.
- Monitoring and medical errors, adverse events, sentinel events, patient safety.
- Accreditation policies, regulations and processes.
- Future workforce development.

Improving Outcomes for Adults with Chronic Health Conditions
Innovative care delivery and person centered outcomes in:
- Self-management;
- Families;
- Palliative care;
- eHealth;
- Mental Health; and
- Clinical discovery.

Childbearing, Children and Young People
Research group goals:
- The goal of the program is to discover and implement ways to improve the care and experience of childbearing women and their families through pregnancy and postpartum up to the age of 18 years.
- The program aims to positively impact local, national and international practice in midwifery, children and young people.

For more information, visit: [www.ecu.edu.au/schools/nursing-and-midwifery/our-research](http://www.ecu.edu.au/schools/nursing-and-midwifery/our-research)

If you are interested in applying to ECU and want to discuss a specific project proposal, please contact:

Professor Lisa Whitehead
Associate Dean Research
Telephone: +61 8 6304 2641
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Our Researchers

Professor Di Twigg
Executive Dean
PhD, MBA, BHSc (Hons)

Professor Di Twigg is Executive Dean of the School of Nursing and Midwifery and Research Consultant in the Centre for Nursing Research at Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital.

As Executive Dean she is the Executive leader of the School, and is accountable to the Vice-Chancellor for its effective leadership and management. As a member of the University Executive, she also provides strategic leadership to the wider University and undertakes a strong engagement role nationally and internationally. Previously, Professor Twigg spent most of her career in the health industry and has held several senior health executive roles, most notably as Executive Director of Nursing Services at Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital, a 600 bed Magnet designated teaching hospital.

Selected Publications

Journal Articles


Contact:
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Telephone: (61 8) 6304 2400

Research Interests:
- Nursing workforce and patient outcomes research which specifically relates to safe staffing levels and the relationships between staffing, patient, organisational and economic outcomes
- Safe assimilation of support staff into the clinical workplace
- Patient and staff outcomes in Magnet designated organisations
Professor Lisa Whitehead  
Associate Dean Research  
PhD

Lisa’s research experience over the past 23 years has centred on improving health outcomes for people living with chronic conditions, self-management interventions and working with families to support the management of chronic conditions. Engagement with clinicians and conducting research in real world settings underpin all of her research activities with the aim to implement enduring evidence based change in practice. The majority of Lisa’s research and clinical practice has been in the primary health care setting and collaborations are always multidisciplinary. In her role as Professor of Nursing Research, at Edith Cowan University (ECU), Western Australia, Lisa leads the research group “Improving health outcomes for people living with chronic conditions”. Lisa also holds the roles of Associate Dean Research, School of Nursing and Midwifery; Director of the Centre for Nursing, Midwifery and Health Services Research, ECU and is an honorary professor of research at the University of Otago, New Zealand. Previous positions include the roles of Head of Department and Director of the Strategy to Advance Research (STAR) in nursing and allied health, a national initiative funded by the New Zealand government.

Lisa has been awarded over $5M in research funding during her career and is currently an investigator on a $1.11M grant to explore factors predicting regression from pre-diabetes to normal glucose regulation, funded by the Health Research Council (HRC) of New Zealand. Lisa publishes regularly in nursing and wider health journals and values capacity building of early career researchers and higher degree by research students through research experience, publication and presentations. Lisa has supervised 12 PhD students to completion and over 30 Masters students, regularly acts as a PhD examiner, and is currently supervising eight PhD students and two Masters by Research students. Lisa reviews research grants for a number of funding bodies including the Health Research Council and Lottery Health Research.

Selected Publications

Journal Articles


Contact:
Email: l.whitehead@ecu.edu.au  
Telephone: (61 8) 6304 2641

Research Interests:
- Improving clinical outcomes for people with chronic conditions
- Family interventions to support the management of chronic conditions in adults
- Supporting older adults to age in place
- mHealth interventions.
Associate Professor Diana Arabiat
PhD, MSc, BSc
Diana is an Associate Professor of Clinical Research and Innovation in the School of Nursing and Midwifery. She received her PhD in nursing studies from Hull University in England, and her Master’s degree in clinical nursing from the University of Boras in Sweden, and the University of Jordan. Diana has over 35 published articles in a number of international journals with high impact factors and two published books in paediatric nursing. Her principal research interests are in child and adolescent health, in particular the impact of long term illnesses on children’s health, adjustment and quality of life, as well as the child’s experience in coping with long term illness such as cancer. She has particular expertise and interest in the influence of Arab culture and its beliefs from an emotional and psychological perspective.

