2025

Nursing Research Institute
Annual Report

NRI NURSING RESEARCH INSTITUTE
St Vincent's Health Network Sydney | St Vincent's Hospital Melbourne
Australian Catholic University

ACU
AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY

ST VINCENT'S HEALTH NETWORK SYDNEY

ST VINCENT'S HOSPITAL MELBOURNE

ST VINCENT'S ALLIED HEALTH RESEARCH UNIT

2025 AT A GLANCE

NURSING RESEARCH INSTITUTE

19

NRI STAFF

5

NRI CLINICIAN RESEARCHERS

13

NRI GRANTS AWARDED

NRI TOTAL GRANTS AWARDED

$26,909,539

1 X Category 1
12 Category 2 & 3

29

PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

339 SINCE 2009

27

RESEARCH PROJECTS

10

PROJECTS WITH OUR RESEARCH PARTNERS

2025 AT A GLANCE

ALLIED HEALTH RESEARCH UNIT

4
AHRU STAFF

13
AHRU CLINICIAN RESEARCHERS

5
AHRU GRANTS AWARDED

AHRU TOTAL GRANTS AWARDED

$2,634,088

1 X Category 1
4 Category 2 & 3

NRI & AHRU - SEMINARS & CONFERENCES

12 SEMINARS

527 ATTENDEES

23 CONFERENCES / INVITED SPEAKERS

54 PRESENTATIONS

ABOUT US

The Nursing Research Institute (NRI) is a collaboration between St Vincent's Health Network Sydney (SVHNS), St Vincent's Hospital Melbourne (SVHM) and Australian Catholic University (ACU). The NRI is a highly productive research collaborative with a national and international reputation for conducting rigorous, nurse and allied health led, multidisciplinary health service and implementation science research.

Our main research focus is identifying the best ways to promote the translation of evidence into clinical practice with the overall goal of improving patient outcomes and health systems. Since 2009, the NRI has brought together researchers and clinicians to conduct clinically relevant, prioritised research. Our researchers have a broad range of research expertise, and collaborate with world-class national and international researchers, multidisciplinary clinicians, consumers and policy makers.

Our Mission

Conduct high-quality, multidisciplinary health research focused on improving patient outcomes and research translation.

Build research capacity through training and mentoring of research students, clinicians and career researchers.

Advise, collaborate and consult on health services and translational research with clinicians, the health industry, government and consumers.

Create and sustain a collegiate, supportive and high-performance research culture to attract world-class researchers and research students.

DIRECTORS' REPORT

Welcome to the 2025 Annual Report for the Nursing Research Institute (NRI).

In 2025, the Nursing Research Institute (NRI) research team comprised **23 core staff** located across New South Wales, Victoria and the Australian Capital Territory. The team worked on **27 projects**, including **14 with our partners**, St Vincent's Health Network Sydney (SVHNS) and St Vincent's Hospital Melbourne (SVHM). In collaboration with national and international research partners, we secured **13 new grants totalling $26,909,539**. NRI researchers produced **29 publications** in high-impact journals. This report showcases the nurse and allied health-led research of NRI staff, students, clinician researchers and other achievements from 2025.

Dr Lauren Christie, based at the NRI within the Allied Health Research Unit (AHRU) and jointly funded by the Australian Catholic University (ACU) and SVHNS as the Allied Health Senior Implementation Science Research Fellow, continued to strengthen and expand the allied health research profile. In 2025, allied health researchers received **5 new grants totalling $2,634,088**, worked on **11 projects**, and were first or co-authors on **9 publications** in high-impact journals.

2025 Highlights

- ★ **Professor Sandy Middleton** was appointed an ACU MacKillop Distinguished Professor, recognising exceptional academic leadership, outstanding scholarly achievement, and contributions that embody the legacy of Saint Mary MacKillop.
- ★ **Professor Sandy Middleton** was recognised in the Stanford University–Elsevier World's Top 2% Scientists list for both career-long impact and for 2024 single-year impact, highlighting her sustained global influence in nursing and health research.
- ★ **Tessa Holman** successfully completed the UNSW Postgraduate Implementation Science course with a High Distinction (93.41%)
- ★ **Kelly Coughlan** completed her PhD, providing important insights into evidence-based stroke protocol implementation
- ★ The **Sydney Partnership for Health, Education, Research and Enterprise (SPHERE) Clinician Researcher Pathway Forum,** hosted by the NRI on 17 September 2025, was opened by Professor Sandy Middleton for an audience of 50. Dr Kim Sutherland, Executive Director, Office for Health and Medical Research**,** delivered the keynote on strengthening the nurse and midwife clinician-researcher workforce in NSW.
- ★ **Dr Lauren Christie** and the AHRU launched the 'Systematic Review Training for Allied Health, SMART-AH Program', to equip frontline clinicians with skills to lead systematic, scoping, or rapid reviews relevant to their practice.
- ★ The **Allied Health Research Working Party** at St Vincent's Health Network Sydney was relaunched, holding three meetings providing peer support, networking and expert guest presentations.

Thank you to our funders, collaborators and hospital partners for another productive year.

Professor Sandy Middleton

Director, Nursing Research Institute

2025 AWARDS & RECOGNITION

ACU MacKillop Distinguished Professor

Professor Sandy Middleton was honoured as one of four inaugural Australian Catholic University (ACU) MacKillop Distinguished Professors. The title is awarded to scholars whose work has made a significant impact in their fields, elevated ACU's global reputation, and demonstrated a strong commitment to leadership, scholarship, and the dignity of every person.

St Vincent's Achievements

St Vincent's Health Network Sydney Allied Health Researcher of the Year

Maddison Smith, PhD Candidate and Allied Health Research Unit Research Officer, won 'Allied Health Researcher of the Year' at the 2025 St Vincent's Health Network Sydney Allied Health Professionals Awards, acknowledging her significant contribution to allied health research and evidence-based practice.

Pictured left to right: Maddison Smith with Dr Lauren Christie, Allied Health Senior Implementation Science Research Fellow, SVHNS and Head of Department, St Vincent's Allied Health Research Unit

St Vincent's Hospital Sydney (SVHS) Policy Update

Nursing Research Institute clinician researchers Kirsty Page and Cristen George led advocacy efforts that resulted in a new institutional policy for aspirin suppository use following stroke. Kirsty is the Stroke Clinical Nurse Consultant at St Vincent's Hospital Sydney (SVHS), and Cristen is an SVHS Pharmacist. These policy changes also align with evidence from the **Quality in Acute Stroke Care (QASC) Trial**, which demonstrated that nurse-led implementation of evidence-based protocols to manage fever, hyperglycaemia and swallowing after stroke significantly reduces death and dependency.

St Vincent's Health Melbourne (SVHM) Nurse Researcher of the Year

Jake McMahon, PhD Candidate and St Vincent's Hospital Melbourne (SVHM) Research Coordinator, won the 2025 'Nurse Researcher of the Year' at the SVHM Nursing Excellence Awards. Jake's project 'Exploring the uptake of evidence-based strategies to manage and prevent pressure injuries in the acute setting', aims to understand and reduce low-value practices associated with pressure injury prevention and management for hospital patients.

St Vincent's Health Precinct Research Week

The Nursing Research Institute (NRI) and Allied Health Research Unit (AHRU) delivered 10 oral presentations and 7 poster presentations during St Vincent's Health Precinct Research Week. Held across various locations on the Darlinghurst campus, the week-long program provided opportunities for researchers and healthcare providers to share their work, learn about research underway across our partners, engage with external experts, and build new connections and collaborations.

2025 AWARDS & RECOGNITION

ACCELERATE Program Achievements

St Vincent's People Awards

WINNER

Patient and Resident Care

FINALIST

Transforming the System: Global Impact

South East Sydney Local Health District Core Awards 2025

WINNER

Excellence in Health Research
Prince of Wales Hospital

The Assessment and Communication Excellence for Safe Patient Outcomes (ACCELERATE) team were recognised for excellence in assessment and communication through the ACCELERATE Program, receiving an award for enhancing patient and resident care as part of the 2025 St Vincent's People Awards. The ACCELERATE program, led by the Nursing Research Institute and conducted at eight hospitals, including St Vincent's Hospital Sydney and St Vincent's Hospital Melbourne, empowered nurses to transform care through systematic assessments, bedside handover and improved teamwork and workflows. It delivered significant reductions in pressure injuries, enhanced safety attitudes and stronger collaboration. Recognised nationally, it stands as a benchmark for cross-campus, nurse-led trials.

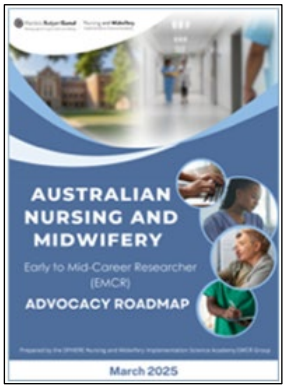
Pictured left to right: Karen Tuqiri, Yvonne Steadward, Prof Sandy Middleton

Winner, *Assessment and Communication Excellence for Safe Patient Outcomes (ACCELERATE) Program*. Enhance our Impact – Patient and Resident Care. The 'Assessment and Communication Excellence for Safe Patient Outcomes' award recognises projects or initiatives that demonstrate excellence in improving patient safety through enhanced assessment and communication practices, particularly in the context of health research. The award focuses on initiatives that improve nurse-led patient assessments, bedside handovers, and the escalation of care.

2025 AWARDS & RECOGNITION

Advocacy & Impact

Nursing and Midwifery Early to Mid-Career Researcher (EMCR) Advocacy Roadmap

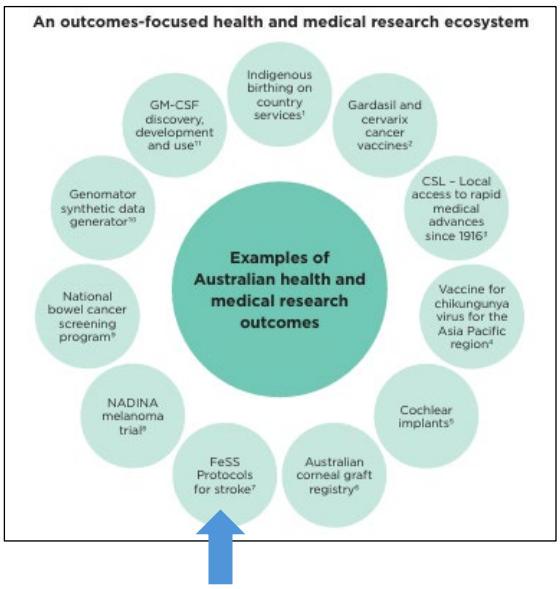


The Roadmap provides a strategic plan to bridge gaps, strengthen collaboration, and foster research-led healthcare innovation. The roadmap was developed through a collaborative process, incorporating insights from over 100 Australian nursing and midwifery Early to Mid-Career Researchers (EMCR), clinical and academic leaders, researchers, and consumer representatives. The result is a comprehensive, sector-wide guide designed to support the growth, visibility and impact of early to mid-career researchers and to drive sustainable advancement in nursing and midwifery research. The EMCR Advocacy Roadmap was led by **Dr Nicola Straiton** through the Charting the Future of Healthcare project, funded by the Australian Academy of Science Theo Murphy Initiative (Flagship Grant).

Global Collaboration: St Vincent's to Dana-Farber Cancer Institute

A pioneering clinical exchange program between St Vincent's Hospital Sydney and the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute in Boston was undertaken to strengthen international collaboration and the sharing of cancer and research expertise. Enabled by the American Australian Association (AAA) and supported by the St Vincent's Curran Foundation and the Delta Goodrem Foundation, the program provided valuable opportunities for learning and innovation. **Dr Nicola Straiton**, Senior Research Fellow at the Nursing Research Institute, and Annabel Horne, Cancer Stream Manager at The Kinghorn Cancer Centre, participated in the exchange program, which supported the hospital's goal of expanding capability in emerging cellular therapies and nursing research.

Fever Sugar Swallow (FeSS) Featured in the Draft National Health & Medical Research Strategy



Nursing Research Institute research on nurse-led Fever, Sugar, Swallow (FeSS) protocols for stroke was recognised at the national level, with the program highlighted in the National Health and Medical Research Strategy as an example of impactful, evidence-based research translation. The Strategy outlines a long-term vision for strengthening Australia's health and medical research system—aiming to align national priorities, improve coordination across government and health services, and ensure research delivers measurable benefits for patients and communities. The inclusion of the FeSS protocols reflects their proven ability to improve stroke outcomes and demonstrates how nurse-led, implementation-focused research can inform policy and contribute to national health reform.

