

## Expression of interest for STaRR Research Mentor

Western Alliance's Supporting Translation of Research in Rural and Regional Settings (**STaRR**) Program involves a research translation training program that supports emerging health practitioner researchers to develop an idea into a research translation proposal or protocol. A key component of the training program is linking participants (emerging practitioner researchers), with an experienced mentor who can assist them in developing their proposal.

**STaRR** is a multi-dimensional research capacity building approach that includes:

- Research Translation Coordinators embedded in health services across the Barwon South West and Grampians regions
- Translation-focused 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 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 be offered training opportunities, fully funded by Western Alliance, prior to supporting their matched mentee/s. Experienced academic researchers will be available to support mentors as needed. Mentoring is a two-way relationship involving the sharing of knowledge and expertise and can provide many other benefits for mentors who are willing to invest their time in developing another professional. These benefits include:

- The 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 health service-led research as a co-investigator
- Opportunity to be included on a Western Alliance Emerging Researcher Grant application
- Building your knowledge and skills related to leading research translation in the healthcare context
- Connecting with other mentors across the region

### 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

#### Training

- Attend an in-person training workshop where you will meet your emerging researcher mentee.
- Have contact with your mentee a minimum of four times during the 10-week training program to discuss the mentee's project and provide guidance and feedback.

Emerging researchers' support needs vary. We anticipate that mentors will provide verbal and written feedback as needed and may provide some ongoing support beyond the training, as negotiated within the mentorships.

**For more information or to connect with a past STaRR mentor to hear about their experience and what you can expect, please contact Olivia King or Alison Buccheri via email: [starrsupport@deakin.edu.au](mailto:starrsupport@deakin.edu.au)**

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