



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

Department of Health Western Australia Human Research Ethics Committee

Project Summaries for Approved Proposals

January 2022 to March 2022 Quarter

Project summaries for proposals approved by the Department of Health Human Research Ethics Committee – January 2022 to March 2022 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 descriptions/summaries of projects approved in the January to March 2022 quarter.

Changes made to this report

Previous quarterly reports included a “Start Date” for each project. This has been renamed to clarify that this refers to the Ethics Approval Date.

Previous quarterly reports also included a “Finish Date” for each project. This date referred to the estimated finish date provided by the Principal Investigator at the time of application. As actual finish dates are not available for projects that have been recently approved by the DoH HREC, the “Finish Date” field has been removed to avoid reporting inaccurate data.

The changes made to this report will be reflected in future quarterly reports.

Project Title	RGS 5134: Evaluating the impact of immunisation requirements for enrolment (No Job No Play)
Principal Investigator	Professor Sharyn Burns
Institution	Curtin University
Ethics Approval Date	9 th February 2022

The No Job No Play (NJNP) legislation came into effect in Western Australia in July 2019, requiring children enrolling in child-care services, pre-compulsory schooling and schools to be up to date with their immunisations (National Immunisation Schedule for birth to 4 years). The intention of the NJNP policy is to improve immunisation rates among young children (0-5 years). This evaluation aims to compare the immunisation rates of Western Australian (WA) children impacted by the NJNP legislation prior to and after the implementation of the evaluation. The impact of and unintended consequences of the NJNP legislation on families, early childhood education providers and health care service providers will also be explored. The evaluation will include two phases. Phase one will compare the immunisation rates of children impacted by the NJNP legislation before and after the NJNP legislation was introduced. This will include a scoping review of the literature as well as analysis of WA data from the Australian Immunisation Register (AIR). Phase two will investigate the impact and any unintended consequences of the NJNP legislation on: Families (children under 7 years); Early childhood education providers and; Health care service providers. This phase will include interactive Systems Thinking in Community Knowledge Exchange (STICK-E) workshops; surveys and interviews. STICK-E workshops will engage a purposive sample of stakeholders and consumers. Surveys will be administered to families (parents and/or carers of young children), early childhood providers (school principals/deputy principals, childcare administrators) and health care providers (immunisers). One-on-one interviews will be conducted with a purposive sample of families, early childhood providers and health care providers. Sampling for the survey and interviews will ensure a mix of metropolitan and rural/regional/remote participants from different socio-economic areas. Purposive sampling to ensure families who are eligible for an exemption are recruited will also be employed. This project is funded by the Department of Health (WA).

Project Title	RGS 5186: Perceptions of the scope of practice of the enrolled nurse and advanced skill enrolled nurse
Principal Investigator	Dr Gemma Doleman
Institution	Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital
Ethics Approval Date	11 th January 2022

The aim of the project is to explore how Advanced Skill Enrolled nurses (ASEN's) practice is perceived by ASENs themselves, by other ENs and by staff across HSP. The study will be undertaken using a mixed method design over two phases. For phase one, an online survey will be disseminated via Qualtrics to all ENs, ASENs, staff across HSPs e.g. Manager, staff development and nurses working in public systems in Western Australia. The survey will be available in two versions, one version for the ENs and ASENs exploring their perceptions of their scope of practice and understanding of the difference between being an EN and ASEN. The second version of the survey will be distributed to HSPs and will cover questions related to their experience supporting ENs to obtain an ASEN classification. Both surveys will include demographic related questions. Participants will be recruited by Dr Robina Redknap, Chief Nursing and Midwifery Officer who will send an email to the Executive Directors of Nursing and Midwifery and via CNMO social media accounts inviting participants to complete the survey. Dr Robina Redknap will also send an email to the United Worker Union (UWU) who will send out an invitation through their email distribution lists. The survey link will be provided in the email. Two reminders will be sent to complete the survey. The survey data will be cleaned and analysed in SPSS using descriptive statistics including frequency, means, medians and standard deviations for normally distributed data, and interquartile ranges for non-normally distributed continuous data and frequency distributions (n, %) for categorical data.