2025 AWARDS & RECOGNITION

Conference & Mentorship Excellence

Australian Cardiovascular Alliance Excellence in Cardiovascular Research Award, Mentor Award

Australian Cardiovascular Alliance

Professor Sandy Middleton was a Finalist for the Australian Cardiovascular Alliance, *Excellence in Cardiovascular Research Award, Mentor Award*. This award serves as an opportunity to recognise and honour exceptional achievements in research, collaboration and mentorship. The award celebrates the accomplishments and significant contributions made by researchers to the cardiovascular and stroke research community in Australia.

Winner, Superlative Award - Scale up of Fever, Sugar, Swallow (FeSS) Protocols in stroke care

Kelly Coughlan was awarded '*Superlative Award Winner*' for her poster at the Combined Evidence and Implementation Summit/Implementation Science Health Conference held on the 27-29 October 2025 in Melbourne. Her doctoral research has provided important insights into how evidence-based stroke protocols are implemented across Australian hospitals. Her work examining clinician perspectives and sustainability factors has strengthened understanding of what supports or hinders best practice stroke care. Kelly's work continues to advance the translation of research into clinical practice and improve outcomes for people with stroke.

Best Scientific Abstract SMART Strokes 2025

Kate Makroglou, Research Occupational Therapist with the Allied Health Research Unit, won '*Best Scientific Abstract*' at the SMART Strokes Annual Scientific Meeting 2025. Her abstract showcased the high quality and relevance of allied health research within the Allied Health Research Unit and was recognised for its scientific rigour, clarity, and contribution to improving stroke rehabilitation practice.

Winner, Best Oral Presentation - Rehabilitation, Recovery and Life after Stroke

Dr Lauren Christie won 'Best Oral presentation, Rehabilitation, Recovery and Life after Stroke', at the Australian New Zealand Stroke Organisation Conference. Dr Christie's presentation was recognised for its strong scientific contribution, clear communication of complex findings, and its importance in advancing understanding of stroke recovery and evidence-based rehabilitation.

Pictured left to right: Dr Lauren Christie with Associate Professor Andrew Wong, ANZO Executive Member

GOVERNANCE

The Steering Committee meets biannually to govern and monitor the Nursing Research Institute's strategic direction. The Management Committee meets three times a year to discuss NRI operational management.

ST VINCENT'S HEALTH AUSTRALIA

NRI STEERING COMMITTEE

Adjunct Professor Anna McFadgen
Chief Executive Officer
St Vincent's Health Network Sydney

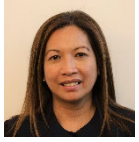
Adjunct Professor Nicole Tweddle
Chief Executive Officer
St Vincent's Hospital Melbourne

NRI MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Travis Brown
Acting Nurse Manager Clinical Practice & Innovation
St Vincent's Hospital Sydney

Rosemary Kennedy
Acting Nurse Manager Clinical Practice and Innovation
St Vincent's Hospital Sydney

NRI STEERING & MANAGEMENT COMMITTEES (JOINT MEMBERS)



Adjunct Professor Jacqueline Bilo
Chief Nursing Office
St Vincent's Hospital Melbourne

Nicole de Tullio
Director of Nursing
St Vincent's Health Network Sydney

EXTERNAL — NRI STEERING COMMITTEE

Professor Emerita Jill White
Professor Emerita
University of Technology Sydney
University of Sydney

AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY

NRI STEERING COMMITTEE

Professor Suzanne Chambers AO
Executive Dean
Faculty of Health Sciences

Professor Abid Khan
Deputy Vice-Chancellor Research and Enterprise

NRI MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Professor Karen Nightingale
National Head of School
Nursing, Midwifery and Paramedicine

Professor Jenny Sim
Head of School, Nursing, Midwifery and Paramedicine (NSW & ACT)

Professor Elisabeth Jacob
Head of School, Nursing, Midwifery and Paramedicine (VIC)

Professor Kim Foster
SoNMP Director of Research

Assoc. Prof. Lisa Kuhn
Associate Professor (Nursing)

NURSING RESEARCH INSTITUTE STAFF

Professor Sandy Middleton

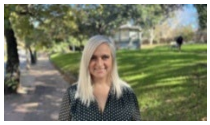
Director

NRI SYDNEY - RESEARCH STAFF

Heilok Cheng
Research Officer (Casual)

Simeon Dale
Clinical Research Fellow and QASC Trials Manager

Tessa Holman
Research Officer



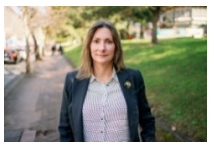
Joylynn Israel
(until June 2025)
Research Officer (Part-time)

Kelly Jones
(until March 2025)
Research Officer (Part-time)

Dr Cintia Martinez-Garduno
Research Officer (Casual)

Linda Patel
Research Officer (Part-time)

Dr Nicola Straiton
Senior Research Fellow



Susan Whittam
Clinical Nurse Consultant, Implementation Research, ACCELERATE Trial (Part-time)

NRI CANBERRA - RESEARCH STAFF

Dr Oyebola Fasugba
Senior Research Officer – Canberra (Part-time) / QASC Australasia Trials Manager

Dr Sawsan Saheb
Research Officer – Canberra (Casual)

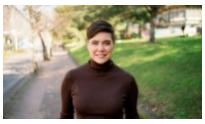
NRI MELBOURNE — RESEARCH STAFF

Kelly Coughlan
Research Officer (Part-time)

Alysia Coventry
(until Sep 2025)
Senior Research Officer (Part-time)

Jake McMahon
PhD Candidate & St Vincent's Hospital Melbourne Research Coordinator, ACCELERATE Trial

ADMINISTRATION



Danielle Brown
Personal Assistant to the Director of NRI (Part-time)

Tara Doyle
Personal Assistant to the Director of NRI (Part-time)

Joylynn Israel
(until June 2025)
Personal Assistant to the Director of NRI (Part-time)

Patty Zenonos
Executive Officer

NRI CLINICIAN RESEARCHERS

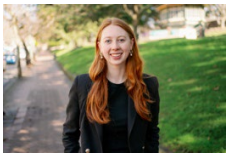
ST VINCENT'S HOSPITAL NETWORK SYDNEY - NURSING	
Alexis Arriagada	*Structural Heart Clinical Nurse Consultant, St Vincent's Private Hospital Sydney* FRAIL-AS Response Trial. Frailty on the Frontline: Evaluating the Impact and Integration of a Frailty Clinical Champion in Australian and Swedish Cardiovascular Programs
Julie Gawthorne	*Clinical Nurse Consultant, Emergency Department, St Vincent's Hospital Sydney* Maridulu Budyari Gumal, the Sydney Partnership for Health, Education, Research and Enterprise Implementation Science Research Platform
Kirsty Page	*Clinical Nurse Consultant, St Vincent's Hospital Sydney* AVERT-DOSE (Determining Optimal early rehabilitation after StrokE): A multi-arm covariate-adjusted, response-adaptive randomised controlled trial ReCAPS: Recovery-focused Community support to Avoid readmissions and improve Participation after Stroke QASC Australasia Trial
Jane Rodgers	*ACU Clinical Fellow / Clinical Nurse Consultant, Wound Care, St Vincent's Hospital Sydney* NHMRC Centre of Research Excellence in Wiser Wound Care
ST VINCENT'S HOSPITAL MELBOURNE - NURSING	
John Forster	*ACU Clinical Fellow / Mental Health Nurse Consultant, St Vincent's Hospital Melbourne* Optimising the response to mental health deterioration: Nurses' experiences of using a Mental Health Observation Response Chart
Jake McMahon	*ACU Clinical Fellow / PhD Candidate & St Vincent's Hospital Melbourne Research Coordinator* ACCELERATE Plus Trial

NRI HIGHER DEGREE RESEARCH STUDENTS

PHD CANDIDATES — NURSING	
Minh Viet Bui *Australian Catholic University*	*A mixed methods process evaluation of the Promoting Resilience in Nurses (PRiN) randomised controlled trial.* Principal Supervisor: Professor Kim Foster; Co-Supervisor**: Professor Elizabeth McInnes**; Associate Supervisor: Dr Gary Ennis (Eastern Health)
Kelly Coughlan *Australian Catholic University*	*Fever, Hyperglycaemia (Sugar), Swallow (FeSS) clinical guidelines adherence: Analysis of national audit data and stroke registry data.* Principal Supervisor: **Professor Sandy Middleton**; Co-Supervisors: **Professor Elizabeth McInnes**, **Dr Oyebola Fasugba**. Associate Supervisor (End-user): Mr Kelvin Hill; NRI Research Advisory Team: **Simeon Dale**
Alysia Coventry *University of Melbourne*	*Developing an intervention for the adult intensive care setting that prepares families for the possibility of death to improve their wellbeing during bereavement.* Principal Supervisor: Professor Peter Hudson (University of Melbourne); Co-Supervisor: Professor Marie Gerdtz (University of Melbourne); Associate Supervisor: **Professor Elizabeth McInnes**
Shantell Griffith *Queensland University*	*Bridging the research-practice gap: Using implementation frameworks to scale evidence-based knowledge translation in healthcare.* Principal Supervisor: Dr Michael Noetel; Co-Supervisor: **Professor Sandy Middleton**; Associate Supervisor: Professor Dominique Cadilhac; NRI Research Advisory Team: **Simeon Dale**, **Dr Oyebola Fasugba**
Jake McMahon *Australian Catholic University*	*De-implementation of low-value pressure injury prevention and management in acute care settings.* Principal Supervisor: Professor Paul Fulbrook; Supervisor: Associate Professor Louisa Lam; **Dr Nicola Straiton**; Co-Supervisor: **Dr Ching San Wan**; Associate Supervisor (End-user): Jane Rodgers
Victoria Ramsden *Australian Catholic University*	*Sustaining improvements in the management of infants with bronchiolitis: A PREDICT Study.* Principal Supervisor: Dr Emma Tavender (Murdoch Children's Research Institute); Co-Supervisor: Professor Peter Wilson; Associate Supervisors: Professor Franz Babl (Murdoch Children's Research Institute); Research Advisor: **Professor Sandy Middleton**
HONOURS STUDENTS — NURSING	
Eliza Humphrey *Australian Catholic University*	*Clinicians' and patients' experiences and preferences for the prevention and management of surgical site infections: A mixed-methods systematic review.* Principal Supervisor: **Dr Ching Shan Wan**; Co-Supervisor: Dr Adam Burston; NRI Research Advisory Team: **Professor Elizabeth McInnes**

ALLIED HEALTH RESEACH UNIT (AHRU) STAFF

Dr Lauren Christie
Allied Health Senior Implementation Science Research Fellow / Head of Department, AHRU



Maddison Smith
Research Officer (Part-time)

Kate Makroglou
Research Occupational Therapist (Part-time)

Tasya Bhuiyan
Aboriginal Research Officer
(Part-time)

AHRU CLINICIAN RESEARCHERS

ST VINCENT'S HOSPITAL NETWORK SYDNEY – ALLIED HEALTH	
Natalie Buswell	*Speech Pathologist, Speech Pathology Department, St Vincent's Hospital Sydney* Barriers and facilitators to delivery of oral care in acute aged care
Dr Liana Cahill	*Occupational Therapist & Blinded Assessor, Allied Health Research Unit, St Vincent's Hospital Sydney* ReCITE: Remote Constraint Induced Therapy of the upper Extremity RAISE: Robotic Arm Intervention for Stroke rEcovery
Jarrad Fisher	*Occupational Therapist & Blinded Assessor, Allied Health Research Unit, St Vincent's Hospital Sydney* FASTRACK-UL Trial: Feasibility Assessment of a Sequential Treatment Randomisation trial in Adults with Stroke to Improve Upper Limb Rehabilitation Outcomes RAISE: Robotic Arm Intervention for Stroke rEcovery
Natasha Gillman	*Stroke Unit Physiotherapist, St Vincent's Hospital Sydney* AVERT-DOSE (Determining Optimal early rehabilitation after StrokE): A multi-arm covariate-adjusted, response-adaptive randomised controlled trial
Alexis McMahon	*Speech Pathology Manager, St Vincent's Hospital Sydney* Barriers and facilitators to delivery of oral care in acute aged care
Noah Mitchell	*Physiotherapy Manager, St Vincent's Hospital Sydney* AVERT-DOSE (Determining Optimal early rehabilitation after StrokE): A multi-arm covariate-adjusted, response-adaptive randomised controlled trial
Ailbhe Murray	*Senior Podiatrist, Podiatry Department, St Vincent's Hospital Sydney* Taking footcare to the streets
Erin Musgrove	*Speech Pathologist, Speech Pathology Department, St Vincent's Hospital Sydney* Barriers and facilitators to delivery of oral care in acute aged care
Jaslyn Nash	*Occupational Therapist & Blinded Assessor, Allied Health Research Unit, St Vincent's Hospital Sydney* FASTRACK-UL Trial: Feasibility Assessment of a Sequential Treatment Randomisation trial in Adults with Stroke to Improve Upper Limb Rehabilitation Outcomes ReCITE: Remote Constraint Induced Therapy of the upper Extremity: An implementation study RAISE: Robotic Arm Intervention for Stroke rEcovery