Selected Publications

Journal Articles

Contact:
Email: d.arabiat@ecu.edu.au
Telephone: (61 8) 6304 3544

Research Interests:
- Child and adolescent mental health and coping
- Care needs of Children and Families
- Chronic illness and long-term care
- Child and Adolescent Development
- Child and Adolescent Anxiety and/or Depression
- Psychometrics (Research Methodology)
Associate Professor Sara Bayes
Associate Dean Midwifery
PhD, RN, RM, PGDip Midwifery, Dip Nurs

Following seven years practice as a nurse in general and specialist palliative care settings in the UK and Australia, Sara qualified as a Registered Midwife in Australia in 2002. She has since worked clinically in a range of maternity settings and models of care, including in private practice supporting women to birth at home.

Sara became involved in midwifery education in 2006 and since then has undertaken a variety of roles in that context including lecturer, tutor, unit coordinator, course coordinator, program director and program developer/accreditation lead.

Sara completed her PhD in 2010, after which she spent two years in the UK as a post-doctoral fellow with the National Institute of Health Research developing and refining research implementation (knowledge translation) methodologies. She is a longstanding member of the Australian College of Midwives, currently the Deputy Chair of the WA Branch and a member of the College’s National Midwifery Education Advisory Committee. Sara continues to teach in the ECU midwifery courses and conducts original research; she also supervises MRes and PhD students undertaking research on midwifery and maternity care topics. Her research interests include antenatal education, woman-centred maternity care and the translation of evidence into practice.

Recent Publications
Journal Articles
- Wang, C., Whitehead, L., & Bayes, S. (2017). They are friendly but they don’t want to be friends with you: A narrative inquiry into Chinese nursing students learning experience in Australia. Journal of Nursing Education and Practice, 7(8), 27. DOI:10.5430/jnep.v7n8p27.

Contact:
Email: s.bayes@ecu.edu.au
Telephone: (61 8) 6304 3508

Research Interests:
- Midwifery: Woman-centred maternity care; Antenatal preparation for pregnancy and the puerperium
- Qualitative research: Grounded theory; Narrative Inquiry
- Implementation science: Organisational readiness for change
Associate Professor Angela Christiansen
Associate Dean Teaching & Learning
PhD, MSc, PGDipEd, BSc (Hons)

Associate Professor Angela Christiansen is an experienced educationalist and researcher who has held senior academic leadership roles in Australia and the UK. As Associate Dean Teaching and Learning, she provides academic leadership to staff within the School to ensure an excellent student experience. She is committed to the development and enhancement of professional education through innovation, collaborative relationships with industry and evidence informed teaching and learning practice.

Her research interests include teaching and learning particularly in relation to those factors that influence student engagement and success. She is a Fellow of the Higher Education Academy and was a Quality Reviewer of Professional Registration Programmes on behalf of the UK Nursing and Midwifery Council. Her clinical research interests include workforce development, service improvement and innovation, and safe and compassionate practice. In the UK Angela has led projects in partnership with NHS organisations, including NHS England to evaluate service improvement, patient safety enhancement and other key initiatives. She has a number of collaborative projects in progress with industry partners in Australia including a project to identify the role, impact and experiences of volunteers working with frail elderly in acute care services. She is a reviewer for a number of professional journals including The Journal of Clinical Nursing, Nurse Education Today and the Journal of Leadership and Management.

