

**NURSING+**  
**MIDWIFERY**

# **NURSING & MIDWIFERY RESEARCH STRATEGY 2022-25**

Centre for Nursing and Midwifery Research in the  
Western Health Partnership



Western Health



# INTRODUCTION

The Western Health Partnership was established in 2014 and drives collaborative clinical research that provides Western Health staff and students with the opportunity to engage in clinically focussed, multidisciplinary research and training across acute, chronic, rehabilitation, community healthcare, and maternity settings. The Partnership is committed to improving the healthcare experience and safety outcomes of patients, women, and their neonates. It also strives to support the role of nurses and midwives in their workforce development, with the ultimate aim to deliver world class health outcomes for our large and diverse community in Melbourne's west.

The Western Health Partnership is unique as it is the only partnership dedicated to both nursing and midwifery, with clinical Chairs for each discipline.

The Partnership is led by:

## Professor Bodil Rasmussen (Nursing)



Professor Bodil Rasmussen is Chair of Nursing in the partnership with Deakin University and Western Health. Bodil has been involved in diabetes education for more than 20 years, with 10 of those as the Course Director of Graduate Certificate of Diabetes at the School of Nursing and Midwifery, Deakin University. Her program of research investigates the impact of changes during life transitions on self-management and risk management among adults with diabetes and her methodological expertise includes qualitative research methods, especially grounded theory and other interpretative qualitative methodologies, and large survey analysis.

She is an international leader in diabetes nursing research and education and a member of the Scandinavian Translational Research in Chronic Conditions (SCAN-TRICC) Group. She works in partnership with professional national and international diabetes organisations and with world renowned researchers in the field of self-management in chronic illness. Professor Rasmussen also leads numerous projects in self-management of chronic conditions in Denmark.

## Professor Linda Sweet (Midwifery)



Professor Linda Sweet is Chair of Midwifery in the partnership with Deakin University and Western Health. Linda's portfolio responsibility is to undertake research and build research capacity within Western Health, including understanding research and research translation. Whilst this is an organisation wide role, the primary focus is on midwifery research and maternity service improvements with a multidisciplinary focus.

Linda is a member of the Midwifery Accreditation Committee that endorses all midwifery education programs across Australia, and is the Deputy Editor for Women and Birth, the international journal of the Australian College of Midwives, and peer review for numerous Q1 journals.



Linda has over 20 years academic experience, and was previously the Head of Midwifery and Higher Degree Research coordinator at Flinders University, Adelaide. She has extensive experience in curriculum development and have held numerous Unit Chair positions in the Master of Clinical Education and the Bachelor of Midwifery at Flinders University.

Our Chairs are supported by a highly-skilled team of researchers from a range of backgrounds, who working closely with clinicians and researchers from all health disciplines. Postgraduate research students (Honours, Masters, PhD's) also contribute to the Partnership's research activities.

## OUR RESEARCH AGENDA

The Partnership's researchers specialise in developing robust evidence for how best to support and care for all people, particularly those living with chronic and complex conditions and their families, and childbearing women and their families. We focus on health care service research that partners with consumers in co-design, with particular interest in the areas of chronic conditions management, technology use in healthcare, health workforce development and support, gender and health, and enhancing maternity services.