ST VINCENT'S HOSPITAL NETWORK SYDNEY – ALLIED HEALTH	
Meredith Rogers	*Senior Occupational Therapist & Accredited Hand Therapist, St Vincent's Hospital Sydney* AVERT-DOSE (Determining Optimal early rehabilitation after StrokE): A multi-arm covariate-adjusted, response-adaptive randomised controlled trial Evaluation of patient satisfaction and outcomes associated with a hand therapy service in a metropolitan hospital
Dr Christine Shiner	*Senior Research Officer, Department of Rehabilitation and Pain Medicine, St Vincent's Hospital Sydney* ReCITE: Remote Constraint Induced Therapy of the upper Extremity
Trang Truong	*Physiotherapist & Blinded Assessor, Allied Health Research Unit, St Vincent's Hospital Sydney* AVERT-DOSE (Determining Optimal early rehabilitation after StrokE): A multi-arm covariate-adjusted, response-adaptive randomised controlled trial FASTRACK-UL Trial: Feasibility Assessment of a Sequential Treatment Randomisation Trial in Adults with Stroke to Improve Upper Limb Rehabilitation Outcomes RAISE: Robotic Arm Intervention for Stroke rEcovery ReCITE: Remote Constraint Induced Therapy of the upper Extremity
Katie Weston	*Occupational Therapist & Blinded Assessor, Allied Health Research Unit, St Vincent's Hospital Sydney* ReCITE: Remote Constraint Induced Therapy of the upper Extremity: An implementation study; RAISE: Robotic Arm Intervention for Stroke rEcovery: A pilot feasibility randomised controlled trial

AHRU HIGHER DEGREE RESEARCH STUDENTS

HONOURS STUDENTS — ALLIED HEALTH (ACU SCHOOL OF ALLIED HEALTH)	
Deborah Dong *Australian Catholic University* Physiotherapy	Principal Supervisor: A/Prof Simone Dorsch; Co-supervisors: **Dr Lauren Christie**, Dr Nick Flynn
Alicia Vassallo *Australian Catholic University* Occupational Therapy	Principal Supervisor: Dr Liana Cahill; Co-supervisors: **Dr Lauren Christie**, Dr Annie McCluskey
Jessica Woodbury *Australian Catholic University* Occupational Therapy	Principal Supervisor: Dr Liana Cahill; Co-supervisors: **Dr Lauren Christie**, Dr Annie McCluskey
MPHIL CANDIDATES — ALLIED HEALTH	
Meredith Rogers *Australian Catholic University*	*Evaluation of patient satisfaction and outcomes associated with a hand therapy service in a metropolitan hospital.* Principal Supervisor: **Dr Lauren Christie**; Co-Supervisors: Dr Liana Cahill (ACU); Associate Professor Simone Dorsch (ACU)
RESEARCH INTERN — ALLIED HEALTH	
Claudia Karney *Australian Catholic University* Occupational Therapy	2nd Year Occupational Therapy Student, Australian Catholic University. Supervisors: **Dr Lauren Christie**, **Kate Makroglou**

NURSE RESEARCHER PROFILE

Susan Whittam

Bachelor of Nursing | Master of Philosophy (Research)
Clinical Nurse Consultant, Implementation Research, ACCELERATE Trial (Part-time)

Before joining the Nursing Research Institute on secondment, **Susan Whittam** worked for many years as an intensive care nurse clinician and educator at St Vincent's Hospital Sydney, building strong expertise in critical care, staff development, and evidence-based practice. She completed a Master of Philosophy (Research), publishing her work in an international peer-reviewed journal, which laid the groundwork for her transition into a formal research role.

At the NRI, Susan was mentored by experienced nurse researchers, including **Professor Sandy Middleton**, **Simeon Dale** and **Dr Nicola Straiton**, who supported her development across the full research cycle. Through this structured mentorship, she strengthened her confidence as a clinician-researcher, advanced her research skills, and contributed meaningfully to nurse-led clinical trials. During her secondment to the NRI, Susan contributed to three major randomised controlled trials:

Trial contributions

- ENCORE Trial – supported implementation of this NHMRC-funded study.
- ACCELERATE Trial – contributed to developing and leading the intervention implementation.
- ACCELERATE Plus Trial – served as Trial Manager for this stepped-wedge cluster trial across 24 wards in eight hospitals.

Her NRI experience broadened her understanding of qualitative and quantitative methods and provided exposure to leading researchers across nursing, allied health, and medicine. She also gained experience in grant development with Professor Middleton and built skills in ethics submissions, governance processes, protocol oversight, data coordination, and multidisciplinary collaboration.

A key highlight for Susan was working closely with research consumers throughout the ACCELERATE Plus Trial, which received the 2023 Australian Clinical Trial Alliance (ACTA) Consumer Involvement Award. Susan's combined clinical and research roles strengthen the relevance of her work, ensuring research questions are grounded in practice and findings directly support improvements in patient care and nursing outcomes.

ALLIED HEALTH RESEARCHER PROFILES

Maddison Smith

Bachelor of Psychology (Honours) | PhD Candidate, Faculty of Medicine and Health, UNSW
Research Officer, Allied Health Research Unit, St Vincent's Health Network Sydney

Maddison Smith is a PhD candidate and Research Officer with the Allied Health Research Unit (AHRU), conducting research that investigates the psychosocial implications of living with or caring for someone with a chronic condition. While Maddison is not a clinician herself, she collaborates closely with allied health professionals at St Vincent's Hospital, supporting them to undertake high-quality research and gaining valuable insights into clinical practice. Her PhD project at UNSW investigates the under-researched psychosocial experiences of siblings of children with rare and complex epileptic conditions. Specifically, Maddison is collaborating with researchers and psychologists in Norway to pilot a novel, online program (SIBS-ONLINE) in Australia, designed to improve communication between adolescent siblings and parents of children with chronic conditions. Additionally, she aims to co-design a suite of support resources for adolescent siblings which can be embedded in clinical practice and across community organisations.

In her role as a Research Officer with the AHRU at St Vincent's Hospital Sydney, Maddison has learned valuable skills in quantitative and qualitative research methodologies, project management and consumer engagement. Here, Maddison primarily researches the lived experience of stroke survivors, focusing on how we can make care more equitable, culturally safe and accessible. She has also provided research support to allied health clinicians engaging in research across the disciplines of speech pathology and occupational therapy. Working in both a university and hospital context has provided Maddison with valuable opportunities to ensure that research reflects and is informed by real healthcare needs.

INTERVIEW: ALLIED HEALTH RESEARCH UNIT INTERN

Claudia Karney

2nd Year Occupational Therapy Student, Australian Catholic University — Internship: July 2025

Can you tell us a little bit about yourself and what interested you in doing a research internship at the Allied Health Research Unit?

I am currently studying Occupational Therapy with Australian Catholic University (ACU) and have always been particularly interested in neurological and stroke rehabilitation. When I learned about the research internship at the Allied Health Research Unit,it felt like an ideal opportunity to build my skills in an area I am genuinely passionate about. I was keen to better understand how research informs and shapes clinical practice, and to learn from clinicians and researchers with experience in this field. The internship offered a meaningful way to build my confidence while contributing to work that has real clinical impact.

What type of tasks and activities did you work on/do as part of your research internship?

During my internship, I primarily worked on a stroke upper-limb rehabilitation project. This involved helping to develop and refine an electrical stimulation exercise manual, ensuring each exercise was clear, accurate, and clinically appropriate. I was also involved in participant screening, including attending wards, reviewing inclusion criteria, and liaising with clinicians to identify suitable participants. In addition, attending team meetings gave me insight into how research is integrated into everyday clinical practice.

What did you most enjoy about doing your research internship and what have you taken away from it in thinking about your learning/future career?

What I enjoyed most was being part of a team that was highly supportive and genuinely passionate about their work. I valued the opportunity to contribute to meaningful projects and to see first-hand the level of thought and care that goes into designing research studies and rehabilitation programs. The internship significantly built my confidence and reinforced my interest in neurorehabilitation. It also showed me that I enjoy combining clinical work with research, and that this is a space I can see myself working in in the future. Overall, the experience gave me a much deeper understanding of how evidence is translated into practice and has strongly shaped how I think about my future career.

I would like to thank ACU School of Allied Health and Dr Lauren Christie for this opportunity.

NRI GRANTS AWARDED IN 2025

NRI Total Funds Awarded 2025: $26,909,539*

**Includes income from collaborative grant-funded projects administered by other organisations.*

NRI NEW GRANTS *NRI staff are shown in bold*

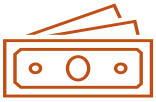
NEW NRI CATEGORY 1		
1.	Jones C, Hold B, Chow J, Bray P, Cunningham P, Perz J, **Straiton N**, Dawson A, Haber M, Kovacic J. 2025-2026 NHMRC Supporting Research Translation Centres. NHMRC – Research Translation Centres.	$1,000,000
NEW NRI CATEGORY 3		
2.	Chaffer C, Croucher P, Redell R, Boyle F, Young MA, Robledo K, Dear R, Aft R, Kummerfeld S, Goldstein L, Lock J, Krishnaswamy S, Lee H, Phan TG, Galimidi R, Lord S, Webster A, Zdenkowski N, Kumar S, Taylor N, **Straiton N**, Pal A. Giving the AllClear – stopping breast cancer relapse and death. National Breast Cancer Foundation Collaborative Research Accelerator Grant Scheme 2025.	$25,000,000
3.	**Coughlan K**. World Federation of Neurosciences Nurses travel grant.	USD$500 (AUD$795)
4.	**Coventry A**. Laura Bassi Scholarship.	$500
5.	**Dale S**. World Federation of Neurosciences Nurses travel grant.	USD$500 (AUD$795)
6.	**Dale S**. ACU School of Nursing, Midwifery and Paramedicine Grant Conference Support.	$2,835
7.	**Gawthorne J**. Reducing patient waiting times and improving faster access to pain relief in the Emergency Department. Applied Medical Research 2026.	$50,000
8.	**Gawthorne J**. Improving timely emergency care: Implementing nurse-initiated protocols in the emergency department using behaviour change frameworks to improve uptake and sustainability. St Vincent's Curran Foundation Endowment Grant 2026.	$50,000
9.	**Gawthorne J**. Reducing patient waiting times and improving faster access to pain relief in the Emergency Department. Australian Nurses Memorial Centre Scholarships 2026.	$20,000
10.	Slark J, Gilder E, Ranta A, Gillion A, Tyson A, **Middleton S**, **Fasugba O**, **McInnes E**, Cadilhac DA. Associate Investigators: **Dale S**, McElduff B. Quality in Acute Stroke Care (QASC) Intervention in New Zealand. Auckland Medical Research Foundation.	NZD$837,706 (AUD$754,614)
11.	**Straiton N**. 2025 ACU School of Nursing, Midwifery and Paramedicine Grant Conference Support. Association of Cardiovascular Nursing and Allied Professions 2025.	$5,000
12.	**Straiton N**, Muller D, Roy D, Macdonald P, **Middleton S**, de Tullio N, Arriagada A, Mills N, **Holman T**, McGee L, **Wan CS**, **McInnes E**, **Coughlan K**, Jiang F. A process evaluation of factors driving uptake of frailty management in transcatheter heart valve disease programs. St Vincent's Clinic Research Foundation Grant 2026.	$25,000