Selected Publications

Journal Articles

Contact:
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Telephone: (61 8) 6304 2685

Research Interests:
- Professional education including student success and engagement
- Qualitative and mixed methods research
- Patient safety and compassionate care
- Health Service improvement, innovation and evaluation
Dr Gideon de Jong  
PhD, MSc, BSc
Dr Gideon de Jong is a Senior Lecturer and researcher in mental health nursing and public/community mental health issues within the School of Nursing and Midwifery. Gideon began his career as a Registered Nurse in various mental health care units of GGZ Drenthe in the north of the Netherlands and Arkin in Amsterdam. Prior to his appointment at ECU, he held a position as Researcher and Lecturer at the VU University Medical Center (Vrije Universiteit medisch centrum, Amsterdam), Department of Medical Humanities, working on the project “Process and outcomes of Family Group Conferencing in mental health care”. Since 2013 he has held an appointment as Research fellow at the University of San Gil (UNISANGIL), Colombia, where he is involved in improving the research capabilities of teachers within the UNISANGIL. He also worked part-time as a researcher from 2008 to 2013 at the University of Groningen and the Hanze University of Applied Sciences. Gideon has a strong interest in mental health research, particularly in family and social network involvement and supported decision-making.

Selected Publications

Journal Articles


Contact:
Email: g.dejong@ecu.edu.au
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Research Interests:
- Public/community mental health issues
- Family Group Conferencing
- Supported decision-making
- Family and carers involvement
**Dr Beverley Ewens**  
**Director Postgraduate Nursing Studies**  
**PhD, PGradDip, BSc (Hons)**

Dr Beverley Ewens is currently Director of Postgraduate Nursing Studies within the School of Nursing and Midwifery, as well as coordinator of many of the postgraduate programs. Beverley has also held positions as Critical Care Manager, Nurse Consultant, and Ward Manager in the UK and Australia. Her research areas of interest include intensive care recovery and all aspects of intensive care nursing, including the implementation of ICU patient diaries. Her current research focuses on the psychological outcomes of an innovative ICU recovery program. She is also leading a research project exploring the experiences of patients diagnosed with acute delirium and their families’ in a hospital setting. The management of Class III obese patients in a range of clinical settings is also a research focus. Beverley received the Vice-Chancellor’s Award for Excellence in Teaching in 2014.

**Selected Publications**

**Journal Articles**


**Contact:**

Email: b.ewens@ecu.edu.au  
Telephone: (61 8) 6304 3542

**Research Interests:**

- Intensive care recovery
- Intensive care nursing
- Obesity
Dr Sadie Geraghty  
BA (Hons), BSc (Hons), MMid, MEdRM, PhD

Sadie Geraghty is Coordinator of the Master of Midwifery Practice program and a Senior Lecturer in Nursing. Sadie has a background in clinical midwifery, specialising in drug and/or alcohol use in antenatal, intrapartum and postnatal care, and also has an interest in Indigenous cultures and birth, and work-related stress issues in midwives. Sadie’s research interests focus on workforce issues within the midwifery profession and why people choose to be a midwife, how they cope with the demands of the role, and what keeps them in the profession. In 2016, Sadie was awarded with the Vice Chancellor’s Award for Excellence in Teaching: For innovation and excellence in the teaching of the Master of Midwifery Practice.

Recent Publications

Journal Articles


Contact:  
Email: s.geraghty@ecu.edu.au  
Telephone: (61 8) 6304 3485

Research Interests:
- Work-related stress in midwives
- Drug and alcohol misuse in pregnancy
- Midwives intention to stay in their job & profession
Associate Professor Elisabeth Jacob
Associate Dean Nursing
PhD, MEd

Elisabeth Jacob is an experienced clinical nurse, educationalist and researcher. Her strong clinical links provide essential networks for her research areas of evidence based practice, nurse education, and nursing workforce. In her position as Associate Dean Nursing she is responsible for the leadership of curriculum design, development and delivery for nursing programs.

Elisabeth’s research has made a significant contribution to the body of literature around nursing education, transition to practice, and various nursing workforce roles and responsibilities. Her research is heavily applied, and she has an impressive publication list with a number of high quality papers and reports. She has also co-authored a nursing textbook. Current projects include investigating the evidence base for the collection of blood samples through peripheral intravenous cannulas, simulation in health education and the development of an educational program for carers of people with younger onset dementia.