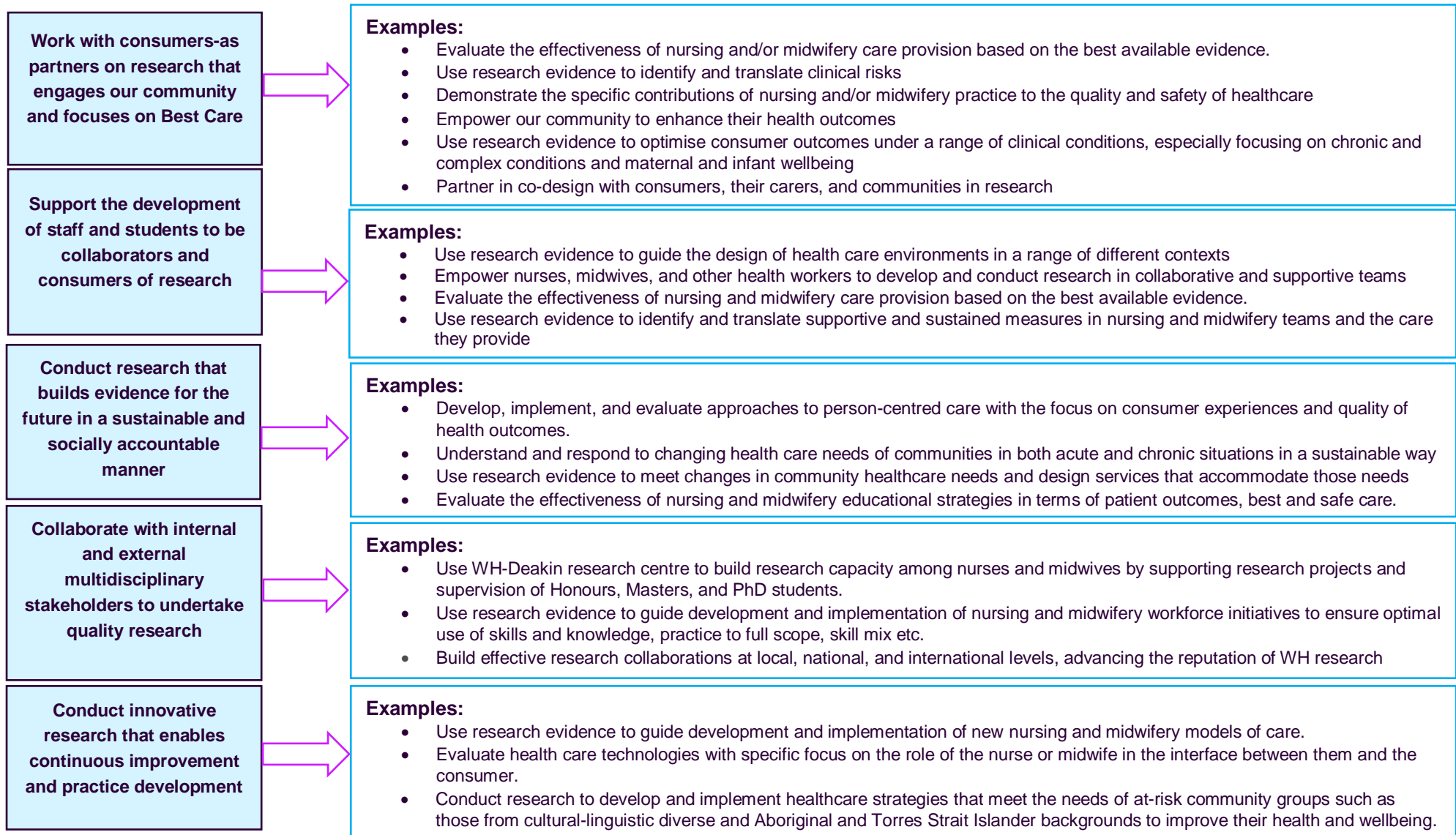
**Vision:** to be nationally and internationally recognised as a centre of nursing and midwifery research excellence

Western Health Strategic Direction 2021-2023	Western Health Research Strategic Plan 2021-2026	Nursing and Midwifery Research Centre Strategic Plan 2022-2025
 We partner with patients and families	Our Partners	Engage consumers as partners in research that engages our community and focuses on Best Care
 We care for our people	Our People	Support the development of staff and students to be collaborators and consumers of research
 We deliver services for the future	Our Data Our People	Conduct research that builds evidence for the future in a sustainable and socially accountable manner
 We are better together	Our Partners Our People	Collaborate with internal and external multidisciplinary stakeholders to undertake quality research
 We discover and learn	Our Partners Our People Our Data	Conduct innovative research that enables continuous improvement and practice development