NRI CONTINUING GRANTS 2025

NRI CATEGORY 1 CONTINUING GRANTS		
1.	Babl F, Oakley E, Dalziel S, Borland M, **Middleton S**, Donath S, Craig S, Tavender E, Phillips N. Centre of Research Excellence in Paediatric Emergency Medicine (PEM). NHMRC Centre of Research Excellence. APP1171228.	$2,498,970
2.	Babl F, Tavender E, **Middleton S**, Borland M, O'Brien S, Haskell L, Franklin D, Lithgow A, Gangathimmaiah V, Craven J, Cotterell L, Schembri R, Wilson C, Singh S, Purling A. Regional And Rural Research Translation in Bronchiolitis (RARRT-Bronch). MRFF Rapid Applied Research Translation Grants. MRRART000031.	$3,800,000
3.	Bernhardt J, Donnan G, Churilov L, Langhorne P, Pandian J, Dewey H, Srikanth V, English C, Moodie M, **Middleton S**. AVERT-DOSE: Determining Optimal early rehabilitation after StrokE. NHMRC Project Grant. APP1139712.	$4,359,563
4.	Cadilhac DA, **Middleton S**, Kilkenny MF, Kleinig T, Grimley R, Kim J. Improving life after stroke with tailored support: Innovation in use of national registry data. NHMRC MRFF – Cardiovascular Health Mission. APP2008668.	$509,444
5.	Chaboyer W, Gillespie BM, **McInnes E**, Rickard C, Scuffham P, Glasziou P, Princess IS, Ullman A, Thalib L, Chopra V. Centre of Research Excellence in Wiser Wound Care. NHMRC Centre of Research Excellence. APP1196436.	$2,500,000
6.	Donnan G, Davis S, Cadilhac DA, Rice H, Parsons M, **Middleton S**, Yan B, Smith K, Campbell B, Churilov L. The Stroke Golden Hour: Delivering urgent stroke care to Australians. NHMRC MRFF – Frontier Health and Medical Research Fund.	$40,167,052
7.	Hibbert P, Braithwaite J, Westbrook J, Magrabi F, Mumford V, Clay-Williams R, Lingam R, Salmon P, **Middleton S**. Improving the health system's response when patients are harmed: A mixed-methods study. NHMRC Partnership Project Grant. APP2017219.	$1,500,000
8.	Keech A, Lal S, Macdonald P, Ferguson C, Ryan C, Jenkins A, Dempsey K, Chow C, O'Connell R, Kilov G. Associate Investigator: **Middleton S**. Digital solutions for heart failure best practice care. NHMRC MRFF – Cardiovascular Health Mission. APP2009251.	$943,765
9.	Lindley RI, **Middleton S**, Churilov L, Cadilhac DA, English C, Campbell B, Hayward K, Bladin C, Ferguson C, Thijs V. Centre of Research Excellence to Accelerate Stroke Trial Innovation and Translation. NHMRC Centre of Research Excellence – Clinical Research. APP2015705.	$2,500,000
10.	**Middleton S**. Transforming acute hospital care to improve outcomes for stroke. NHMRC Leadership 2 Investigator Grant, 2021–2025. APP1196352.	$1,350,000
11.	Taylor N, Thomas D, Tucker K, Ballinger M, Zaheed M, Lin F, Goldstein D, Morrow A, Leaney K, Gough M, Schroeder L, Butow P, Young J, **Middleton S**. P-OMICS-flow grant [Precision Medicine Clinic]. MRFF – Rapid Applied Research Translation Grant. RARUR000125.	$5,868,917
12.	Cadilhac DA, Lannin NA, **Middleton S**, Andrew N, Kilkenny M, Dewey H, Li J, Thrift A. ReCAPS: Reintegration into the Community to Address patient-centred recovery goals and improve Participation after Stroke. Victorian Medical Research Acceleration Fund.	$99,356
13.	Jun M, Gallagher M, Simmons D, **Straiton N**, Usherwood T, Rajaratnam R, Campain A, Si L, Tai E, Kotwal S, Katz I, Higgins K, Wallace H. REVERSE: REducing cardioVascular and kidnEy RiSk in people with diabEtes. Cardiovascular Research Capacity Program, Senior Career Researcher Grant.	$444,229

NRI CATEGORY 1 CONTINUING GRANTS		
14.	**Middleton S**, **Thornton A**, **McInnes E**, Slade D, Tuqiri K, Pollnow V, Kelly P, Law S, Ferguson C, McLean G. Associate Investigators: **Whittam S**, Duffy K, Bowen K, Aggar C, Robinson C, Chow J, Everett B, Frost S, Goncharov L, McElduff B. ACCELERATE Plus Trial. SPHERE Big Ideas Grant Scheme.	$500,000
15.	**Straiton N**, MacDonald P, Muller D, Frost S, **McInnes E**, Inglis S, Lauck S, Roy D, Mills N, Arriagada A, Herrero M, **Thornton A**, Dolja-Gore X, McCreanor V, Harrison S, Middleton S. FRAIL-AS Response Trial. Cardiovascular Research Capacity Program, Early-Mid Career Researcher Grant.	$449,826
16.	**Thornton A**, Tuqiri K, Daly B, Taylor J, **Middleton S**, Pollnow V. Associate Investigators: **McInnes E**, Slade D, Goncharov L, Rihari-Thomas J, **Whittam S**, Langley T. ACCELERATE Plus Trial. NSW Health Nursing and Midwifery Strategy Reserve Funding.	$259,580
17.	Tuqiri K, Daly B, **Thornton A**, Taylor J, **Middleton S**, Pollnow V. Associate Investigators: **McInnes E**, Slade D, Goncharov L, Rihari-Thomas J, **Whittam S**, Langley T. ACCELERATE Plus Trial – Prince of Wales Hospital. NSW Health Nursing and Midwifery Strategy Reserve Funding.	$237,580
NRI CATEGORY 2 CONTINUING GRANTS		
18.	**Coventry A**, Gerdtz M, **McInnes E**, Hudson P. The PREPARE Study: improving the PREPAREdness of family members for end-of-life care in the intensive care unit. Centre for Palliative Care / University of Melbourne Dame Quentin Bryce Research Fund.	$30,000
19.	**Coventry A**, Gerdtz M, **McInnes E**, Hudson P. The PREPARE Study. University of Melbourne Nicole King Scholarship.	$3,908
20.	**Coventry A**, Gerdtz M, **McInnes E**, Hudson P. The PREPARE Study. Australian College of Nursing Annie M. Sage Memorial Scholarship.	$10,000
21.	**Gawthorne J**. Reducing patient waiting times and improving faster access to pain relief in the Emergency Department. St Vincent's Curran Foundation Endowment Grant.	$80,012
22.	**McMahon J**, **McInnes E**, Riddell K, **Coughlan K**, **Coventry A**, **Rihari-Thomas J**. The ACCELERATE Trial: Process Evaluation. St Vincent's Research Endowment Fund.	$19,696
23.	**Middleton S**, **Holman T**, MacDonald P, Slade D, Lowe D, Watts G, Kennedy R, Clifford B, Patat L, Williams M, McErlean G, Paull G, Sheppard-Law S, McVeigh J, Ryan M, Templeton N, Algoso C, You P, Goncharov L, Carr G, **Straiton N**. Improving End-of-Life Care for Patients in Australian Cardiology Wards. St Vincent's Clinic Research Foundation Grant.	$30,000
NRI CATEGORY 3 CONTINUING GRANTS		
24.	Prior J, Egglestone P, Goodwin N, Lovell N, Oates Smith C, Jahantigh BJ, Dadich A, Debono D, **Straiton N**, McIntyre E, Liu E. Understanding Reception of Care Technology for Healthy Ageing at Home. SPHERE Big Ideas Grant Scheme.	$167,934
25.	**Straiton N**, **Middleton S**, **Holman T**, Mills N, Arriagada A, **Whittam S**, Montgomery E, Gardner E, Noyes L, Chandra L, Nielsen S, Lachonius M. Frailty on the Frontline: Evaluating the Impact and Integration of Frailty Clinical Champion in Australian and Swedish Cardiovascular Programs. Frailty-ADD CRE Seed Grant Scheme.	$10,000
26.	**Wan CS**, **Rodgers J**, Carlini J, Seitz Z, Lewis K, **McInnes E**. De-implementation of low-value pressure injury prevention care in acute hospital settings: a feasibility pilot cluster randomised controlled trial. St Vincent's Hospital Melbourne Research Endowment Fund.	$19,843

AHRU GRANTS 2025



AHRU Total Funds Awarded 2025: $2,634,088*

**Includes income from collaborative grant-funded projects administered by other organisations.*

AHRU NEW GRANTS AWARDED 2025 *AHRU staff are shown in bold*

NEW AHRU GRANTS 2025 — CATEGORY 1		
1	Cox N, Holland A, Lannin N, McDonald C, Jones A, Stickland M, Burge A, Kasza J, McCallum G, **Christie LJ**, WongShee A, Dabscheck E. 2024 MRFF Chronic Respiratory Conditions Stream 3: 2045710 – Improving access to effective non-pharmacological care for people with COPD in rural Australia (R2EACH).	$2,499,000
NEW AHRU GRANTS 2025 — CATEGORY 3		
2	**Christie LJ**, **Smith MC**. Exploring the unmet rehabilitation needs of First Nations stroke survivors in Australia: A qualitative study. St Vincent's Health Equity Awards Seed Grant 2025.	$25,000
3	**Christie LJ**, Zhang X, Ma D. Implementation of a 6-week telehealth-delivered exercise-mindfulness plus dietary training program for haematopoietic transplant survivors at St Vincent's Hospital Sydney. St Vincent's Clinic Research Foundation Multidisciplinary Grant 2026.	$25,000
4	**Rogers M**. St Vincent's Applied Medical Research Clinician Buy Out Grant 2026.	$50,000
5	**Rogers M**, **Christie LJ**, Cahill L, Dorsch S, Wales K, Jett V. Value at your fingertips: a cost-effectiveness analysis of hand therapy interventions. Australian Hand Therapy Association Research Grant 2025-2026.	$35,088

AHRU CONTINUING GRANTS 2025

AHRU staff are shown in bold

AHRU CONTINUING GRANTS — CATEGORY 1		
1	Janssen H, Bird ML, Nilsson M, Spratt N, Johnson L, Garcia Esperon C, Haracz K, Simpson D, Levi C, Shiner C, Oldmeadow C, English C. Associate Investigator: **Christie LJ**. ESTEEM: Exercising, Socialising and Thinking – Environmental Enrichment Model after stroke. NHMRC MRFF – Clinician Researchers Initiative. Project ID: 2024071.	$1,489,813
2	Lannin NA, Churilov L, **Christie LJ**, Scrivener K. FASTRACK-UL: Feasibility Assessment of a Sequential Treatment Randomisation trial in Adults with Stroke to improve Upper Limb rehabilitation outcomes. Heart Foundation Vanguard Grant 2025-2026. Project ID: 107981-2024_VG.	$148,834
3	Simpson H, O'Brien T, Cook M, Gillinder L, Perucca P, **Christie LJ**, Marquina C, Bulluss K. SEAFARER Study: Subscalp electroencephalography augmentation of routine care in epilepsy. NHMRC MRFF – Assessment of High-Cost Gene Treatments and Digital Health Interventions. Project ID: 2025695.	$749,971
4	**Christie LJ**, McCluskey A, **Middleton S**, Boydell J, Meharg A, Kilkenny A, Shiner C, Faux S. ReCITE: Remote Constraint Induced Therapy of the upper Extremity – An implementation study. Stroke Foundation – Early Career Seed Grant.	$49,498
5	**Christie LJ**. FASTRACK-UL. St Vincent's Curran Foundation Endowment Grant.	$55,761

