

STaRR: Supporting Translation of Research in Rural and Regional health settings

Information: Emerging Researcher Training Program 2025

Western Alliance's **STaRR** program aims to build research and research translation capacity in rural and regional health settings. **STaRR** is a multidimensional research translation capability building program. This expression of interest is for **STaRR** Emerging Researcher training.

STaRR training aims to provide health staff with the foundational research skills needed to develop a research translation-focused project (i.e., a project that will develop or use existing evidence to underpin change in practice or policy).

Approximately 2-4 hours of additional project work is required each week for 10 weeks (approx.) between the first, second, and third workshops to develop a research protocol or proposal.

STaRR participants will receive mentoring support and access to resources to assist them. We will pair you with a research mentor prior to the workshops or you can nominate your own mentor.

There will be an opportunity for **STaRR** participants to apply for grant funding to progress their research idea or translate the findings into practice post completion of the training course.

Who can participate?

All staff working at Western Alliance member health organisations (Barwon Health, Colac Area Health, East Grampians Health Service, Grampians Health, Maryborough District Health Service, Portland District Health, South West Healthcare, Western District Health Service, Western Victoria PHN) are invited to apply for the **STaRR** program. We encourage those with limited or no prior research experience to apply.

Western Alliance covers the cost of the training program, so it is free to participate.

Workshops overview

The training will comprise of three workshops that will be facilitated in a mix of in-person and online formats. The workshops will be underpinned by the principles of research translation and will cover the following broad topics:

- General introduction to research
- Developing a researchable question
- Ethics and governance
- Introduction to research methods
- Introduction to a research translation framework
- Common data collection techniques
- Introduction to data analysis
- Research dissemination and impact
- Consumer and stakeholder engagement
- Working with your mentor

Your manager or team leader will be invited to specific parts of the workshops relevant to their role.

How to complete your EOI

1. Identify a translation-focused research idea (i.e., a project that will lead to changes in practice or policy)

For support developing your research idea and completing your EOI, please contact your [Western Alliance Research Translation Coordinator](#) where available:

Barwon Health: Michael Field MField@cah.vic.gov.au

Colac Area Health: Michael Field MField@cah.vic.gov.au

East Grampians Health Service: Ella Ottrey ella.ottrey@eghs.net.au

Grampians Health (all sites): Alesha Sayner Alesha.sayner@gh.org.au

Maryborough District Health Service: Ella Ottrey ella.ottrey@eghs.net.au

Portland District Health: Ella Ottrey ella.ottrey@eghs.net.au

South West Healthcare: Jessie Adams jessie.adams@wdhs.net

Western District Health Service: Jessie Adams jessie.adams@wdhs.net

Western Victoria Primary Health Network: Michael Field MField@cah.vic.gov.au

2. Complete the EOI with your manager and ask that they sign it
3. Nominate your team members (we recommend a minimum of two additional people to support the project, one must be your team leader or manager)
4. Submit your completed EOI by 5pm on **Wednesday 23rd July** to starrsupport@deakin.edu.au

Please contact Olivia King or Peter Kelly via starrsupport@deakin.edu.au for more information about the STaRR program.

Timeline

Please note, training dates and the venue for the first workshop are subject to change. We will give you as much notice as possible about any changes.

Expressions of interest	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Open 26th May• Online information session - 11th June*• Close 23rd July at 5pm• Notification by 13th August
Workshops	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. 27th August (in-person in Colac)2. 6th October (on-line)3. 30th October (online)

* To find out more, please join us at the **STaRR** EOI information session on Wednesday 11th June, 12:00 – 1:00PM

<https://deakin.zoom.us/j/86565251277?pwd=YRp6l9f4cJPLNblbkPYAvCFUWrJQa6.1>

Meeting ID: 865 6525 1277

Password: 36581947