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Nursing & Midwifery Research at Western Health focuses on improving patient experiences and outcomes and contributing significantly to building research capacity among our nurses and midwives. The strategic activities areas in the Centre are:



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Strategic Aim	Key planned activities	Timeframe
<b>Engage consumers as partners in research that engages our community and focuses on Best Care</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 50% of clinical research to include consumer representative</li> <li>• Involve consumers and/or community groups in co-design activities</li> <li>• Undertake research that leads to Best Care</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Within two years</li> <li>• Within two years</li> <li>• Ongoing</li> </ul>
<b>Support the development of staff and students to be collaborators and consumers of research</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mentor staff led projects</li> <li>• Include at least 2 staff on all Western Health research studies</li> <li>• Provide research training packages (WeLearn) and workshops annually</li> <li>• Attract high-calibre researchers into our program of research</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ongoing</li> <li>• Ongoing</li> <li>• Ongoing</li> <li>• Ongoing</li> </ul>
<b>Conduct research that builds evidence for the future in a sustainable and socially accountable manner</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conduct research that is inclusive, and engenders diversity and equity</li> <li>• Investigate practice improvements that use digital health technology</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ongoing</li> <li>• Within two years</li> </ul>
<b>Collaborate with internal and external multidisciplinary stakeholders to undertake quality research</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 50% of clinical research to include multidisciplinary team</li> <li>• 10% of research to include international partners</li> <li>• Category 1 grant success with national or international collaborators</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Within two years</li> <li>• Within two years</li> <li>• By 2025</li> </ul>
<b>Conduct innovative research that enables continuous improvement and practice development</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop at least 2 practice improvement projects at Western Health per year</li> <li>• Engage with staff to inspire innovative ideas for future ideas</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ongoing</li> <li>• Ongoing</li> </ul>



# NURSING AND MIDWIFERY RESEARCH STRATEGY 2022-25



## Goals and Key Performances for Nursing Research Activities for 2022-2025

Short Term Goals 1 Year (12 months)	Measured by
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Ensure research outputs on completed projects.</b></li> </ul>	<p>Collaborate with WH and Deakin staff and build on existing research within nursing at WH into either publications or new research projects. For example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Falls project</li> <li>- Electronic Medical Record Project</li> <li>- Virtual interviewing Project</li> <li>- COVID-19 related research</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Submit research funding applications to professional, philanthropic and government organisations to increase funding for research at Western Health.</b></li> </ul>	<p>Submission of at least 1 Category One and 3 Category 2-4 external competitive grants by December 2022</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Commence new research relevant to the organisational needs of Western Health.</b></li> </ul>	<p>Continue development of a research program in 'chronic and complex condition' and 'gender and health' and 'Telehealth' and 'Aboriginal health' aligned with the Centre's and WH's research priority areas. Working in multi-disciplinary teams around social determination and equality in Health will be priorities in alignment with WH Research strategy.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Recruit and develop staff capacity.</b></li> <li>• <b>Recruit and train research students from Western health staff, Deakin University and externally.</b></li> </ul>	<p>Continue to build research capacity among nurses by supporting research project and supervision of Bachelors of Nursing (Honours), Master of Nursing Practice, PhD students and Post Doc Fellows.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Develop research collaborations with key stakeholders in other health services, consumer groups, primary health care and professional organisations via QPS and IHT collaborators</b></li> </ul>	<p>Participate in collaborative research across major health services in Western Health and in Metropolitan Melbourne facilitated by the partnership model of QPS and IHT.</p> <p>Build capacity by recruiting Honours, Master and PhD students to Western Health staff and Deakin University.</p> <p>A WeLearn site will be developed, and research related topics will be delivered by research team and availabilities too all nurses and midwives at WH.</p>