Selected Publications
Journal Articles

Contact:
Email: e.jacob@ecu.edu.au
Telephone: (61 8) 6304 3487

Research Interests:
- Health education
- Nursing workforce
- Evidence Based Practice
- Rural and remote nursing
- Mixed methods research
Associate Professor Deborah Kirk Walker  
**DNP, FNP-BC, NP-C, AOCN, FAANP**  
Deborah is an Associate Professor in the School of Nursing and Midwifery at Edith Cowan University. She received her BSN in 1995 and MSN in 1999 from Troy University, USA and her Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) from the University of South Alabama, USA in 2007. She has practiced for more than 19 years as an oncology nurse practitioner in various settings, having recently managed patients with breast cancer and lymphoma. Her current work is expanding cancer/supportive care nursing and nurse practitioner education at home and in parts of sub-Saharan Africa. Additionally, she has developed and expanded a mobile application for cancer resources for community resources locally in Alabama to help fill a gap identified in the clinical setting. Dr Walker has published her work in various journals including the Clinical Journal of Oncology Nursing and the Journal of Pediatric Nursing, as well as chapters in the Clinical Manual for the Oncology Advanced Practice Nurse, Core Curriculum for Oncology Nursing (5th and 6th eds.), 21st Century Nursing Leadership, and Diseases of the Breast (5th ed.) medical text book, among others. Currently she is an editor for the Chemotherapy Handbook, 4th ed. Dr Walker is a recognised leader among the oncology community both locally, nationally and internationally. She is the immediate past president of the Oncology Nursing Society Foundation (2016-17) and served on the Oncology Nursing Society Board of Directors as Director at Large (2012-15). Her recent awards include the 2015-16 American Association of Colleges of Nursing Excellence and Innovation in Teaching; the 2016 American Cancer Society Lane Adams Quality of Life Award; and in 2017, she was inducted into the American Association of Nurse Practitioners as a Fellow (FAANP).

**Selected Publications**

**Book Chapters**

**Journal Articles**

**Contact:**
Email: d.kirkwalker@ecu.edu.au  
Telephone: (61 8) 6304 2087

**Research Interests:**
- Oncology  
- Survivorship  
- Supportive Care  
- Psycho oncology  
- Palliative Care  
- Mobile Applications for Practice
Dr Rosemary Saunders
PhD, MPH, PGDip, BAppSc, RN

Rosemary Saunders is a Senior Lecturer within the School of Nursing and Midwifery, the Course Coordinator of the Master of Nursing (Graduate Entry) degree and a Research Fellow at Hollywood Private Hospital (HPH). Rosemary has held other academic positions in Western Australia and Brunei, and also worked as a Clinical Nurse Consultant in aged care. Her research areas of interest include older adults, stroke care, palliative care interprofessional practice and education. Her current research at HPH includes an eHealth program for patients undergoing a total hip replacement: A randomised controlled trial; and Non-technical skills of Rapid Response Teams: An observational study. Rosemary was recently awarded an ECU Industry Collaborative grant with HPH to investigate Quality of end-of-life care in hospital: A multi-faceted study of end-of-life care and perceptions of bereaved family and clinical staff.

Rosemary's PhD evaluated the impact of older adults living in residential care as simulated patients, and she is currently conducting other research related to stroke care including Stroke Peer Support Program at a Community Hospital: A Case Study; Supporting the needs of patients and carers following stroke; and Containment strategy for the treatment of intractable faecal incontinence). Rosemary has also completed other research related to interprofessional practice and education in aged care and ambulatory care settings, including undertaking educational research to develop, implement and evaluate an interprofessional education toolkit for staff in residential aged care to better support the care needs of people with cognitive and functional decline.

Selected Publications

Journal Articles
Dr Deborah Sundin

Director, Clinical
PhD, B NursHons

Dr Deborah Sundin has more than 30 years clinical nursing experience in metropolitan, rural and international venues. Her clinical and research passion lies in critical care. Deborah's PhD work examined the clinical decision-making occurring at the termination of care in terms of those factors facilitating or constraining the process and impacting upon the outcome and the experience for the decision-makers (families and clinicians). This project included the development of a new critical post-structural methodology. She has since completed two funded projects in this area.

Dr Sundin has supervised six research and higher degree students to successful completion. She has recently won a Western Australian Department of Health grant worth $89,000 for the development of simulation education materials to be used in teaching health professionals how to ‘break bad news’. She has since lead the $230,000 update of simulation facilities within the $2,000,000 refurbishment of the Nursing and Midwifery demonstration wards.