AHRU CONTINUING GRANTS — CATEGORY 2 & 3		
6	**Christie LJ,** Fearn N, **Makroglou K**, **Shiner C**, Mosalski S, Blair C, Lannin NA, Olsen N, Parsons M. RAISE: Robotic Arm Intervention for Stroke rEcovery: A pilot feasibility randomised controlled trial. St Vincent's Clinic Foundation Multidisciplinary Patient Focused Research Grant.	$50,000
7	**Christie LJ**, Fearn N, **Makroglou K**, Shiner C, Mosalski S, Blair C, Lannin NA, Olsen N, Parsons M. RAISE: Robotic Arm Intervention for Stroke rEcovery: A pilot, feasibility randomised controlled trial. St Vincent's Curran Foundation Endowment Grant.	$106,128
8	**Christie LJ**, Shiner C, Faux S, Boydell J, Meharg A, Kilkenny A, Doussoulin Sanhueza A, McCluskey A. ReCITE: Remote Constraint Induced Therapy of the upper Extremity: An implementation study. St Vincent's Clinic Foundation Multidisciplinary Patient Focused Research Grant.	$25,000
9	**Christie LJ**, Smith MC. Exploring the unmet rehabilitation needs of stroke survivors in Australia: a qualitative study. St Vincent's Health Australia Health Equity Program.	$45,636
10	Fearn N, Heneka N, **Christie LJ**, Dear R, Krasovitsky M, Chen V, Chambers S, Dunn J. SURPASS: Supporting Patient-centred Survivorship at St Vincent's Health Network. St Vincent's Curran Foundation Endowment Grant.	$56,290
11	Hall M, Christie LJ, Inglis S, Macdonald P, Plitt M, Liu Z. The impact of pre-operative nutrition support in heart and lung transplant patients: Examining feasibility and acceptability. St Vincent's Clinic Foundation Multidisciplinary Patient Focused Research Grant.	$25,000
12	Hart S, **Christie LJ**, **Gawthorne J**, Armstrong M, Lazar M, Williams D, Woods N, Greenfield J, Babidge N, Gill K. Barriers and facilitators to the delivery of evidence-based care for people with eating disorders in an acute care setting. St Vincent's Centre for Applied Medical Research Inclusive Health Innovation Fund Grant.	$30,000
13	Hayward K, Lannin NA, Fini N, Dalton E, Kramer S, **Christie LJ**, Hinman R, Churilov L. SCORES: Standardising Competency in Outcomes of REcovery post-Stroke. University of Melbourne Innovation Seed Grant.	$40,000
14	**Makroglou K**. Australian Catholic University Small Equipment Grant.	$7,843
15	Parsons M, Lange D, Behar J, Middleton P, **Christie LJ**. Stroke smart ambulance: The ambulance of the future. Ingham Institute of Applied Medical Research – Technion Australia Competitive Grant Program.	$350,000
16	Pearce A, Fearn N, **Christie LJ**. Stroke survivor preferences for upper limb therapy following stroke. The University of Sydney External Research Collaboration Seed Funding scheme.	$29,987

Grant Category Definitions

Category 1: Australian Competitive Grants – Australian competitive grant research and development incomes

Category 2: Funding from the Australian public sector – Australian Government schemes and business enterprises that don't meet the assessment, and state and local governments and partly government-owned or funded bodies

Category 3: Industry and other Research Income – comprises funding from the private sector, philanthropic and international sources

16

NRI
NURSING
RESEARCH
INSTITUTE
ACU
Featured projects

NRI PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS 2025

29 in 2025 | 339 total since 2009

NRI staff names in bold in the original manuscript records

NRI PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

1. Alexandrov AW, Shearin AJ, Mandava P, Torrealba-Acosta G, Elangovan C, Krishnaiah B, Nearing K, Robinson E, Guthrie-Chu C, Holzmann M, Fill B, Trivedi DR, Richardson A, **Middleton S**, Brewer BB, Liebeskind DS, Goyal N, Grotta JC, Alexandrov AV on behalf of the ZODIAC Investigators. Optimal head-of-bed positioning before thrombectomy in large vessel occlusion stroke. *JAMA Neurology* 2025; 82(9):905-914. https://doi:10.1001/jamaneurol.2025.2253

2. Bierbaum M, Yu YJ, Maloy C, Bowditch L, Salmon P, **Middleton S**, Braithwaite J, Hibbert P. Decades of failure to prevent harm to patients – where are we going wrong? A mixed methods study of the perspectives of health services staff across Australia and internationally. *Frontiers in Health Services* 2025; 5:1645575. https://doi.org/10.3389/frhs.2025.1645575

3. Bloomer MJ, Butler AE, Brooks LA, **Coventry A**, McKeever S, Ranse K, Rowe J, Thomas S, Thornton R. Parents' and nurses' experiences of end-of-life care in intensive care for children: A systematic review. *Australian Critical Care* 2025; 38:6, 101455. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.aucc.2025.101455

4. Bowditch D, Molloy CJ, King B, Abedi M, Jackson S, Bierbaum M, Yu Y, Raggett L, Salmon P, Braithwaite J, Westbrook J, Clay-Williams R, Lingam R, **Middleton S**, Magrabi F, Mumford V, Hibbert PD. Do patient safety incident investigations align with system thinking? *BMJ Quality & Safety* 2025; 00:1-13. https://qualitysafety.bmj.com/content/early/2025/09/11/bmjqs-2025-019063

5. Cassier-Woidasky AK, Zinn W, **Middleton S**, **Dale S**, Pfeilschifter. Do Fever-Sugar-Swallow Protocols improve nurses' and physicians' satisfaction with the management of fever, hyperglycemia and dysphagia in stroke patients: A pre-and post-implementation survey of the QASC Program. *International Journal of Nursing Studies Advances* 2025; 9:1-12, 100374. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ijnsa.2025.100374

6. **Cheng H**, John J, Scott J, Denney-Wilson E, So LG, Chole S, Baur L, Arora A. Bottle feeding to sleep beyond 12 months is associated with higher risk of tooth decay and overweight in Australian children. *Australian and New Zealand Journal of Public Health* 2025; 49(2):100224. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.anzjph.2025.100224

7. **Coughlan K**, **Fasugba O**, **Dale S**, Hill K, Cadilhac DA, **Middleton S**, **McInnes E**. Stroke coordinators' perspectives on sustaining use of Fever, Sugar (Hyperglycaemia) and Swallow (FeSS) protocols: A process evaluation using the Sustainability Framework. *Journal of Advanced Nursing* 2025; 00:1-15. https://doi.org/10.1111/jan.70125

8. **Fasugba O**, **Cheng H**, **Dale S**, **Coughlan K**, **McInnes E**, Cadilhac DA, Cheung NW, Hill K, Page K, Menendez ES, Neal E, Pollnow V, Slark J, Gilder E, Ranta A, Levi C, Grimshaw JM, **Middleton S**. Finding the right dose: A scoping review examining facilitation as an implementation strategy for evidence-based stroke care. *Implementation Science* 2025; 20:4. https://doi.org/10.1186/s13012-025-01415-w

9. **Gawthorne J**, Curtis K, McCloughen A. The barriers and enablers to implementing nurse-initiated protocols in the emergency department: A focus group study. *Journal of Clinical Nursing* 2025; 34:2375-2385. https://doi.org/10.1111/jocn.17744

10. **Gawthorne J,** McCloughen A, Branch J, McPhillips O, Scott D, Curtis K. Applying behaviour change theory to develop an implementation strategy for nurse-initiated protocols in the emergency department. Journal of Advanced Nursing 2025; 00:1-12**.** https://doi.org/10.1111/jan.70169

11. Humphrey E, Burston A, **McInnes E**, **Cheng H**, Musgrave-Takeda M, **Wan CS**. Clinicians' and patients' experiences and perceptions on the prevention and management of surgical site infections: A mixed-methods systematic review. *Journal of Clinical Nursing* 2025; 34:24-48. https://doi.org/10.1111/jocn.17443

12. Johnson M, **Straiton N**, Ferguson C, **McInnes E**, **Thornton A**, Everett B, Tuqiri K, Meedya S, Hackett K, Cruickshank M, Fry M, Perry L, Sheppard-Law S, Hosie A, Inglis S, Mcerlean G, Debono D, Fernandez R, Wynne R, Chow J, Hickman L, Del Olmo G, **Middleton S**; on behalf of SPHERE Nursing and Midwifery Implementation Science Academy. Pre-implementation context and implementation approach for a nursing and midwifery clinician researcher career pathway: A qualitative study. *Journal of Advanced Nursing* 2025; 81(2):1052-1068. https://doi.org/10.1111/jan.16307

13. Lauck SB, Gulati M, Lewis KB, **Straiton N**, Takkenberg JJM, Sardari Nia P, McGonigle S, Padilla K, Ross E, Eltchaninoff H, Prendergast B. A path forward for the implementation of shared decision-making in valvular heart disease: Global joint recommendations from clinicians, patients and researchers. *Health Research Policy and Systems* 2025; 23:136. https://doi.org/10.1186/s12961-025-01393-x

14. Liang S, Kennedy E, Gale N, Watson P, Ramanathan M, Shinde A, McKay S, Torres Robles A, Li Z, Chan J, Jones H, Ballinger ML, Butow P, Goldstein D, Leaney K, **Middleton S**, Morrow A, Thomas D, Tucker K, Zaheed M, Parkinson B, Lin F, Taylor N. Implementation of precision medicine in treating non communicable diseases: a systematic review. *Journal of Translational Medicine* 2025; 23:1174. https://doi.org/10.1186/s12967-025-07201-y

15. Liang S, McKay S, Lin F, Zaheed M, Morrow A, Douglas B, Chan J, Monaghan H, Chan P, Kennedy E, Tyedmers E, Walker S, Leaney K, Napier CE, **Middleton S**, Butow P, Williams R, Parkinson B, Ballinger ML, Tucker K, Goldstein D, Thomas D, Taylor N. Integration of precision medicine into routine cancer care – protocol for the Precision Care Initiative. *BMJ Open* 2025; 15(10):e090270. https://bmjopen.bmj.com/content/15/10/e090270

16. Mazariego C, Gul H, Liang S, Kelly-Hanku A, Brady B, Allida S, Baffsky R, McErlean G, Crespo C, Hodgins M, **Christie LJ**, Peiris D, Debono D, MacMillan F, Ferguson C, Heneka N, Kennedy SG, Liu H, Morrow A, Fontaine G, Findlay M, **Middleton S**, Lim D, **Straiton N**, Taylor N. Critical actions for embedding research evidence into practice: How to get the most out of your implementation scientist. *JBI Evidence Implementation*. Epub 4 July 2025. DOI: 10.1097/XEB.0000000000000518

17. Mikulik R, Neto G, Sedani R, Ameriso S, Mammadova N, Marchenko S, Martins S, Milanov I, Constanzo F, Munoz M, Budincevic H, Sramek M, Ramos C, Zakaria M, Korv J, Tsivgoulis G, Szapary L, Pandian J, Nulkhasanah A, Batayha W, Medukhanova S, Karbozova K, Miglane E, Vilionskis A, Kee H, Gongora-Rivera F, Cantu C, Groppa S, Ciobanu N, Paudel R, Abanto Argomedo C, Collantes ME, San Jose MC, Kobayashi A, Gomes A, Tiu C, Shamalov N, Mijajlovic M, Gdovinova Z, Kroon L, Sohn SI, Moniche F, Towanabut S, Moskovko S, Al Omar A, Nguyen HT, **Middleton S**, Barrientos-Guerra J. Differences in acute ischemic stroke treatment: A cross-sectional Study from Registry of Stroke Care Quality (RES-Q). *International Journal of Stroke* 2025; 23:17474930251364082. DOI: 10.1177/17474930251364082

18. **McMahon J**, **McInnes E**, **Wan CS**, **Straiton N**, Lam L, Rodgers J, Dickson J, Fulbrook P. Effectiveness of organisational strategies for pressure injury prevention and treatment in acute hospital settings: A systematic review. *Journal of Advanced Nursing* 2025; 0:1-18. https://doi.org/10.1111/jan.17090

19. Morrison JL, Dalli LL, Kilkenny MF, Lannin NA, Paice K, Thandar M, Kim J, Birhanu MM, Pompeani N, Carter H, Ghuliani J, Gibbs AK, **Middleton S**, Dewey HM, Cadilhac DA. Optimising data quality in a national Clinical Quality Registry: Insights from the Australian Stroke Clinical Registry. *Health Information Management Journal* 2025; 55:183-192. https://doi.org/10.1177/18333583251352646

20. Purvis T, Ross A, Blennerhassett JM, Barclay KM, Frost T, Wong D, Hillier S, Bagot KL, Kim J, Cranefield J, Jaques K, Nelson MR, Russell G, Scott C, Stirling M, Kilkenny MF, Lannin NA, Kleinig TJ, Grimley RS, Morrison JL, **Middleton S**, Thijs V, Gibbs AK, Cadilhac DA. Co-design of a registry-based tailored follow-up service intervention for people living with stroke: a multiple method consensus approach. *Health Expectations* 2025; 28(6):e70474. http://dx.doi.org/10.1111/hex.70474

21. **Ramsden V**, Babl FE, Haskell L, Wilson CL, **McInnes E**, **Middleton S**, Kuhn L, Wallace A, Bourke E, Jordan F, Wong J, Steinmann K, Shumack L, Kane L, Phillips N, Marsh P, Jani S, Kuang T, Mullins Y, Oakley E, Lithgow A, Wilson PH, Schembri R, Dalziel SR, Tavender E. Understanding factors influencing sustainability and sustainment of evidence-based bronchiolitis management of infants in Australian and New Zealand hospital settings. *BMJ Quality & Safety*. Epub 5 October 2025. https://doi.org/10.1136/bmjqs-2025-019007

