

# STARR: SUPPORTING TRANSLATION OF RESEARCH IN RURAL AND REGIONAL SETTINGS



Academic Health Science Centre

## Expression of interest for STaRR Research Mentors

Western Alliance's Supporting Translation of Research in Rural and Regional Settings (STaRR) Program involves an emerging health practitioner research translation training program that supports the development of an idea into a research translation proposal or protocol. A key component of the training program is to link participants (emerging practitioner researchers), with an experienced mentor who can assist them to develop their proposal. STaRR aligns with Western Alliance's strategic objective to support the development of the capability and capacity of our members to design and implement research-based and evidence-informed healthcare in rural and regional settings. STaRR is a multi-dimensional research capacity building approach that includes:

- Research Translation Coordinators (X 3) embedded in health services across the Barwon South Western and Grampians region
- Organisational research strategy and planning support
- Translation-focussed research training for the health workforce (including mentors, emerging researchers, and managers)
- An online, open access repository of resources to support research translation in health organisations

### Role of the research mentor

The mentor will support new and emerging practitioner researchers through the training program. The mentor can:

- Provide feedback to their mentee/s
- Share expertise and experiences
- Suggest solutions to problems/challenges
- Link the mentees with other researchers and networks
- Support their mentee/s to develop research skills and confidence

Mentors **are not** expected to undertake work for the mentees, monitor a mentee's progress or be on call/meet with mentees without reasonable notice.

### Benefits for the mentor

Mentors will participate in specialised research translation training, fully funded by Western Alliance, prior to supporting their matched mentee/s. Mentors can also be matched with an experience academic researcher who can support them through the process as needed. Mentoring, a two-way relationship involving the transfer of knowledge and expertise, can provide many other benefits for mentors who are willing to invest their time in developing another professional. These benefits include:

- The personal satisfaction of sharing your skills and experience with a willing learner
- Extension of professional development record
- Opportunity to reflect on own goals and practices

- Opportunity to participate in research as a co-investigator
- Opportunity to be included on a Western Alliance Emerging Research Grant application

### Who can be a mentor?

A mentor has experience in designing and implementing research studies/quality improvement projects or experience developing and evaluating healthcare projects and programs.

### Expectations of the mentor

#### Mentor research translation training

Attend a research translation training workshop.

#### Mentor support

Have contact with your mentee a minimum of four times during the two-month training program to discuss the mentee's project and provide guidance and feedback.

We anticipate that mentors will provide verbal and written feedback as needed and may provide some ongoing support beyond the training.

### Timeline

EOI open (mentors)	20 <sup>th</sup> June 2022
EOI close (mentors)	15 <sup>th</sup> July 2022
STaRR Mentor Workshop (single 2-hour workshop)	August 2022
Emerging researcher training (two workshops – you do not need to attend, but do need to be available to provide mentoring around this time)	October and November 2022

For more information or to be connected with a past STaRR mentor to hear about their experience and what you can expect, please contact Olivia King ([olivia.king@barwonhealth.org.au](mailto:olivia.king@barwonhealth.org.au))

[Please register your expression of interest here](#)