Selected Publications

Journal Articles
Dr Mandy Towell-Barnard
PhD, MNurs, BNurs
Dr Mandy Towell-Barnard is a Senior Research Fellow in the School of Nursing & Midwifery and an Adjunct Research Fellow in the Centre for Nursing Research at Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital. Mandy is a Registered Nurse and has 23 years’ experience in critical care nursing and teaching critical care nursing. Her research interests include improving outcomes for patients in the acute care setting for people living with diabetes and people living with morbid obesity, aseptic technique, emotional intelligence, and intravascular access devices.

Selected Publications
Journal Articles

Contact:
Email: a.towell-barnard@ecu.edu.au
Telephone: (61 8) 6304 3793
Research Interests:
• Improving outcomes for patients living with diabetes and living with morbid obesity in acute care setting
• Aseptic technique
• Emotional intelligence
• Intravascular access devices
Dr Caroline Vafeas

HDR Coordinator (Admissions)
PhD, MA, BSc

Dr Caroline Vafeas is a Senior Lecturer within the School of Nursing & Midwifery, teaching Older Adult Health and postgraduate studies in Dementia and Gerontology. Caroline was employed as a District Nursing Sister in the UK for 13 years. She then took up the position of Senior Lecturer at the University of Brighton in the UK, before coming to Perth to work as a Project Nurse for Silver Chain. Caroline then moved to Royal Perth Hospital taking up the position of Staff Development Educator, and in 2007 began lecturing at ECU’s School of Nursing & Midwifery. Caroline completed her PhD at ECU in 2013. Her research interests are in the areas of dementia, older adults and aged care, nurse migration, and mentoring undergraduate student nurses.

Selected Publications

Journal Articles

Contact:
Email: c.vafeas@ecu.edu.au
Telephone: (61 8) 6304 3482

Research Interests:
- Dementia
- Older Adults and Aged Care
- Nurse Migration
- Mentoring Undergraduate Student Nurses
Dr Jennifer Wrightson
PhD, MSc

Dr Jennifer Wrightson has extensive qualifications and experience at a senior level in the nursing and midwifery profession. Currently her role includes research, leadership, management and teaching. Jenny is a Senior Lecturer and South West Coordinator Liaison for the Bachelor of Science (Nursing) at the Bunbury Campus. She is also the Unit Coordinator for ‘Law and Ethics in Health’, as well as the site liaison for ‘Clinical Science 3’ and the Master’s unit ‘Foundations of Midwifery Practice’. Jenny supervises PhD students within her areas of interest that includes midwifery, nursing and neonatal care.

Jenny has lived in Western Australia for many years and is a registered Nurse/Midwife and Lactation Consultant. Jenny has achieved multiple qualifications in both Western Australia and the United Kingdom. Her education includes: PhD at Murdoch University, Master of Science and Postgraduate Certificate in Health Professional Education at Huddersfield University (United Kingdom), Postgraduate Certificate in Neonatology through Princess Margaret Hospital and a Bachelor of Science Nursing at Curtin University.

Jenny has gained international and national experience in both teaching and clinical practice. She has taught both nursing and midwifery students within the University of Notre Dame Western Australia as well as Leeds and Hull Universities in the United Kingdom. Previous senior educational roles have included: Acting Assistant Dean/Course Coordinator BHSc Nursing (WA), Senior Lecturer/Course Coordinator for both the Graduate Diploma of Midwifery (WA) University Notre Dame, BHSc(Hons), and the Midwifery (three year direct entry programme) (UK). She has gained experience presenting at conferences both locally, nationally and overseas. Additionally, Jenny has a number of publications relating to her work. Jenny also obtained a substantial scholarship for her PhD from the Peel Health Foundation.

Senior clinical positions include the following: Nurse/Midwife Consultant (WA), Clinical Nurse/Midwifery Specialist (WA), Senior Nurse/Midwife, Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (UK) and Nurse/Midwifery Clinical Educator (WA). Jenny has held extensive membership of professional committees both in Australia and in the United Kingdom

Selected Publications
Journal Articles

Contact:
Email: j.wrightson@ecu.edu.au
Telephone: (61 8) 9780 7724

Research Interests:
• Midwifery and woman centred maternal care: ante partum, intrapartum and post-partum care
• Women’s decision making and induction of labour
• Neonatal care
• Parental perceptions of neonatal care
• Fertility in Muslim women who have FIFO partners
• Regional and remote area midwifery practice
• Qualitative research: Case study, Ethnography and use of a feminist conceptual framework
Midwives attitudes towards women whose pregnancy is complicated by substance misuse disorders

The School of Nursing and Midwifery in collaboration with St John of God Hospital is undertaking a study to identify midwifery attitudes and the development of an integrated care pathway for women who misuse substances during pregnancy. Misuse of illicit and licit substances in pregnancy is a serious public health concern, and is often associated with physical, psychological, emotional and financial costs to women, their families and the greater community.