22. **Ramsden V**, Babl FE, Haskell L, Wilson C, **Middleton S**, Schembri R, King A, Wallace A, Partyka A, Baldock C, Wong J, Steinmann K, Mills L, Phillips N, Poulter N, Jani S, Kenny S, Oakley E, Lithgow A, **McInnes E**, Dalziel SR, Wilson PH, Tavender E. Sustainability of the de-implementation of low-value care in infants with bronchiolitis: Two-year follow-up of a cluster randomized controlled trial. *BMJ Quality & Safety*. Epub 5 October 2025. https://doi.org/10.1136/bmjqs-2024-018135

23. **Ramsden V**, **McInnes E**, Wilson PH, Babl FE, Kuhn L, Cowie J, Campbell P, **Middleton S**, Wilson CL, **Straiton N**, Tavender E. The sustainability of healthcare system improvements, programmes and interventions in acute care settings: Protocol for a mixed methods systematic review. *BMJ Open* 2025; 15(2):e094174. https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/39920055/

24. Shaw L, Wilson C, Borland M, Cotterell E, Craven J, Curran J, Dalziel S, Dunlop T, Franklin D, Haskell L, Lithgow A, **Middleton S**, O'Brien S, Staples A, Tran E, Babl F, Tavender E. Co-design and evaluation of a regional and rural translation bronchiolitis platform: study protocol. *Pediatric Research*. Epub 3 November 2025. https://doi.org/10.1038/s41390-025-04503-1

25. **Straiton N**, Gallagher, Gullick J. A descriptive qualitative study of patient and carer perspectives on the acceptability of transcatheter aortic valve implantation. *Journal of Advanced Nursing* 2025; 00:1-14. https://doi.org/10.1111/jan.70180

26. **Wan CS**, Fan A. An innovative approach using patient journey mapping in patient involvement in research: A comparison of clinicians' and patients' views. *Services Marketing Quarterly* 2025; 1-20. https://doi.org/10.1080/15332969.2025.2536966

27. **Wan CS,** Musgrave-Takeda M, Gillespie B, Tobiano G, **McInnes E**. Barriers and facilitators to implementing pressure injury guidelines for nutrition assessment and alternating pressure air mattress allocation: A qualitative study. *Journal of Advanced Nursing* 2025; 81:6767-6788. https://doi.org/10.1111/jan.16820

28. Weight C, Laritz R, Collins SE, Mooney M, Vinette B, Castiglione SA, **Straiton N**, Chicoine G, Liang S, Konnyu K, Gagnon M-P, Semenic S, **Middleton S**, Taylor N, Bitzas VB, Folch N, Vachon B, Rouleau G, Patey A, McCleary N, Porat-Dahlerbruch J, Fontaine G. Using the Behaviour change technique ontology to characterise the content of implementation strategies: A secondary analysis of 151 trials. *Translational Behavioral Medicine* 2025; 15(1):ibaf046. doi: 10.1093/tbm/ibaf046

29. Weight C, Vinette B, Laritz R, Mooney M, Castiglione SA, Maheu-Cadotte MA, Argiropoulos N, Konnyu K, Cassidy CE, Collins SE, Semenic S, **Straiton N**, **Middleton S**, Taylor N, Gagnon MP, Liang S, Crump L, Di Lalla O, Meyers, Elakpa DN, Fontaine G. How well are target healthcare professional behaviors and implementation strategies reported? *Implementation Science* 2025, 20:28. https://doi.org/10.1186/s13012-025-01442-7

AHRU PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS 2025

9 in 2025

NRI staff names in bold in the original manuscript records

AHRU PEER REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

1. Andrews P, Sheridan Magro A, Childs E, **Christie LJ.** Facilitating best clinical practice in domestic violence work with hospital social workers. *Social Work in Health Care* 2025; 64(1-3):18-33. https://doi.org/10.1080/00981389.2025.2454477

2. Cahill LS, **Christie LJ,** Sansonetti D, Currie S, Palit M, Robin JN, Leifer D, Lannin NA. An evidence-informed approach to discharge planning from specialist brain injury rehabilitation: a mixed method study using the PRECEDE-PROCEED model. *Brain Impairment* 2025; 26(2):IB24029. https://doi.org/10.1071/IB24029

3. **Christie LJ**, Godecke E, **Smith M**, Scrivener K, Hill K, Kim J, Crotty M, Cadilhac DA, Dos Santos A, Lannin NA. State of stroke rehabilitation in Australia: A WHO STARS assessment to identify strengths and gaps across policy, practice and funding. *Current Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation Reports* 2025; 13:12. https://doi.org/10.1007/s40141-025-00481-x

4. D'Cunha C, **Christie LJ**, McCluskey A, Cahill LS. Content validity of the Handwriting Assessment Battery (HAB-v6) for use with adults with acquired brain injury (ABI): An international Delphi study. *Australian Occupational Therapy Journal* 2025; 72(1):e13012. https://doi.org/10.1111/1440-1630.13012

5. Garcia-Esperon C, Badge H, **Christie LJ**, Pathan F, Garcia Silva O, Parsons MW. Access to cardiac imaging after ischaemic stroke in Australia: A national survey. *Internal Medicine Journal* 2025; 55:171-172. https://doi.org/10.1111/imj.16619

6. Mazariego C, Gul H, Liang S, Kelly-Hanku A, Brady B, Allida S, Baffsky R, McErlean G, Crespo C, Hodgins M, **Christie LJ**, Peiris D, Debono D, MacMillan F, Ferguson C, Heneka N, Kennedy SG, Liu H, Morrow A, Fontaine G, Findlay M, **Middleton S**, Lim D, Straiton N, Taylor N. Critical actions for embedding research evidence into practice. JBI Evidence Implementation. Epub 4 July 2025. DOI: 10.1097/XEB.0000000000000518

7. **Makroglou K**, Fearn N, Portelli B, Badge H, Boydell J, Kilkenny A, Meharg A, **Christie LJ**. Exploring Therapists' Experiences of an educational website to support telehealth delivery of constraint-induced movement therapy. *Healthcare* 2025; 13(2):159. https://doi.org/10.3390/healthcare13020159

8. Pilli K, Worne B, **Christie LJ**, Simpson GK. Assistive technology in brain injury rehabilitation: A survey scoping clinician frequency and type of assistive technology use. *Neuropsychological Rehabilitation* 2025; 1-18. https://doi.org/10.1080/09602011.2025.2475544

9. Scrivener K, Hug D, Lannin NA, Lin I, Wan J, **Christie LJ**. Design and feasibility of a digital application to assess and document falls in residential aged care: a mixed methods study. *BMC Digital Health* 2025; 3:56. https://doi.org/10.1186/s44247-025-00196-y

NRI RESEARCH PROJECTS 2025

In 2025, Nursing Research Institute and Allied Health Research Unit researchers collaborated on 27 research projects. NRI researchers led 10 projects and were co-investigators on remaining projects.* A total of 10 projects involved collaboration with our St Vincent's Health Australia (SVHA) partners.^

#	PROJECT	FUNDING SOURCE	SVHA CAMPUSES
STANDARD 2: PARTNERING WITH CONSUMERS			
1	Centre of Research Excellence in Wiser Wound Care: Improving evidence-based pressure injury prevention^ *(Also Standard 5)*	National Health and Medical Research Council	St Vincent's Hospital Melbourne St Vincent's Hospital Sydney
2	The Stroke Golden Hour: delivering urgent stroke care to Australians *(Also Standard 5)*	Medical Research Future Fund – Frontier Health and Medical Research	N/A
STANDARD 5: COMPREHENSIVE CARE			
3	AVERT-DOSE (Determining Optimal early rehabilitation after StrokE): A multi-arm covariate-adjusted, response adaptive randomised controlled trial^	National Health and Medical Research Council	St Vincent's Hospital Sydney *[Combined project with Allied Health]*
4	Centre for Research Excellence in Paediatric Emergency Medicine (PEM)	National Health and Medical Research Council	N/A
5	Centre for Research Excellence to Accelerate Stroke Trial Innovation and Translation *Sub project: Evaluation of implementing interactive data dashboards within the Australian Stroke Clinical Registry (AuSCR) for quality of care monitoring and streamlining registry operations*	National Health and Medical Research Council	N/A
6	Centre for Research Excellence: Improving Hospital Outcomes for Frail Patients Across Different Disciplines (Frailty-ADD CRE)^	National Health and Medical Research Council	N/A
7	Digital solutions for heart failure best practice care	National Health and Medical Research Council	N/A
8	Frailty on the Frontline: Evaluating the Impact and Integration of a Frailty Clinical Champion in Australian and Swedish Cardiovascular Programs	Nil	N/A
9	Frailty response in aortic stenosis patients undergoing transcatheter aortic valve implantation: A cluster randomised controlled trial (FRAIL-AS Response Trial)*^	NSW Health Cardiovascular Research Capacity Program, Early-Mid Career Researcher Grant	St Vincent's Hospital Sydney St Vincent's Private Hospital Sydney (and 14 other hospitals)

#	PROJECT	FUNDING SOURCE	SVHA CAMPUSES
STANDARD 5: COMPREHENSIVE CARE continued			
10	Improving the health system's response when patients are harmed: a mixed-methods study	National Health and Medical Research Council	N/A
11	P-OMICS-flow grant [Precision Medicine Clinic]	National Health and Medical Research Council	N/A
12	Quality in Acute Stroke Care (QASC) Australasia Project*^	National Health and Medical Research Council Health Research Council of New Zealand	St Vincent's Hospital Sydney (and 57 other hospitals)
13	ReCITE: Remote Constraint Induced Therapy of the upper Extremity – An implementation study*	Early Career Researcher - Stroke Foundation	St Vincent's Hospital Sydney St Vincent's Hospital Melbourne
14	REducing cardioVascular and kidnEy RiSk in people with diabEtes (REVERSE)	NSW Health Cardiovascular Research Capacity Program, Senior Career Researcher Grant	N/A
15	Reducing patient waiting times and improving faster access to pain relief in the Emergency Department*	St Vincent's Curran Foundation	St Vincent's Hospital Sydney
16	Regional And Rural Research Translation in Bronchiolitis (RARRT-Bronch)	MRFF Rapid Applied Research Translation	N/A
17	Registry of Stroke Care Quality (RES-Q) Feedback Prompt Trial	Nil	N/A
18	Transforming acute hospital care to improve outcomes for stroke*	National Health and Medical Research Council	N/A
19	Understanding Reception of Care Technology for Healthy Ageing at Home*	Maridulu Budyari Gumal – SPHERE Big Ideas Grant	N/A
STANDARD 6: COMMUNICATIING FOR SAFETY			
20	Improving End-of-Life communication in Australian hospitals for patient safety and care	St Vincent's Curran Foundation	St Vincent's Hospital Sydney
21	Improving End-of-Life Care in Australian Cardiology Wards: A Retrospective Medical Record Audit	St Vincent's Clinic Research Foundation	St Vincent's Hospital Sydney
22	Patient Acceptability of Nurse-Led Physical Assessments and Structured Bedside Handovers (The ACCELERATE Plus: Acceptability Study)*^	Nil	St Vincent's Hospital Sydney

#	PROJECT	FUNDING SOURCE	SVHA CAMPUSES
STANDARD 8: RECOGNISING AND RESPONDING TO CLINICAL DETERIORATION			
23	ACCELERATE Trial: Assessment and CommuniCation ExcelLEnce foR sAfe paTient outcomEs*^ *(Also Standard 5 and 6)*	NSW Nursing and Midwifery Strategy Reserve Funding Nurses Board Victoria Legacy Limited Research Fund St Vincent's Research Endowment Fund	St Vincent's Hospital Sydney St Vincent's Hospital Melbourne *[Also with Prince of Wales Hospital]*
24	ACCELERATE Plus Trial: Assessment and CommuniCation ExcelLEnce foR sAfe paTient outcomEs*^ *(Also Standard 5 and 6)*	NSW Nursing and Midwifery Strategy Reserve Funding; Maridulu Budyari Gumal – SPHERE Big Ideas Grant	St Vincent's Hospital Sydney St Vincent's Hospital Melbourne [Also with six other NSW Hospitals]
25	Giving the AllClear – stopping breast cancer relapse and death^	NBCF Collaborative Research Accelerator Grant Scheme 2025	St Vincent's Hospital Sydney
26	The PREPARE Study: Improving the PREPAREdness of family members for end-of-life care in the intensive care unit*^	Nicole King Scholarship (University of Melbourne)	St Vincent's Hospital Melbourne
OTHER			
27	National Health and Medical Research Council – 026-26 Supporting Research Translation Centres^	National Health and Medical Research Council	St Vincent's Hospital Sydney

