

2026

Metro South Health Research Support Scheme



Recipient list – funding commencing 2026

ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER NOVICE RESEARCHER GRANT

Funded by MSH SERTA | up to \$25,000 over two years

Principal Investigator: **Ms Rochelle Pitt**, Nurse Navigator
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Directorate

Project title: *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Bush Medicine practice and knowledge on Yuggera, Ugarapul, Quandamooka, Mununjali and Yugembeh Countries (Southeast Queensland)*

Research team: Ms Nicole Costello MSH Inala COE
Mr Terry Wickey MSH Inala COE
Dr Norita Morseau Diop UQ
Dr Bena Brown MSH Inala COE

Supervisor: Dr Bena Brown

NOVICE RESEARCHER GRANTS

Funded by MSH SERTA | up to \$25,000 over two years

Principal Investigator: **Dr Lu Yu Kuo**, PHO
Urology, Division of Surgery, PA Hospital

Project title: *Ultra-sensitive immune function testing to forecast BCG therapy success in bladder cancer patients*

Research team: Prof Eric Chung PA Hospital
Dr Handoo Rhee PA Hospital
A/Prof Fernando Guimaraes UQ TRI
Dr Michelle Cestari Novoviah Pharma
Dr Robert Anderson Novoviah Pharma
Ms Jiya Jose UQ TRI

Supervisor: Dr Handoo Rhee

Principal Investigator: **Mrs Ashleigh Urquhart**, CNC
Chronic Disease, Community and Oral Health

Project title: *Evaluating Flexible Cardiac Rehabilitation Models to Improve Access and Outcomes in Underserved Populations: A Quasi-Experimental Study in Metro South Health*

Research team: Prof Amanda Henderson PA Hospital
Dr Mari Takashima PA Hospital
Dr Christine Ossenbergh PA Hospital

2026

Metro South Health Research Support Scheme



Supervisor:	Ms Samara Phillips MSH Community Health Ms Teresa Fan MSH Community Health Ms Bethan Sage MSH Community Health Prof Amanda Henderson
Principal Investigator:	Mrs Jess Bendeich, CNC Anaesthetics and Recovery, Division of Surgery, PA Hospital
Project title:	<i>Patient acuity in the Post Anaesthetic Care Unit (PACU) and risk factors associated with post-operative complications and clinical deterioration in the inpatient setting: A cohort study</i>
Research team:	Prof David Sturgess UQ PA Hospital Prof Clinton Douglas QUT Dr Judy Munday USC SCHHS Mrs Laura Farrow PA Hospital Dr Nathan James PA Hospital Miss Katie Rigby PA Hospital
Supervisor:	Professor David Sturgess
Principal Investigator:	Ms Jennifer Obazuaye, CNC Bayside Chronic Disease Service, Community and Oral Health
Project title:	<i>Advancing pulmonary rehabilitation nurses to work to the full extent of their practice - A statewide initiative to achieve consistently optimised client outcomes</i>
Research team:	Prof Amanda Henderson PA Hospital Nadia Nestor MSH Community Health Dr Christine Ossenberg PA Hospital Dr Mari Takashima PA Hospital
Supervisor:	Prof Amanda Henderson
Principal Investigator:	Mr Jaze Wang, Nurse Practitioner Logan Endocrine and Diabetes Services (LEADS), Logan Hospital
Project title:	<i>From Barriers to Solutions: A Co-Design Study of a Digital Intake Tool in Diabetes Outpatient Care</i>
Research team:	Dr Dianna Luong Logan Hosp Dr Gaurav Puri Logan Hosp Jacqueline Cotugno Logan Hosp Emma Owers Logan Hosp Prof Clair Sullivan UQ Herston Prof Benjamin Tan UniSQ Ipswich
Supervisor:	Prof Clair Sullivan

2026

Metro South Health Research Support Scheme



Principal Investigator: **Ms Heather Biggs**, Nuclear Medicine Technologist
Integrated Theranostics Centre, Division of Cancer Services, PA Hospital

Project title: *Evaluating Amyloid-beta accumulation in the gastro-genitourinary systems through a multiomics approach, in relation to brain uptake of [18F]-Florbetaben Positron Emission Tomography Magnetic Resonance Imaging in patients with Alzheimer's Disease*

Research team: Dr Stanley Ngai PA Hospital
Dr Ibrahim Javed UQ

Supervisors: Dr Stanley Ngai
Dr Ibrahim Javed

Principal Investigator: **Mrs Kylie Keast**, Advanced Clinical Leader Quality and Safety
Clinical Governance, Bayside Health Service