The study aims to identify midwives’ attitudes towards women whose pregnancy is complicated by substance misuse disorders, and identify education and administration support to improve the attitudes of midwives. In addition, the study aims to develop an integrated care pathway for adequate care to be provided and identify ways to improve the care of women whose pregnancy is complicated by substance misuse.

Evaluation of a remote symptom monitoring system for people receiving adjuvant chemotherapy for breast or colorectal cancer

The aim of this pilot study is to develop and evaluate a web based symptom management monitoring system for patients receiving chemotherapy for breast or colorectal cancer. Consenting participants will record their symptoms electronically (i.e. on a phone, computer, iPad) to allow real time symptom monitoring and management of seven chemotherapy side effects (nausea, vomiting, diarrhoea, constipation, mucositis, neuropathy, fatigue). These participants will use the web platform to complete a symptom management questionnaire and enter data on their temperature once a day (and at any time they feel unwell) for the first month of their chemotherapy regime. This information will be sent in ‘real time’ directly to the study server.

Having entered their symptom information, the patient immediately receives evidence based self-care on the device they are using (phone, computer, iPad) and if symptoms are outside of normal parameters an amber or red alert is generated, depending on symptom severity. Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital Medical Oncology staff will be notified via a pager/phone who can then view the patient’s symptoms and contact them within an agreed timeframe to discuss their symptoms in more detail and advise if further tests or hospital admission are necessary. Participating patients are therefore guided how to handle their symptom/s and are assured that hospital staff will be in contact if an amber alert is triggered or given advice to visit their GP or an emergency department should a red alert be triggered.

The proposed study will offer an innovative symptom management system which supports cancer patients undergoing chemotherapy, to better manage their health at home through the use of remote technology.
Younger Onset Dementia free toolkit available to carers

“Prescription for Life”, an interactive educational resource was collaboratively developed by the School of Nursing and Midwifery and clinical personnel for employed carers of persons living with younger onset dementia (YOD) cared for in the home and residential setting. The resource contains video links, audios from experts in the field and offers a wellbeing approach to YOD care. The resource was developed to increase knowledge and improve care for staff caring for those with YOD as well as to challenge dementia worker’s attitudes and encourage a wellness approach in YOD care. The toolkit is available at [www.lovellfoundation.com.au/younger-onset-dementia-toolkit-for-carers-and-families-free/](http://www.lovellfoundation.com.au/younger-onset-dementia-toolkit-for-carers-and-families-free/)

Health beliefs and folk models of illness in middle eastern communities: A family centred approach

The School of Nursing and midwifery is undertaking studies to develop a conceptual model that encompasses families’ beliefs about the causes of illness and how beliefs among Middle Eastern communities are enacted in relation to treatment and self-management of acute and chronic illnesses across the lifespan.

Using a family-centred approach to health care, a national and international approach is proposed to establish a folk model for the Middle Eastern population. This project will build an initial knowledge base by this team and will lead to further nationally and internationally relevant research in this area. We aim to develop a theory about folk beliefs surrounding the causes of ill health and general health care practices among specific ethnic communities in Western Australia. This model will enable us to identify and understand the health beliefs and care practices in relation to health and illness across parents, children and adolescents. We will specifically explore how these relate to care practices and to the treatment of acute and other chronic illness.

The findings will assist Australian Healthcare professionals in developing cultural competency, and increase their knowledge of health beliefs and practices from a diverse range of ethnicities, in addition to meeting the health needs of this growing population.
The School of Nursing and Midwifery in collaboration with Joondalup Health Campus is undertaking a study to explore the impact of a delirium assessment tool. Delirium is an acute confusional state that is a temporary condition, not a disease. Doctors use the term to describe patients who have lost part or all of their ability to focus attention. Those who have been hospitalised are at higher risk of developing delirium, with medications, illness and surgical procedures all possible factors that might cause someone to have an episode of delirium. The aim of this study is to see whether use of the delirium assessment tool increases recognition of delirium, and whether this improves patient outcomes and management of delirium during a hospital admission.

