HLA/HLI
2026

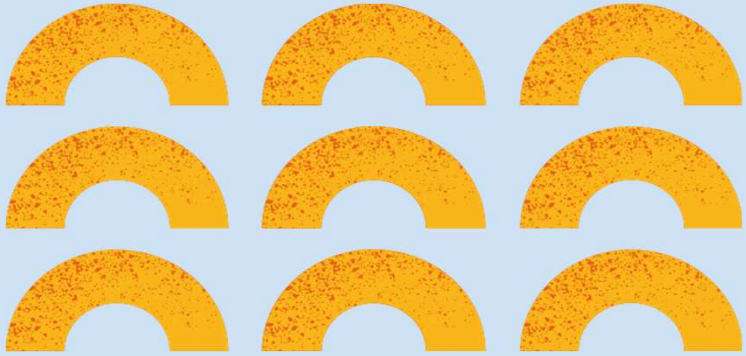
Fuelling Partnerships

Libraries Supporting Allied Health Research Capability

Ruth Lawrence - Eastern Health Library
Eunice Ang - Northern Health Library
Keren Moskal - Monash Health Library

Stepping into RESEARCH

- One program
- Three health services
- Shared experiences



Program BEGINNINGS



- Allied Health Clinical Research Office established at Eastern Health in 2007
- To develop a research culture among allied health professionals
- Stepping into Research program commenced in 2008

Program STRUCTURE

12-week research training program for novice researchers

Structured around the writing of a systematic review

Basic skills taught during four 3-hour workshops include:

- Formulating a question
- Identifying literature
- Critical evaluation of papers
- Synthesising date
- Writing the review

Each participant is allocated a mentor



Program FEATURES

1. Targeted
2. Short-term
3. Systematic Reviews
4. Skills acquisition
5. Participants

Fuelling Research
CAPABILITY

Group Workshops

- Library Resources
- SR Methodology
- Systematic searching
- Reference management

Consultations

- Refine research questions
- Develop search strategies
- Database translation
- Troubleshooting

Ongoing Support

- Guidance throughout
- Access to full text
- Access to software
- Publication support

Degrees of library INVOLVEMENT

Support

Eastern Health & Northern Health Libraries

- Literature searching is the main area of library involvement
- Advice on databases, resources and full-text access
- Additional support with EndNote / Covidence

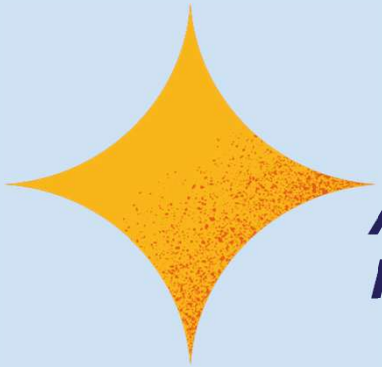
Co-Lead

Monash Health Library

- Supports mentee selection and topic feasibility assessment
- Contributes to training across all four workshops
- Maintains ongoing engagement and tracks research outputs

Program OUTCOMES

Library	Participants	Publications
Eastern	160	64
Northern	39	9
Monash	43	10



STAR AWARD Monash

"As a social worker and clinician, I never saw myself as someone who could 'do research'... the program made research feel accessible"

"The program significantly increased my confidence in engaging with research and sparked my interest in pursuing further research"

Program CHALLENGES

Role of library

- Library plays a supporting rather than collaborative role

Access challenges

- Participants access to LTU databases, but librarians do not, or
- Participants do not have uni affiliations, only mentors do

Workload

- Time-consuming for library team
- High degree of support required
- Balance program support with other library services

Benefits & LESSONS LEARNT

1. Better search strategies
2. Improved digital literacy
3. Improved research capability building
4. Strengthened partnerships and rapport
5. Word-of-mouth promo for library
6. Creation of reusable resources to support future cohorts

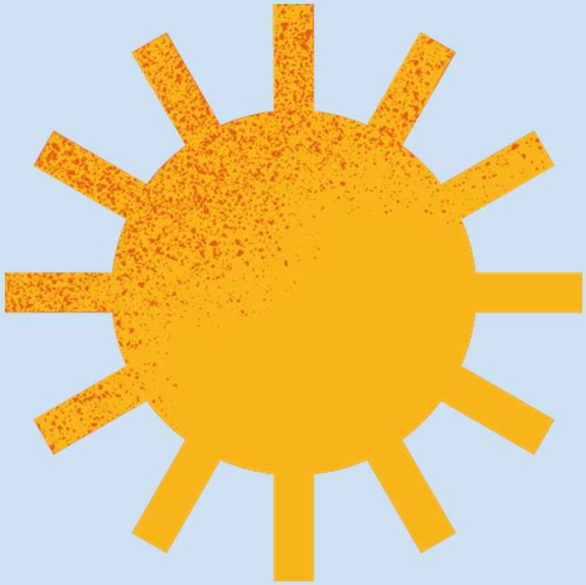
Next STEPS



- Covidence trial at EH
- Program expansion at MH
- Continued support at NH

General:

- Librarians to be acknowledged or made co-authors from program publications
- Be on the Allied Health Research Committee (or other) to have a voice



Thank you

Ruth Lawrence - Eastern Health Library
Eunice Ang - Northern Health Library
Keren Moskal - Monash Health Library

REFERENCES

1. Harding, Katherine E. et al. “A great first step into research”: Stepping into Research is an effective and sustainable model for research training in clinical settings: a report of a 6-year outcome. (2016) Journal of Allied Health, vol. 45(3), p. 176-182.

1. Taylor, Nicholas F. et al. Evaluating the introduction of an Allied Health Clinical Research service: effects of research participation, interest, and experience of Allied Health professionals. (2019). Journal of Allied Health, vol.48(1), p. 46-53.