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Develop research collaboration with key stakeholders in Aboriginal Health in collaboration with the Aboriginal Health team</b></li></ul>   | Support, mentor and collaborate with newly appointed Research Fellow in Aboriginal Health   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Raise profile of nursing research within Western Health, through dissemination to key stakeholders and through international research presentations and publications</b></li></ul> | Encourage students and interested staff to engage in the Centre's research activities. Invite WH staff to international visitor's lectures and facilitate connection with relevant staff.   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Disseminate research findings through refereed publications, research reports and presentations</b></li></ul>  | <p>Attend, participate and document conferences and project outcomes with the aim to publish the presentation in peer-reviewed papers.</p> <p>Visibility of the centre by consultation, workshop facilitation and engagement with professional and consumer groups for example</p> <p><u>Nationally:</u> Australian Diabetes Educator Association, Australian Diabetes Society, Australasian Diabetes in Pregnancy Society, Diabetes Victoria, Australian College of Nursing, Victorian Hospital Association, Western Alliance, Australian Association of Disease Management, local and national Aboriginal and TSI Health groups, DHHS, Royal Adelaide Hospital and QPS partnering health services.</p> <p>Priority:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Developing a research program in Chronic and Complex Care in collaboration with WH staff, Primary Health Care, local governments, and consumer groups</li><li>• in collaboration with WH staff and Aboriginal and TSI working towards a research program in Aboriginal Health at WH.</li></ul> <p><u>Internationally:</u> Danish Diabetes Academy, Scan-TRICC, GREAT Affiliated universities (Southern Denmark University, Odense University Hospital, University of Copenhagen, Aarhus University)</p> <p>Ongoing core activities with the specific aim of at least 15 peer-reviewed publications in 2022 – 2023</p> |
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Middle Term Goals 1-2 years (13 months – 24 months)	Measured by
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Continue to develop an international research profile that enhances the reputation and activities of the partnership.</b></li> </ul>	Lead submission of at least one Category 1 grant with international collaborators by 2022.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Disseminate research findings through refereed publications, research reports and presentations</b></li> </ul>	Submission of at least five Category 2-4 grant applications
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Provide advice, leadership and expertise for nursing practice, education and professional organisations.</b></li> </ul>	Continue to build research capacity in nursing and midwifery by increase recruiting at Honours, Master and PhD students from Western Health staff and Deakin University, especially in relation to the Centre's research priority areas.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Consolidate already established international links and further international collaborative research</b></li> </ul>	Consolidation of a research program in chronic and complex condition aligned with the Centre's three research priority areas.
	Attend, participate and document conferences with the aim to publish the presentation in peer-reviewed papers.
	Two research applications submissions with international partners by end of 2022
Long Term Goals 4 years (25- 36 months)	Measured by
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Conduct <i>programmatically</i> research that makes a substantive contribution to patient and career engagement and experiences, best and safe clinical nursing practice, health service and delivery</b></li> </ul>	International recognised research program in chronic and complex conditions aligned with the Centre's three research priority areas. (use of technologies in management of these conditions)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Provide <i>mentorship and training</i> to clinicians in research appraisal, implementation of research into practice and research methods</b></li> </ul>	Attract high-calibre researchers into our mentorship program and link into our research collaboration.
	Expansion of research capacity by increase staff numbers and consultancies activities.



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- **Consolidate interdisciplinary and international research collaborations in chronic and complex conditions.**

Provide a full program of research training for clinical and academic staff, especially nurses at WH.

Lead a multidisciplinary collaborative research program between WH and primary health care to better service and health outcomes for people with chronic and complex conditions in the Western part of Victoria and beyond

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# NURSING AND MIDWIFERY RESEARCH STRATEGY 2022-25