Project title: *Flexible work arrangements: the operational perspective in Allied Health*

Research team: Dr Maria Schwarz MSH CFAHR
Ms Bronwyn Bartholomew MSH Office of the Executive Director AH
Mr James Bartholomew Logan Hosp

Supervisor: Dr Maria Schwarz

NOVICE RESEARCHER GRANTS

Funded by PA Research Foundation | up to \$25,000 over two years

Principal Investigator: **Dr Laurie McLaughlin**, Neurologist
Neurology, Division of Medicine, PA Hospital

Project title: *Real-world Efficacy of Rituximab in patients with Myasthenia Gravis using MGBase*

Research team: A/Prof Stefan Blum PA Hospital
Dr Kristen Lefever PA Hospital
Dr Andrew Swayne Mater Hosp
Prof Pamela McCombe UQ RBWH

Supervisor: A/Prof Stefan Blum

Principal Investigator: **Dr Kimberley Budgen**, Gamma Knife Fellow
Radiation Oncology, Division of Cancer Services, PA Hospital

Project title: *Investigating the feasibility of pre-operative radiosurgery to intact brain metastases using Gamma Knife, in 1 versus 3 fractions*

Research team: Prof Mark B Pinkham PA Hospital
Prof Matthew C Foote PA Hospital
Dr Michael Huo PA Hospital
Dr Mihir Shanker PA Hospital

2026

Metro South Health Research Support Scheme



Dr Bruce Hall PA Hospital
A/Prof Sarah Olson PA Hospital
Dr Joseph Garcia Redmond PA Hospital
Dr Benjamin Ong PA Hospital
Michael Jenkins PA Hospital
Nathalie De Camp PA Hospital

Supervisor: Prof Mark B Pinkham

EARLY CAREER RESEARCHER GRANTS

Funded by MSH SERTA | up to \$100,000 over two years

Principal Investigator: Dr Jack Lockett, Staff specialist

Diabetes and Endocrinology, Division of Medicine, PA Hospital

Project title:

Randomised controlled trial of urea versus fluid restriction as first line treatment of hyponatraemia secondary to the syndrome of inappropriate antidiuresis (SIAD) – the UvFR Study

Research team:

Dr Raquel Maggacis PA Hospital
Dr Emily K Brooks PA Hospital
Dr Brendan J Nolan PA Hospital
Dr Warrick J Inder PA Hospital
Dr Kate Webster PA Hospital
Dr Nirija Ranjit Anderson PA Hospital
Dr Samantha Ng PA Hospital

Principal Investigator: Ms Soo Oh, Clinical Team Leader Occupational Therapist

Occupational Therapy, Division of AH and Rehabilitation, PA Hospital

Project title:

Implementation of tailored, co-designed approaches to enable evidence-informed and sustainable uptake of virtual reality into occupational therapy practice at Logan and Princess Alexandra Hospitals

Research team:

Prof Louise Gustafsson Griffith University
A/Prof Jacki Liddle UQ PA Hospital
Kerry Ann Anderson Kay PA Hospital
Rebecca Connors PA Hospital
Margo Coffey Logan Hosp
Dr Jessie Mitchell Griffith University
Dr Michael Norwood Griffith University
John 'JJ' Hitchens Consumer researcher with lived experience

2026

Metro South Health Research Support Scheme



Principal Investigator: **Miss Erynn McAuley**, Senior Dietitian
Nutrition and Dietetics, Division of Allied Health, Logan Hospital

Project title: *Improving equity of access to culturally safe kidney self-management programs for Pasifika and Māori adults: co-design of a healthy eating and exercise program for kidney disease*

Research team: Dr Natasha Taufatofua Logan Hospital
A/Prof Helen MacLaughlin QUT RBWH
A/Prof Ken-Soon Tan Logan Hospital
Dr Jaimon Kelly UQ
Marguerite Conley PA Hospital
Nadia Nestor MSH Oral Health
Sonny Palamo Consumer Logan Hospital

EARLY CAREER RESEARCHER GRANTS

Funded by PA Research Foundation | up to \$100,000 over two years

Principal Investigator: **Dr Tyrone Humphries**, Research Assistant
Urology/Kidney and Transplant Services, Division of Surgery, PA Hospital

Project title: *Non-invasive Quantification of Kidney Triglyceride Content in Diabetic Kidney Disease Using In Vivo Magnetic Resonance Spectroscopy*

Research team: A/Prof Ross Francis PA Hospital
Dr Robert Ellis PA Hospital
Prof Josephine Forbes Mater Research Institute TRI
Prof Carolyn Mountford Griffith University
Dr Julia Watson PA Hospital

RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP

Funded by MSH SERTA | up to \$200,000 over three years

Principal Investigator: **Dr Sally Griffin**, Dietitian
Nutrition and Dietetics, Division of Allied Health, Logan Hospital

Project title: *Preoperative Intervention & Management for Excess weight (PRIME): establishing efficacy in intra-abdominal surgeries, and evaluating a novel virtual model of care for colorectal cancer patients.*

Research team: Ms Rainbow Lai Logan Hospital
Dr Michelle Palmer Logan Hospital
Dr Ian Bloomfield Logan Hospital
Dr Hannah Mayr PA Hospital
Dr Ferdinand Ong QEII Hospital
Dr Dimitrios Koutoukidis Oxford University
Dr Tyler McKechnie McMaster University Hamilton, Canada
Dr Nicholas Lutton PA Hospital

2026

Metro South Health Research Support Scheme



MSH FUTURE RESEARCH LEADER FELLOWSHIP

Funded by MSH SERTA | up to \$300,000 over three years

Principal Investigator: **Dr Amanda Pigott**, Occupational therapist
Occupational Therapy, Division of AH and Rehabilitation, PA Hospital

Project title: [Compression therapy to reduce recurrent cellulitis](#)

Research team: Megan Trevethan PA Hospital
Dr Emmah Doig UQ STARS
A/Prof Jacqueline Liddle UQ PA Hospital
Dr Andrew McCann PA Hospital
Dr Elizabeth Webb ANU
Rodney Neale PA Hospital
Stefanie Knoeckel PA Hospital

CO-FUNDED COLLABORATION GRANTS

Funded by MSH SERTA and a university partner | up to \$50,000 over two years

Principal Investigator: **Prof Elizabeth Powell**, Hepatologist
Gastroenterology and Hepatology, Division of Medicine, PA Hospital

University partner: University of Queensland Institute for Molecular Bioscience

University co-lead: **A/Prof Quan Nguyen**, Group Leader, Genomics and Machine Learning

Project title: [High-resolution spatial transcriptomics to characterise senescent cells in human metabolic dysfunction-associated steatotic liver disease](#)

Research team: A/Prof Kate Irvine UQ TRI

Principal Investigator: **Ms Danica Cossio**, Senior Director
Cancer Alliance Queensland, Division of Cancer Services, PA Hospital

University partner: Queensland University of Technology

University co-lead: **Prof Marina Reeves**, Cancer epidemiologist and Dietitian

Project title: [BOLD: Improving Breast Cancer Outcomes through Linked Data](#)

Research team: Megan Stephensen UQ
Elise Strange QUT
Prof Susan Jordan UQ
Dr Katharine Cuff PA Hospital
Dr Qing Xia QUT
Prof Fiona Simpson UQ TRI
Julie Moore PA Hospital
Dr Melinda Protani UQ
Dr Karen Tuesley UQ
Dr Shirley Chambers QUT

2026

Metro South Health Research Support Scheme



Principal Investigator: **Dr Saskia Leibowitz**, Nephrologist
Nephrology, Division of Medicine, Logan Hospital

University partner: Queensland University of Technology

University co-lead: **A/Prof Helen MacLaughlin**, Consultant Dietitian

Project title: [*Exploring barriers to care for women with chronic kidney disease: a mixed methods study*](#)

Research team: Erynn McAuley Logan Hosp
Marguerite Conley PA Hosp
Dr Elizabeth Jarvis Logan Hosp

Principal Investigator: **Dr Mari Takashima**, Nurse Researcher
Nursing Practice Development Unit, PA Hospital

University partner: Griffith University Health Group

University co-lead: **Dr Amanda Corley**, Postdoctoral Research Fellow

Project title: [*Chemical Leaching Exposure Assessment and Removal in Dialysis \(CLEAR-D\): A Two-Component Descriptive Feasibility Study*](#)

Research team: Prof Ann Bonner GU
Prof Rob Ware GU
Dr Benjamin Lazarus PA Hospital
Mr Thomas Boissiere-O'Neill UQ
Dr Xianyu Wang UQ
Prof Peter Sly UQ
Mr Martin Chambers Consumer Representative

Principal Investigator: **Dr Leigh Bramwell**, Senior Community Nutritionist
Metro South Health Equity and Access Team

University partner: Griffith University Health Group

University co-lead: **Dr Kelsey Chapman**, Disability and Rehabilitation Research Fellow

Project title: [*Staying healthy in supported independent living: co-designing healthy lifestyle interventions with people with disability*](#)

Research team: Simone Johnston MSH Strategic Partnerships
Dr Maria Schwarz MSH Centre for Functioning and Health Research

2026

Metro South Health Research Support Scheme



INDIGENOUS HEALTH RESEARCH PROJECT GRANT

Funded by MSH SERTA | up to \$125,000 over two years

Principal Investigator: Miss Kristy-Lee Shelton, NUM
Southern Queensland Centre of Excellence in Aboriginal and Torres Strait
Islander Primary Health Care

Project title: *Healing the Workforce: Understanding, preventing and addressing lateral
violence in the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health workforce*

Research team: Dr Janet Stajic UQ Inala COE
A/Prof Yvonne Clark SAHMRI University of Adelaide
Dr Bena Brown Inala COE

PROJECT GRANTS

Funded by MSH SERTA | up to \$125,000 over two years

Principal Investigator: Dr Melinda Burgess, Post Doctoral Research Scientist
Haematology, Division of Cancer Services, PA Hospital

Project title: *Decoding the Tumour Microenvironment in DLBCL-PTLD: A Multiomics
Approach to Therapeutic Target Discovery*

Research team: A/Prof Colm Keane PA Hospital
Dr Zachary Hawula UQ TRI
Dr Fiona Swain PA Hospital
Dr Rakin Chowdhury PA Hospital
Dr Ahmed Medhi UQ
A/Prof Sizun Jiang Harvard Medical School Boston USA
Jane Campbell Consumer representative
Sandra Little PA Hospital
Nella Tuzko UQ TRI
Lucy Bradbury UQ TRI
Prof Eliza Hawkes Austin Health Melbourne
Dr Joel Wight Townsville Hospital

Principal Investigator: Prof Prabhakar Ramachandran, Director Medical Physics
Radiation Oncology, Division of Cancer Services, PA Hospital

Project title: *Plasma-Enhanced Colonoscopy: Australia's First CAP-Enabled Cancer
Treatment System*

Research team: Prof Rik Thompson QUT TRI
Dr Beini Chen PA Hospital
Dr Shwan Karim PA Hospital
A/Prof Andrew Fielding QUT
Prof Chiara Palmieri UQ

2026

Metro South Health Research Support Scheme



Dr Debottam Sinha UQ TRI
Ben Perrett PA Hospital
Christopher Davies QUT TRI

Principal Investigator: **Prof Timothy Geraghty**, Director, The Hopkins Centre;
Senior Staff Specialist, Queensland Spinal Cord Injuries Service
Rehabilitation, Division of Allied Health and Rehabilitation, PA Hospital

Project title: *Facilitating choice and agency when cognition is compromised: Enhancing self-advocacy skills for system navigation for people with acquired brain injury*

Research team: Prof Tamara Ownsworth The Hopkins Centre GU
Dr Jessie Mitchell The Hopkins Centre GU
Dr Kerrin Watter PA Hospital
Dr Melissa Kendall PA Hospital
Areti Kennedy PA Hospital
Dr Annerley Bates PA Hospital
Dr Ryan Bell PA Hospital
Dr Mandy Nielson PA Hospital
Dr Kelsey Chapman The Hopkins Centre GU
Karen Hannah Consumer advocate
David Curry Consumer self-advocate
Dr Rachel Brough The Hopkins Centre GU
Janelle Griffin PA Hospital
Val Pick PA Hospital
Courtney Carlson PA Hospital
Clare Morgan PA Hospital
Sue Wright PA Hospital

Principal Investigator: **Mr James Bartholomew**, Dietitian
Nutrition and Dietetics, Division of Allied Health Services, Logan Hospital

Project title: *What can iEMR data tell us about how to improve malnutrition management?*

Research team: Dr Maria Schwarz Research MSH CFAHR
Simon Townsend PA Hospital
Alan Pole Queensland Cyber Infrastructure Foundation
Dr Farah Zahir Queensland Cyber Infrastructure Foundation
Peter Marendy Queensland Cyber Infrastructure Foundation
Prof Jason Pole UQ

2026

Metro South Health Research Support Scheme



Principal Investigator: **Ms Courtney Orth**, Senior Scientist
Organ and Tissue Donation Service, Queensland Tissue Bank

Project title: [*SEE-AI: Smart Endothelial Evaluation using Artificial Intelligence*](#)

Research team: Dr Kien Nguyen Senior QUT
Ms Elese Draheim MSH Queensland Tissue Bank
Ms Emily Adamovic MSH Queensland Tissue Bank
Dr Huynh Nguyen MSH Queensland Tissue Bank
Ms Rebekah Goodrich MSH Queensland Tissue Bank
Dr Peter Beckingsale Terrace Eye Centre
Mr Wayne Sticher Consumer representative
Mr Nigel Brookes New Zealand National Eye Bank Auckland