For phase two, up to twenty (n=20) interviews will be conducted with Enrolled Nurses and relevant nurses (i.e. junior to senior) in the public sector to explore responses to the survey data in more detail. Participants will be invited to participate in this phase of the study in one of two ways; 1) At the end of the survey instrument Enrolled nurses and Advanced skill Enrolled Nurses will be asked to contact the researchers if they are interested in participating in an interview. 2) An email will be sent out by Dr Robina Redknap to Executive Directors of Nursing and Midwifery and the UWU requesting participants. The interview schedule has been developed by the research team in consultation with the CNMO. The interviews will be conducted via TEAMS/telephone and transcribed verbatim through NVIVO (Research Centre subscription in place for this service). The transcripts will be checked for accuracy and thematic analysis completed to draw out the key findings

Project Title	RGS 5221: Implementing a Statewide Population-Based Cancer Staging Approach into the WA Cancer Registry
Principal Investigator	Professor Rachael Moorin
Institution	Curtin University
Ethics Approval Date	9 th February 2022

The WA Cancer Plan 2020-2025 identified the key strategic action to 'Develop a timely data collection for cancer stage at diagnosis.' The underreporting of stage data and lack of standardised routine collection of stage data by population-based cancer registries (PBCRs) in Australia has been identified as a major limitation. Stage at diagnosis is a strong predictor of cancer survival. It is important for understanding cancer outcomes, guiding cancer control activities, health care services and comparisons with other jurisdictions.

In recognition of this limitation, Curtin University has been contracted by the North Metro Health Service to work with the WA Cancer Registry (WACR) to facilitate development, validation and implementation of methods suitable for routine capture of stage at diagnosis by the WACR for breast and colorectal cancer. The aim of this initiative ultimately is to develop and deliver statewide population-based staging within the WACR utilising machine learning incorporating natural language processing in alignment with objectives identified in the WA Cancer Plan 2020-2025. For this project the focus is on breast and colorectal cancer notifications of diagnoses occurring in 2019 and 2020. There are five phases to the project: 1) develop business rules, 2) develop and test natural language processing/machine learning models, 3) validate the natural language processing/machine learning models, 4) embed the natural language processing/machine learning models into the usual work of the WACR, and 5) demonstrate the value of stage at diagnosis in epidemiological reporting of cancer incidence.

This application for human research ethics approval is to enable the results of this work to be published in peer reviewed literature.

Project Title	RGS 5276: Adverse event reports of anaphylaxis after Comirnaty and Vaxzevria COVID-19 vaccinations, Western Australia, 22 February to 30 June 2021
Principal Investigator	Dr Alexander Shivarev
Institution	Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital
Ethics Approval Date	9 th February 2022

As part of the public health response to the COVID-19 Pandemic, a COVID vaccination programme has been rolled-out in Western Australia (WA) and nationally commencing on 22 February 2021. Globally, reported rates and characteristics of anaphylaxis following COVID-19 vaccination have been variable and local data is needed to support ongoing, safe program implementation within Australia. Adverse events following immunisation are notifiable in WA under the Public Health Act 2016 and case information is routinely collected by the WA Vaccine Safety Surveillance System (WAVSS), including information obtained from assessment by the Specialist Immunisation Clinic (SIC) at Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital. When WAVSS receives reports of anaphylaxis, they refer these cases to the SIC where patients have their clinical history and detailed event history taken. The Brighton Collaboration case definition for level of diagnostic certainty for anaphylaxis is applied to all cases of reported anaphylaxis. Using data that is already collected by WAVSS as part of its usual and routine operations, this project aims to describe the rates and characteristics of reported anaphylaxis and confirmed anaphylaxis occurring during WA's COVID vaccination programme between 22 February to 30 June 2021, providing Australian data.

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