## Goals and Key Performances for Midwifery Research Activities for 2022-2025

Short Term Goals 1 Year (12 months)	Measured by
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Ensure research outputs on completed projects.</b></li></ul>	<p>Collaborate with WH and Deakin staff and build on existing research within Joan Kirner Women's and Children's Hospital Conduct that enables continuous improvement and practice development. For example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• EVE app evaluation</li><li>• Single check medications</li><li>• Green Maternity Project</li><li>• Refugee Maternity needs</li></ul> <p>Ongoing core activities with the specific aim of at least 15 peer-reviewed publications in 2022-23</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Submit research funding applications to professional, philanthropic and government organisations to increase funding for research at Western Health.</b></li></ul>	<p>Submission of 1 Category One and 1 Category 2-4 external competitive grants by December 2022</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Commence new research relevant to the organisational needs of Western Health and involve consumers.</b></li></ul>	<p>Continue development of a research program in improving maternity care and WH's research priority areas. Working in multi-disciplinary teams around social determination and equality in Health will be priorities in alignment with WH Research strategy. Such as</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Obesity and pregnancy</li><li>• Enhancing breastfeeding outcomes</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Develop staff capacity in conducting research.</b></li></ul>	<p>Continue to build research capacity among midwives by mentoring them, employing them as research assistants and supervision of Honours, Masters, PhD students and Post Doc Fellows. A WeLearn site will be developed, and research related topics will be delivered by the partnership research team and availabilities too all nurses and midwives at WH. Encourage students and interested staff to engage in the Centre's research activities. Invite WH staff to international visitor's lectures and facilitate connection with relevant staff. Facilitate Research and Best Care week N&amp;M event.</p>

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Develop research collaborations with key stakeholders in other health services, consumer groups, primary health care, and professional organisations via QPS and IHT collaborations</b></li> <li>• <b>Raise the profile of midwifery research within Western Health, through dissemination to key stakeholders and through international research presentations and publications</b></li> </ul>	<p>Participate in at least one collaborative research across major health services in metropolitan Melbourne facilitated by the partnership model of QPS and IHT.</p> <p>Attend, participate, and document conferences and project outcomes with the aim to publish the presentation in peer-reviewed papers. Visibility of the centre by consultation, workshop facilitation, and engagement with professional and consumer groups. Nationally: Australian College of Midwifery, Victorian Hospital Association, Western Alliance, and QPS partnering health services.</p> <p>Present one NVivo seminar at WH.</p>
<p><b>Middle Term Goals 1-2 years (13 months – 24 months)</b></p>	<p><b>Measured by</b></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Engage consumers as partners in research that engages our community and focuses on Best Care</b></li> <li>• <b>Provide advice, leadership and expertise for midwifery research, practice, education, and professional organisations</b></li> <li>• <b>Continue to develop an international research profile that enhances the reputation and activities of the partnership.</b></li> <li>• <b>Disseminate research findings through refereed publications, research reports and presentations</b></li> </ul>	<p>50% of clinical research to include consumer representative</p> <p>Consolidation of research programs pregnancy and obesity, and breastfeeding support in aligned with the Centre's priority areas.</p> <p>Include at least 2 staff on all Western Health research studies</p> <p>Provide research training packages (WeLearn) and workshops annually</p> <p>10% of research to include international partners</p> <p>Lead submission of at least one Category 1 grant with international collaborators by end of 2023.</p> <p>Submission of at least five Category 2-4 grant applications</p> <p>Attract high-calibre researchers into our program of research</p> <p>Ongoing core activities with the specific aim of at least 15 peer-reviewed publications per year.</p>

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## Long Term Goals 4 years (25- 36 months)

- **Conduct programmatic research that makes a substantive contribution to women's maternity experiences, best and safe midwifery practice, and health service delivery**
- **Provide mentorship and training to clinicians in research appraisal, implementation of research into practice, and research methods**
- **Consolidate interdisciplinary and international research collaborations in chronic and complex conditions.**

## Measured by

Internationally recognised research program in pregnancy and obesity, and breastfeeding support aligned with the WH and the Centre's research priority areas.

One Category 1 grant success with national or international collaborators

Attract high-calibre researchers into our mentorship program and link into our research collaboration. Expansion of research capacity by increased staff numbers and consultancies activities. Provide a full program of research training for clinical and academic staff, especially midwives at WH.

Lead a multidisciplinary collaborative research program between WH and primary health care to better service and health outcomes for childbearing women and their families in the Western part of Victoria and beyond

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