Principal Investigator: **A/Prof Anura Ariyawardana**, Clinical Principal Dentist
Oral Health Services, Community and Oral Health

Project title: [*Improving access to and experience of oral health services for children with disability by reducing reliance on general anaesthesia : A study of clinical, behavioural, and systemic factors on the Metro South Health waiting list*](#)

Research team: Dr Kelsey Chapman GU
Dr Sumit Sachdeva MSH Oral Health
Martine Waters Metro South Health
Debbie Cowan PA Hospital
A/Professor Jessica Paynter GU
Prof Elizabeth Kendall GU
Prof Tamara Ownsworth GU
Dr Candy Fung MSH Oral Health
Gia Lowry GU

Principal Investigator: **Dr Matthew Tunbridge**, Staff Specialist
Nephrology, Division of Medicine, PA Hospital

Project title: [*Uromune To prevent Infections in Kidney Transplant recipients \(UTI KIT\)*](#)

Research team: Dr Beatrice Sim PA Hospital
Dr Lana Sundac PA Hospital
Prof Nikky Isbel PA Hospital
Prof David Johnson PA Hospital
Dr Handoo Rhee PA Hospital
Dr Ryan Gately PA Hospital
Dr Tyrone Humphries PA Hospital
A/Prof Ross Francis PA Hospital
Zackary Klyza PA Hospital
Alexandra Bongaarts PA Hospital

2026

Metro South Health Research Support Scheme



PROJECT GRANTS

Funded by PA Research Foundation | up to \$125,000 over two years

- Principal Investigator:** **A/Prof Lachlan McDowell**, Senior Medical Officer
Radiation Oncology, Division of Cancer Services, PA Hospital
- Project title:** *CONFIDENCE-HNC: CO-Designing the Future of Innovative Head and Neck CaNCEr Survivorship: A Translational and Interdisciplinary Model for Follow-Up Care*
- Research team:** Mr Peter Brown Consumer Partner
Prof Benedict Panizza PA Hospital
Prof Elizabeth Ward MSH CFAHR
Dr Howard Liu PA Hospital
A/Prof Aaron Hansen PA Hospital
A/Prof Laurelie Wishart GU
Ms Christie Barrett PA Hospital
A/Prof Karla Gough University of Melbourne
Prof Raymond Chan Flinders University Adelaide
Dr Carla Thamm Flinders University Adelaide
Ms Rachael Pitt PA Hospital
A/Prof Gabriel Adrian PA Hospital
- Principal Investigator:** **A/Prof William Wang**, SMO Cardiologist
Cardiology, Division of Heart, Lung and Critical Care, PA Hospital
- Project title:** *Improving Secondary Cardiovascular Prevention for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples Through Culturally Informed Care*
- Research team:** A/Prof Noel Hayman Inala COE
Ms Vivian Bryce Community Health
Prof Michael Barras PA Hospital
Ms Celestine Fisher PA Hospital
Dr Warren Jennings Inala COE
A/Prof Arnold Ng PA Hospital
Dr Nazanin Ghahreman-Falconer PA Hospital
Dr Danielle Harrop PA Hospital
Ms Fran Passaris PA Hospital
Ms Ching-Ting Hung PA Hospital
Dr Jared Miles UQ

2026

Metro South Health Research Support Scheme



PROGRAM GRANT

Funded by MSH SERTA | up to \$350,000 over three years

Principal Investigator: A/Prof Colm Keane, SMO
Haematology, Division of Cancer Services, PA Hospital

Project title: *Optimising immune-based therapies for brain lymphoma and beyond*

Research team: Melinda Burgess PA Hospital
Zachary Hawula UQ TRI
Fiona Swain PA Hospital
Rakin Choudhary PA Hospital
Eliza Hawkes Austin Hospital Melbourne
Sizun Jiang Beth Israel Boston USA
Nathan Godde UQ
Nella Tuzko UQ TRI
Jane Campbell Consumer
Lucy Bradbury UQ TRI
Brandon Wainright UQ PA Hospital
Clare Gould Pathology Queensland RBWH
Ahmed Mehdi UQ

Enquiries to:

Senior Research Grants Officer

p: 3443 8057

e: MSH-Grants@health.qld.gov.au

w: <https://metrosouth.health.qld.gov.au/research/researchers/setting-up/research-funding/support-scheme>

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