The findings from this research will help to guide future development and implementation of delirium assessment and staff training in acute care areas.

The impact of a delirium assessment tool on delirium prevalence, outcomes and management during a hospital admission

Explores the practice of blood sampling from Peripheral Intravenous Cannulas in acute healthcare settings

The School of Nursing and Midwifery in collaboration with colleagues from Queensland University of Technology and Advance TAFE in Victoria are undertaking a study to explore the practice of blood sampling from Peripheral Intravenous Cannulas (PIVC) in acute healthcare settings.

PIVC are routinely inserted into patients in acute health services to assist with administration of medications and management of conditions. There appears to be a great degree of variance in practice regarding obtaining blood samples from intravenous cannulas between health services, states in Australia, and individual nurses.

The project will identify the current prevalence of the practice of blood sampling through PIVCs. Based on the results, further research into the safety of blood sampling through PIVCs will be undertaken to inform practice and policy internationally.

Intensive Care Unit Survivors and the use of a web based recovery program to facilitate recovery

The School of Nursing and Midwifery will be undertaking an evaluation of the impact of a web based intensive care recovery program on the mental well-being of intensive care unit (ICU) survivors, and to determine if it is a cost effective approach. Often those requiring admission to an ICU experience physical and psychological complications as a direct result of their critical illness or event and ICU experience. Complications, if left untreated, can affect the quality of life of survivors and impact upon health care resources. This study will evaluate a novel intervention in a group of ICU survivors. The findings from this study will inform a larger study and the wider debate about an appropriate intervention in this population.
Applying for a Research Degree

Getting ready to apply for a research degree can seem quite daunting so we've laid out the following process to assist you. We recommend that you complete your application four to six weeks prior to any deadline. An incomplete application will result in delays, which means you could potentially miss deadlines, so make sure that your application is complete before submitting it.

Check your dates
Masters by Research courses and the Integrated PhD have a specific start date and application deadlines. However, applications for the standard PhD are open all year round. Keep in mind that ECU’s Research Scholarships also have opening and closing dates. If you are interested in applying for a scholarship, visit the Scholarships website: ecu.edu.au/scholarships

Know your topic
You will need to prepare a 300-word abstract and a two-page proposal on your topic. Your initial abstract and proposal will tell us about you, including how much you know about ECU, research in your area of study, how passionate you are about your subject, and how familiar you are with the prospective supervisors within the schools.

Prepare your documents
In addition to your abstract and proposal, you will need to submit the following:
- Academic certificate transcripts (secondary and/or tertiary studies) in both the original language and official certified English translation (if applicable)
- English proficiency test scores
- Copy of passport photo page (if applicable)
- Résumé/Curriculum vitae (if applicable)
- Work reference (if applicable)
- Marriage or name change certificate (if applicable)
- Copies of your Honours or Masters Thesis, as well as any publications you have produced

Receive our initial assessment
The initial assessment will take into account your qualifications, topic, abstract and proposal to ensure it is closely aligned with our areas of research focus, and that we have supervisors in your research area. This can take four to six weeks, depending on academic availability. Please note that during December and January this process may take longer. We will communicate with you via email, so it is important for you to check your email regularly to ensure there are no delays with your application.

Progress your application
If your application satisfies all our criteria, it will be progressed for further assessment. At this stage your qualifications will be verified and a research supervisor will be assigned to you. Processing time for the assessment of your application will vary based on academic availability.

Outcome of your application
You will be advised of the outcome of your application via email. If you are successful, you will receive an offer to commence your studies at ECU.

Accept your offer
Your offer letter will contain specific instructions as to how to accept your offer via our online system.

If you have questions about your application, contact Admissions: HDR.enquiries@ecu.edu.au

Apply directly to ECU or through an agent
Visit the Online Application Portal: apply.ecu.edu.au to apply for your course, including uploading your documents. You can also track the progress of your application here.

Please note that ECU requires certain nationalities to apply via an authorised agent. Visit ecu.edu.au/future-students/applying/find-an-authorised-agent to find an agent near you.
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