

Nursing and Midwifery Research Clinics

Regular **Research Clinics** are available in a variety of locations and via skype. These are an **excellent opportunity** for you and your team to achieve your research goals with regular access to research support and advice from researchers in the NMRC team, the University of Newcastle (UON) and University of New England (UNE) on how to progress your ideas and complete your research project.

PLEASE NOTE: All Research Clinics are available by **appointment only**.

Please contact via email on HNELHD-NMRC@health.nsw.gov.au.

Nursing and Midwifery Research Centre (NMRC)



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Researcher in Profile

Patrick (Paddy) Cashman (*RN, BHSc, MPH&TM (JCU), GCertAppMgt, PhD candidate*) is the HNE Immunisation Coordinator based at Population Health, after previously working in several States including as a Remote Area Nurse in the Northern Territory.

Patrick became a researcher to solve a particular clinical problem. In 2010, a rare event occurred when a seasonal influenza vaccine caused an unexpected increase in fever and febrile convulsions in children. It took some time for this to be noticed and for the vaccine to be withdrawn from use. A better system of finding adverse events following immunisation was required.

Patrick designed Vaxtracker, (www.vaxtracker.net) an active surveillance system to contact parents a few days after their child's immunisation and survey their child's experience of the immunisation. In this way, vaccine safety issues were promptly identified. This improved vaccine safety monitoring gathered interest and now Vaxtracker is part of the AusVaxSafety consortium providing vaccine safety data to the Commonwealth Department of Health and the Therapeutic Goods Act (TGA). This data is publically available for the community (ausvaxsafety.org.au). Vaxtracker safety monitoring is automated via Community Health

Information Management Enterprise (CHIME) for all vaccines given around HNELHD by Nurse Immunisers. Vaxtracker & AusVaxSafety are now an integral part of Australia's vaccine program and are in place for safety surveillance of new vaccines. They may be beneficial when Covid-19 vaccines become available. These systems facilitate transparency and boost confidence of Australia's Immunisation Program. Patrick also initiated the employment of Aboriginal Immunisation Officers which has become a state wide program, core to closing the Gap in immunisation rates across NSW.



Patrick (Paddy) Cashman

Contact Researcher

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Research Project in Profile

Improving Outcomes following Hospitalisation for heart failure in Regional and Remote NSW-the BEEM-HF study

Heart failure (HF) has been called an epidemic of the third millennium, affecting an increasing number of Australians at an enormous economic cost (over \$3 billion/year). The major source of exceedingly high healthcare costs associated with HF are multiple frequent readmissions of patients with known HF. Data from HNELHD over the period from 2004 to 2015 indicated a 69% one year re-hospitalization or death rate for patients with HF. Many of these readmissions could be prevented by implementing evidence-based guidelines for clinical management or access to specialist services. This is especially challenging in rural and remote areas.

BEEM-HF aims to determine the feasibility and effectiveness of implementing a suite of interventions within primary care via a randomised controlled trial. All four components of **BEEM-HF** have individually been shown to improve outcomes in patients with heart failure. However, the combination of interventions focusing on diagnostic testing, health care providers, patients and therapeutic exercise program has not been tried before. The combination of guideline-based care, patient centred interventions and patient reported outcomes ensures that this research enhances partnership between patients and their healthcare providers. In addition, practices enrolled in the project receive **BEEM-HF** interventions and support from a Cardiology CNC to improve access to specialist services and translation of evidence for HF management.

The analysis of this project will combine hard endpoints (mortality and readmission) with an examination of patient reported outcome measures, to ensure the intervention enhances the patient experience and is patient centred. The results of this project could have wider implications for the management of HF and other chronic illnesses managed in the primary care setting.



Dawn is holding the [Living well with heart failure](#) Resource

BEEM-HF Interventions

- 1. BNP**
Point of Care NTproBNP Testing
- 2. Education**
GP Case conference with cardiologist and HF patient
- 3. Exercise**
Referral to exercise program
- 4. Monitoring**
Patient Diary and GP review

This project is in the implementation phase and is led by Associate Professor Aaron Sverdlov, Dawn McIvor (Cardiology CNC), and Dr Trent Williams (Cardiology CNC). The project is partnered with Hunter New England Central Coast Primary Health Care Network. Funded by a NSW Health Translation Research grant, the project is due for completion in January 2021.

Upcoming events

Nursing and Midwifery Researcher Peer Support Group Meeting

The meeting is going to be held at 2:00-3:30pm on Tuesday 15 September 2020.

The Nursing and Midwifery Researcher Peer support group is to bring nurses and midwives together to share experiences, to learn with, and support each other while undertaking nursing and midwifery research within HNELHD. Please contact Se Ok Ohr, seok.ohr@Health.nsw.gov.au to join the group.

Join grant notification portal Grant Connect

GrantConnect provides centralised publication of forecast and current Australian Government grant opportunities and grants awarded. For more information visit [GrantConnect](https://www.grantconnect.gov.au).

COVID-19 Research Grants: Round Two alert

NSW Health COVID-19 Research Grants have been designed to fund research projects in priority areas to directly support the NSW Health response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Round two is now open. For more information visit [COVID-19 Research Grants](https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/research/grants).

2020/2021 HETI Rural Research Capacity Building Program

The Rural Research Capacity Building Program (RRCBP) is one of NSW Health's key strategies for building research capacity in rural NSW, as reflected in the NSW Rural Health Plan. For more information visit [HETI](https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/heti).

5th Australian Nursing and Midwifery Conference

The 5th Australian Nursing and Midwifery Conference 2021 will be held on 6 -7 May 2021 at Newcastle Exhibition & Convention Centre (NEX), Newcastle, NSW, Australia. Please visit the website for more information [Australian Nursing and Midwifery Conference](https://www.nursingmidwiferyconference.com.au).

SAVE THE DATE: 6 & 7 May 2021

5th Australian Nursing and Midwifery Conference

Riding the Waves of Change, Forging the Future: Nursing and Midwifery practice, research and education

Newcastle Exhibition & Convention Centre, Newcastle, NSW
www.nursingmidwiferyconference.com.au
Contact: jas@eastcoastconferences.com.au

Hosted by

NSW Government | Health Central Coast Local Health District | Health Hunter New England Local Health District | Health Mid North Coast Local Health District | Newcastle Convention Centre

Congratulations



Trent Williams

Trent Williams (RN, PhD, **FCSANZ**, CNC Cardiology, Medical & Interventional Services, JHH) is the recipient of the HNE Clinical and Health Service Clinical Research Fellowship. He aims to focus his research on poor outcomes for cancer survivors who go on to develop cardiac complications. Trent plans to implement a nurse-led service focused on early detection of signs of cardiovascular problems in cancer patients during his fellowship. In addition, his project will examine the long term outcomes for cardiovascular cancer therapy patients, with a particular focus on those living in rural areas.

Meet one of our NMRC team



Jean Ball

Jean works as a Research officer with the NMRC, HNELHD. She has experience in data management, project management, clinical trial management, research and questionnaire design and statistical analysis. Jean enjoys her work with the NMRC and loves to spend time with her family on the weekend. She reads extensively and enjoys dining out, attending the ballet in Sydney and visiting the Hunter Valley vineyards.