AHRU RESEARCH PROJECTS 2025

#	PROJECT	FUNDING SOURCE	SVHA CAMPUSES
1	A clinical service evaluation of an integrated social work led model of care in responding to domestic and family violence^	Nil	St Vincent's Hospital Sydney
2	ReCITE (Remote Constraint Induced Therapy of the upper Extremity): An implementation study*^ [Combined project with Nursing]	Stroke Foundation – Early Career Seed Grant St Vincent's Clinic Foundation 2021 Multidisciplinary Patient Focused Research Grant	St Vincent's Hospital Sydney
3	The impact of pre-operative nutrition support in heart and lung transplant patients: A feasibility study^	St Vincent's Clinic Foundation 2021 Multidisciplinary Patient Focused Research Grant	St Vincent's Hospital Sydney
4	SUppoRting PAtient-centred SurvivorShip (SURPASS) at St Vincent's Health Network: Adaptation and adoption of the 'My Personal Plan' Prostate Cancer Survivorship Care Plan for generic use*^	St Vincent's Curran Foundation Endowment Grant	St Vincent's Hospital Sydney
5	Exploring the unmet rehabilitation needs of stroke survivors in Australia: a qualitative study	SVHA Health Equity Program FY24 Clinician Led Project	St Vincent's Hospital Sydney
6	Exploring the unmet rehabilitation needs of First Nations stroke survivors in Australia: a qualitative study	SVHA Health Equity Research Program FY25 Clinician Led Project	St Vincent's Hospital Sydney
7	Robotic Arm Intervention for Stroke rEcovery (RAISE): A pilot feasibility randomised controlled trial*^	St Vincent's Clinic Foundation 2024 Multidisciplinary Patient Focused Research Grant St Vincent's Curran Foundation Endowment	St Vincent's Hospital Sydney
8	Feasibility Assessment of a Sequential Treatment Randomisation trial in Adults with Stroke to Improve Upper Limb Rehabilitation Outcomes (FASTRACK-UL Trial)	Heart Foundation Vanguard Grant 2025-2026 St Vincent's Curran Foundation Endowment	St Vincent's Hospital Sydney
9	Taking footcare to the Streets	SVHA Health Equity Program FY24 Clinician Led Project	St Vincent's Hospital Sydney
10	Value at Your Fingertips: A Cost-Effectiveness Analysis of Hand Therapy Interventions	St Vincent's Centre for Applied Medical Research-Clinician buy out grant 2025-2026 Australian Hand Therapy Association Research Grant	St Vincent's Hospital Sydney
11	The effect of task specific training on upper limb function after stroke: A systematic review	None	St Vincent's Hospital Sydney

AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY HONORARY APPOINTMENTS

Australian Catholic University honorary titles are awarded in acknowledgement of an individual's clinical, operational and research expertise and their support and promotion of Nursing Research Institute research. Current ACU honorary appointments are listed below, and we thank them for their ongoing contribution and support.

ACU ADJUNCT PROFESSOR

Adjunct Professor Jacqui Bilo
Chief Nursing Officer
St Vincent's Hospital Melbourne

Adjunct Professor Anna McFadgen
Executive Director of Nursing
St Vincent's Health Network Sydney

Adjunct Professor Anna Thornton
Chief Nursing Officer
Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care

Adjunct Professor Nicole Tweddle
Chief Executive
St Vincent's Hospital Melbourne

ACU CLINICAL ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR

Clinical Associate Professor Margaret Lazar
Executive Director of Allied Health and Community Services
St Vincent's Health Network Sydney

ACU CLINICAL FELLOWS

Dr Lauren Christie
Senior Implementation Science Research Fellow
Allied Health Research Unit

John Forster
Psychiatric Consultation and Liaison Nurse
St Vincent's Hospital Melbourne

Julie Gawthorne
Clinical Nurse Consultant, Emergency Department
St Vincent's Health Network Sydney

Jake McMahon
Research Coordinator
St Vincent's Hospital Melbourne

Jane Rodgers
Wound Management Clinical Nurse Consultant
St Vincent's Health Network Sydney

Dr Ching San Wan
Research Fellow
School of Translational Medicine
Monash University

NURSING RESEARCH INSTITUTE HONORARY CLINICAL FELLOWS

Nursing Research Institute honorary clinical fellowships are awarded in acknowledgement of contributions made by individuals to NRI research and corporate activities. Current NRI Honorary Clinical Fellows are listed below, and we thank them for their ongoing contribution and support.

CONTRIBUTION TO NRI RESEARCH PROGRAM

Kirsty Page Stroke
Clinical Nurse Consultant
St Vincent's Hospital Sydney

Joanne Taylor
Program Manager, Comprehensive Care
Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care

Susan Whittam
NRI Research Officer

EXPERTISE IN NURSING & COMMITMENT TO HEALTH RESEARCH

Associate Professor Lisa Kuhn
Faculty of Health Sciences
Australian Catholic University

Alysia Coventry
University of Melbourne

CONTRIBUTION TO THE QASC EUROPE PROJECT

Professor Anne-Kathrin Cassier-Woidasky
Professor for Nursing
Saarland University of Applied Sciences, Germany

Dr Estela Sanjuan Menendez
Stroke Research Coordinator
Fundacio Institut de Recerca de L'Hospital Universidad Vall d'Hebron Barcelona, Spain

CONFERENCES & PRESENTATIONS 2025

12 Seminars (527 Attendees)
23 Conferences / 54 Presentations & Invited Speakers

Conference Presentations

(Chronological | NRI Staff in Bold | presenters underlined)

CONFERENCE / FORUM	PRESENTER(S) & PRESENTATION
Australian Frailty Network Summit 2025 *Sydney, 20–21 February 2025*	**Straiton N**, Muller D, MacDonald P, Arriagada A, Roy D, Mills N, Frost S, **McInnes E**, Inglis S, Lauck S, Herrero M, **Thornton A,** Dolja-Gore X, McCreanor V, Harrison S, McDonagh J, Ferguson C, Wilson K, **Wan CS**, **Holman T**, **Middleton S**. *Heart valve disease and frailty: Two common conditions, yet only one is managed well*. [Poster presentation]
European Life After Stroke Forum *Prague, Czech Republic, March 2025*	Cadilhac DA, Gibbs A, Ross A, Blennerhassett J, Purvis T, Morrison J, Brooks M, Pyman J, Khanna R, Kleinig T, Grimley R, Thijs V, Kilkenny M, **Middleton S**, Kim J. *The feasibility of a tailored, follow-up service 6 months after stroke: a registry-based randomised controlled trial.* [Poster presentation] ****Highly Commended Scientific Abstract****
South East Sydney Local Health District Nursing & Midwifery Research & Innovation Forum *Sydney, 6 May 2025*	**Steadward Y**, **Middleton S**, **Thornton A**, **Whittam S**, Slade D, Goncharov L, Tuqiri K, Pollnow V, Bilo J, Bowen K, Brown T, Aggar C, Gleeson N, Chow J, May S, Melbourne G, Newbury J, Chappelow J, Sciuriaga H, Sturgess L, Hackett K, Newman D, Curtis S, Lagat S, McEwin R, Helps C, Cummins M, **McMahon J**, George J, Christian C, Cuffe J, Lee L, Saheb S, **McInnes E**. *Assessment and Communication Excellence for Patient Safety: ACCELERATE Plus Trial*.
European Stroke Organisation Conference (ESOC) 2025 *Helsinki, Finland, 21–23 May 2025*	**Christie LJ**, Fearn N, McCluskey A, Lannin NA, Shiner C, Kilkenny A, Boydell J, Meharg A, Churilov L, Jolliffe L, **Makroglou K**, Faux S, **Middleton S**. *ReCITE: A feasibility study*. [Poster presentation] **Coughlan K, Fasugba O**, **Dale S**, **McInnes E**, Hill K, **Middleton S**. *Implementation Strategies to Improve Adherence to stroke clinical practice guidelines*. [Poster presentation] **Middleton S**, **Dale S**, **Fasugba O**, **Coughlan K**, **McInnes E**, Cadilhac DA, D'Este C, Levi C, Grimshaw J, Cheung NW. *The QASC Research Program: Bridging the borders between research & implementation*. [E-poster presentation]
Occupational Therapy Australia 31st National Conference *Adelaide, 25–27 June 2025*	D'Cunha C, **Christie LJ,** McCluskey A, Cahill LS. *Validating the Handwriting Assessment Battery (HAB-v6): An international Delphi study*. **Makroglou K**, Fearn N, Portelli B, Badge H, Boydell J, Kilkenny A, Meharg A, **Christie LJ**. *Exploring therapists' experiences of an educational website to support telehealth delivery of CIMT*. [Poster presentation] **Rogers M**, Chrystie A, Cahill LS, **Christie LJ**. *Patient outcomes and satisfaction with hospital outpatient hand therapy: Mixed methods study*. [Poster presentation]
Australian Paediatric Nurse Scientists (AusPaNS) National Paediatric Nursing Research Showcase *Sydney, 16 July 2025*	Goldsmith H, Brogan E, Musodza W, **Holman T**, Ferguson C, **Middleton S**, **Straiton N**. *Using the Australian Nursing and Midwifery Early to Mid-Career Researcher (EMCR) advocacy roadmap to support paediatric nurse researchers*.

CONFERENCE / FORUM	PRESENTER(S) & PRESENTATION
World Federation of Neuroscience Nurses Quadrennial Congress *Darwin, 22–25 July 2025*	**Coughlan K**, **Fasugba O**, **Dale S**, Hill K, Cadilhac DA, **McInnes E**, **Middleton S**. *Clinician perspectives on factors influencing the sustained use of fever, hyperglycaemia, and swallow protocols in stroke treatment*. **Dale S**, **Fasugba O**, **Coughlan K, Saheb S**, **McInnes E**, Cadilhac DA, Cheung W, Hill K, Page K, Sanjuan-Menendez E, Neal E, Pollnow V, Gilder E, Slark J, Ranta A, Levi C, Grimshaw J, **Middleton S**. *Beyond the protocol: Navigating ethics and governance in the multisite QASC Australasia Trial.* **Fasugba O, Dale S, Coughlan K, McInnes E,** Cadilhac DA, Cheung W, Hill K, Page K, Sanjuan-Menendez E, Neal E, Pollnow V, Gilder E, Slark J, Ranta A, Levi C, Grimshaw JM, **Middleton S**. *Finding the right dose: A scoping review examining* facilitation *as an implementation strategy for evidence-based stroke care.* [Poster presentation] **Middleton S**, **Dale S, Fasugba O, Coughlan K**, **McInnes E**, Cadilhac DA, D'Este C, Levi C, Grimshaw J, Cheung W. *QASC Research Program: Changing state, national and international clinical practice.*
MEDINFO 2025 *Taipei, Taiwan, 9–13 August 2025*	Chan J, Tran M, Liang S, McKay S, Kennedy E, Monaghan H, **Middleton S**, Koh B, Taylor N, Lin F. *Development of a digital case-based knowledge base to support rapid learning in precision oncology*.
NSW Cancer Summit 2025 *Sydney, 13–14 August 2025*	Chan JC, Lin FP, Koh B, Tran M, **Middleton S**, Monaghan H, Goldstein D, Tucker K, Zaheed M, Doublas B, Liang S, McKay S, Kennedy E, Chan P, Taylor N. (1) Knowledge-centric digital learning health platform for rapid knowledge sharing and decision support in precision oncology. [Poster presentation] Chan JC, Lin FP, Koh B, Tran M, **Middleton S**, Monaghan H, Goldstein D, Tucker K, Zaheed M, Doublas B, Lian S, Mckay S Kennedy E, Chan P, Taylor N. *Oncology knowledge curation and synthesis for decision-making support using ontology matching and natural language processing*. [Poster presentation]
Joint European Stroke Congress 2025 & World Congress of Cardiology *Madrid, Spain, 29 August–1 September 2025*	**Holman T**, **Middleton S**, Slade D, MacDonald P, Lowe D, Watts GJ, Kennedy R, Clifford B, Patat L, Proctor R, Myhill B, Ng P, Goncharov L, Carr G, **Straiton N**. *Assessing end-of-life care in cardiology wards within an Australian public hospital: A retrospective medical record audit.* [Moderated poster presentation]
Australian & New Zealand Stroke Organisation (ANZSOC) Conference 2025 *Hobart, 2–5 September 2025*	**Christie LJ**, Salisbury A, Fearn N, Jolliffe L, Bruggemann M, Kempson C, Kleinitz F, Ridge B, Teramayi R, Patterson A, Parsons MW, Pearce A. *Stroke survivor preferences for the delivery of CIMT programs: A discrete choice.* ****Winner: Best Oral Presentation, Rehabilitation, Recovery and Life after Stroke**** **Fasugba O**, **Dale S**, **Coughlan K**, **McInnes E**, Cadilhac DA, Cheung NW, Hill K, Page K, Sanjuan Menendez E, Neal E, Pollnow V, Gilder E, Slark J, Ranta A, Levi C, Grimshaw JM, **Middleton S**. *FeSS up: are we following protocols? QASC Australasia trial vs national stroke care reality.* [Poster presentation] Morrison JL, **Middleton S**, Hill K, Kleinig T, Kilkenny MF, Wesseldine A, Muller J, Close J, Thijs V, Castley H, Wong A, Canning A, Clissold B, Lindley R, Dewey H. *The national clinical quality stroke registry program to support improvements in acute stroke care: Progress update.*

CONFERENCE / FORUM	PRESENTER(S) & PRESENTATION
Australian & New Zealand Stroke Organisation (ANZSOC) Conference 2025 *Hobart, 2–5 September 2025*	**Smith MC**, Lannin NA, Godecke E, Dos Santos A, Robinson S, Makroglou K, Scrivener K, Shiner CT, Hill K, Parsons MW, **Christie LJ**. *What are the unmet stroke rehabilitation needs within priority populations in Australia?* Smith MJ, Zhou JL, Antonic-Baker A, **Christie LJ**, Clarkson AN, Corbett D, Dancause N, Hayward KS, Wingfield M, Lannin NA. *Adjuvants and upper extremity motor training: A synthesis of preclinical evidence to guide future trial design.*
Smart Strokes 2025 *Newcastle, 15–17 October 2025*	Birnie J, Bird ML, **Christie LJ**, Haracz K, Johnson L, Kenah K, Shiner C, Simpson D, Janssen H. *Care providers' experiences implementing the ESTEEM program in regional NSW: a qualitative descriptive study*. **Christie LJ**, Fearn N, McCluskey A, Lannin NA, Shiner C, Kilkenny A, Boydell J, Meharg A, Churilov L, Jolliffe L, **Makroglou K**, Faux S, **Middleton S**. *A feasibility study of remote constraint induced therapy of the upper extremity (ReCITE).* ****Winner: Best Scientific Abstract**** **Dale S**, **Fasugba O**, **Coughlan K**, **McInnes E**, Cadilhac DA, Cheung KW, Hill K, Page K, Sanjuan Menendez E, Neal E, Pollnow V, Gilder E, Slark J, Ranta A, Levi C, Grimshaw JM, **Middleton S**. *FeSS up or fall short? Protocols in everyday practice vs trials data.* Sterling M, Burns C, Egan A, Crowthers D, Yates L, **Christie LJ**, Levy T, Purvis T, Cadilhac DA, Hill K, Kilkenny M. *Factors Influencing Access to Community Rehabilitation Following Inpatient Rehabilitation.*
Evidence and Implementation Summit 2025 *Melbourne, 27–29 October 2025*	**Coughlan K**, **Fasugba O**, **Dale S,** Hill K, Cadilhac DA, **McInnes E**, **Middleton S**. *Scale up of Fever, Sugar (hyperglycaemia), Swallow (FeSS) Protocols in stroke care: Process evaluation using a Sustainability of Innovation Framework.* [Poster presentation] ****Winner Superlative Award****
Council of Deans of Nursing and Midwifery Conference *Christchurch, New Zealand, 30–31 October 2025*	**Middleton S**, **Thornton A**, **Whittam S**, Slade D, Goncharov L, Tuqiri K, Pollnow V, **Steadward Y**, Bilo J, Bowen K, Brown T, Aggar C, Gleeson N, Chow J, May S, Melbourne G, Newbury J, Chappelow J, Sciuriaga H, Sturgess L, Hackett K, Newman D, Curtis S, Lagat S, McEwin R, Helps C, Cummins M, **McMahon J**, George J, Christian C, Cuffe J, Lee L, **Saheb S**, **McInnes E**. *Assessment and Communication Excellence for Patient Safety: ACCELERATE Plus Trial*. **Straiton N**, Brogan E, Goldsmith H, Musodza W, **Holman T**, Ferguson C, Bradfield Z, **Middleton S**. *Falling off the research cliff: Stronger advocacy needed for nursing and midwifery early to mid-career researchers: A roadmap.* [Poster presentation] **Straiton N**, **Holman T**, Brogan E, Goldsmith H, Musodza W, Ferguson C, You W, Algoso C, Bowden A, Brunero S, Clifford B, Doab A, Javid N, McDonagh J, McErlean G, Mimmo L, Musgrave L, Paull G, Pope N, Qiu Y, Riley T, Sheppard-Law S, Varndell V, **Middleton S**. Mapping the landscape of early and mid-career nursing and midwifery researcher activities: A national survey of Australia.
The University of Melbourne MSHS Graduation Researcher Colloquium 2025 *Melbourne, 31 October 2025*	**Coventry A**, Gerdtz M, **McInnes E**, Hudson P. *Family needs when preparing for a patient's death in the Intensive Care Unit: A qualitative study.*

CONFERENCE / FORUM	PRESENTER(S) & PRESENTATION
European Society for Medical Oncology (ESMO) Asia *Suntec City, Singapore, 5–7 December 2025*	Liang S, Lin F, McKay S, Fox S, Millward M, Kichenadasse, Lau L, Lane S, Gan H, Leo B, Lawrence B, Scott C, Kee D, Zaheed M, **Middleton S**, Parkinson B, Ballinger M, Thomas D, Goldstein D, Taylor N. *Operational challenges of Molecular Tumour Boards (MTBs) in the Australasian public healthcare services: a scoping survey to inform the future of precision oncology*. [Poster presentation] Lin F, McKay S, Zaheed M, Douglas B, Ke H, Koh B, Liang S, Morrow A, Chan J, Kennedy E, Leaney K, Monaghan H, **Middleton S**, Ballinger M, Thomas DM, Parkinson B, Tucker K, Goldstein D, Taylor N. *Impact of a Quaternary Genomics Multidisciplinary Team (MDT) ON Oncological Decision-Making; Piot Phase of the UNSW Precision CARE Initiative (PCI)*.

Invited Speaker Presentations

CONFERENCE / FORUM	PRESENTER(S) & PRESENTATION
Strategic Policy Uplift Program Health & Aged Care Symposium, Dept. of Health and Aged Care *Canberra, 17 February 2025*	**Straiton N**, Slade D. *Improving End-of-Life Care: The case for better communication and workforce development*. [Invited speaker]
Australian Frailty Network Summit 2025 *Sydney, 20–21 February 2025*	**Straiton N**, **Holman T**, Mills N, Arriagada A, Montgomery E, Gardner E, Noyes L, Chandra L, Nielsen S, Lachonius M, **Whittam S**, **Middleton S**. *Frailty on the frontline: Evaluating the impact and integration of a frailty clinical champion in Australian and Swedish cardiovascular programs*. [Invited speaker]
Northern NSW LHD 2025 Nursing and Midwifery Research Symposium *Lennox Head, 26 February 2025*	**Middleton S**. *Assessment and communication excellence for safe patient outcomes plus*. [Invited speaker]
Global Heart Hub Roundtable *Madrid, Spain, 21 March 2025*	**Straiton N**. *Improving the patient pathway for women with heart valve disease*. [Invited Speaker]
European Stroke Organisation Conference *Helsinki, Finland, 21–23 May 2025*	**Middleton S**. *Care coordination and goal setting AHC session*. [Invited session chair]
European Society of Cardiology (ESC) Annual Congress – ACNAP Conference *Sophia-Antipolis, France, 14 June 2025*	**Straiton N**. *Integrating wearable activity trackers into cardiovascular disease care*. [Invited speaker] **Straiton N**. *Sustaining evidence-based care in practice*. [Invited speaker]
Health Services Research Association Australia & New Zealand (HSRAANZ) Webinar Series *Online, 28 August 2025*	**Middleton S**. *Changing practice, saving lives: QASC 15-year program case study of implementation upscale and spread*. [Invited Speaker]
Australian & New Zealand Stroke Organisation (ANZSOC) Conference 2025 *Hobart, 2–5 September 2025*	**Middleton S**. *Advances in stroke care. 10 years in 10 minutes*. [Invited speaker] **Middleton S**. *Zodiac trial*. [Invited speaker]
Workshop at Indian Institute of Technology Delhi *Online, 20 and 27 November 2025*	**Christie LJ**. *Evidence-based practice for upper limb rehabilitation after stroke*. [Invited speaker]

St Vincent's Hospital Sydney Research Week

St Vincent's Sydney Health Innovation Precinct Research Week 2025 | 20–25 October 2025

PRESENTERS	PRESENTATION TITLE
Buswell N, Musgrove E, **Smith MC, Christie LJ, Lazar M, McMahon A.**	*Allied Health & Nursing Research All Stars showcase: Healthy mouths, healthy lives*.
Christie LJ, Smith MC.	*Better Yarns – Grand Rounds Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Research: Identifying and addressing the long term needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Stroke Survivors: Lessons learnt.*
Dale S, Fasugba O, Coughlan K, McInnes E, Cadilhac DA, Cheung NW, Hill K, Page K, Sanjuan Menendez E, Neal E, Pollnow V, Gilder E, Slark J, Ranta A, Levi C, Grimshaw JM, **Middleton S.**	*FeSS Up: Are we following protocols? QASC Australasia Trial vs national stroke care reality.* [Fast Forward presentation]
Dale S, Makroglou K.	*The Abstract Advantage: Stand Out & Get Accepted.* [Workshop]
Murray A, Lasschuit J, Robinson S, **Christie LJ.**	*Allied Health & Nursing Research All Stars Showcase: Taking footcare to the streets.*
Rogers M, Cahill LS, Dorsch S, Tse V, Chrystie A, **Christie LJ.**	*Allied Health & Nursing Research All Stars Showcase: Outcomes and satisfaction of Australian metropolitan hospital hand therapy patients: A mixed methods study.*
Smith MC, Lannin NA, Godecke E, Dos Santos A, Robinson S, **Makroglou K**, Scrivener K, Shiner CT, Hill K, Parsons MW, **Christie LJ.**	*What are the unmet stroke rehabilitation needs within priority populations? A qualitative study.* [Fast Forward presentation]
Smith MC, Lannin NA, Godecke E, Dos Santos A, Robinson S, **Makroglou K,** Scrivener K, Shiner CT, Hill K, Parsons MW, **Christie LJ.**	*What are the unmet stroke rehabilitation needs within priority populations? A qualitative study.* [Poster presentation]
Straiton N, Horne A, Hammer MJ, Legor KA, Dacey M, Gyan K, Leonarczyk TJ, Caparrotta CM, de Tullio N, **Middleton S.**	*Advancing Nurse-Led Cancer Care and Research Through International Collaboration: The 2025 American Australian Association St Vincent's Delta Goodrem Nursing Exchange in Cellular Therapies.* [Poster presentation]
Wakefield G, Miller C, Herrero M, **Christie LJ**, Lambert K, MacDonald P, Plitt M, Hutchens J, Cheng H, Inglis SC.	*Allied Health & Nursing Research All Stars Showcase: The impact of pre-operative nutrition support in heart and lung transplant patients.*

St Vincent's Hospital Melbourne Presentations

Aikenhead Centre for Medical Discovery Research Week | St Vincent's Hospital Melbourne | 4–7 August 2025

PRESENTERS	PRESENTATION TITLE
McMahon J.	*Exploring the uptake of evidence-based strategies to manage and prevent pressure injuries in the acute setting.* [Junior Investigator Oral Presentation]

Contact us

Phone

+ 61 2 8382 3791

Email

nriadmin@acu.edu.au

Website

www.nursingresearch.com.au
www.amr.org.au/allied.health.research.unit

Address

SYDNEY Level 5, deLacy Building
390 Victoria St, Darlinghurst NSW 2010

MELBOURNE Level 5 Spring St
Melbourne VIC 3000

Acknowledgement of Country

The Nursing Research Institute acknowledges the Traditional Owners of Country throughout Australia and acknowledges their continuing connection to land, waters, and community. We pay our respects to the people, the cultures, and the Elders past and present.

NRI NURSING RESEARCH INSTITUTE
St Vincent's Health Network Sydney | St Vincent's Hospital Melbourne
Australian Catholic University

ST VINCENT'S ALLIED HEALTH RESEARCH UNIT

ST VINCENT'S HEALTH NETWORK SYDNEY

ST VINCENT'S HOSPITAL MELBOURNE

ACU AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY