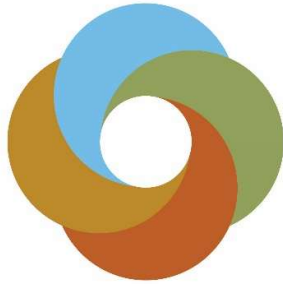


Annual Impact Summary 2025



QUEENSLAND RURAL health innovation & research COLLABORATIVE

*Aspiring to reduce health disparity in rural communities through
the application of translational research outcomes*

Partner Organisations

Gold



Silver



Bronze



Friends



Industry Partner





OVERVIEW

In 2025, the Queensland Rural Health Innovation & Research Collaborative (QRHIRC) continued to strengthen its role as a catalyst for collaboration, research capability, practical innovation and translation across rural and regional Queensland. Through strategic partnerships, targeted funding, research capability development and strong sector engagement, QRHIRC has supported research that responds directly to local health challenges and delivers tangible value to clinicians, communities and health services.

This Impact Summary highlights QRHIRC's growth, achievements and influence over the past year.

Building collaborations



- QRHIRC experienced continued growth in both membership and influence during 2025, reinforcing its position as a trusted collaborative for rural health innovation and research.
 - ✓ QRHIRC was rebranded from the Darling Downs Health Innovation & Research Collaborative to more accurately reflect its expanding member base, broader geographic reach, future aspirations and the diverse rural communities it serves.
 - ✓ Toowoomba and Surat Basin Enterprises (TSBE) joined QRHIRC as a valued Industry Partner, strengthening connections between research, health services and regional industry.
 - ✓ QRHIRC remained a partner organisation of the Rural Research Collaborative Learning Network (RR-CLaN), expanding opportunities for shared learning and collaboration across rural health research networks.
 - ✓ Meaningful engagement occurred with 15 external organisations, fostering new relationships across clinical, academic, community and industry sectors.
 - ✓ Three collaboration expressions of interest (EOIs) were received from clinicians and researchers not previously involved in QRHIRC activities, expanding opportunities for research collaboration across a broader geographic area and a more diverse cross-section of the rural health research community.

Building collaborations (continued)



- To support efficient and consistent partnerships, QRHIRC launched a [collaborative research agreement template](#), reducing administrative barriers and enabling more streamlined research collaborations across the network.



- QRHIRC hosted its Annual Research Symposium themed “Access to Health Services for Regional and Rural Communities: Challenges and Innovations”. The symposium served as a focal point for collaboration and idea development.
 - ✓ 93 registrations; representing clinicians, researchers, students, community members and partner organisations.
 - ✓ Two keynote presentations provided lived rural perspectives:
 - Floyd Leedie (CEO Goondir Health Services)
A Southwest Queensland Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation Research & Evaluation Perspective
 - Dr Tanvir Kapoor (Medical Superintendent and SMO, Jandowae Multipurpose Health Centre)
Diagnostic Equity and Point-of-Care CRP in the Western Darling Downs
 - ✓ Four Rising Researcher presentations showcased emergent rural research talent, providing students and clinician researchers an opportunity to present research outcomes with Dr Karen de Nooyer awarded the 2025 Rising Researcher award for their presentation “EG Neurofeedback (EEG NFB) training as an adjunctive treatment for emotional dysregulation for children and adolescents”.
 - ✓ Five research ideas submitted by health service and academic partners were collaboratively developed into projects shaped by diverse perspectives and experiences of researchers and health professionals. While the projects addressed a range of topics aimed at improving access to healthcare, all were aligned by a shared focus on delivering high-quality, patient-centred care.
- Health Translation Queensland (HTQ) requested input from QRHIRC in the development of their next Strategic Plan; providing a platform for a QRHIRC Advisory Committee member’s regional perspective to inform the future direction of a NHMRC accredited Research Translation Centre.



Building collaborations (continued)



- QRHIRC continued to strategically invest in research with clear potential for local impact and translation, in line with our research priorities.
 - ✓ Two projects refined through the Research Symposium were awarded QRHIRC funding.
 - *Feasibility and impact of a hybrid model for delivery of a prehabilitation program for rurally located patients awaiting knee joint replacement surgery at Darling Downs Health Service* (led by UniSQ) - \$9,988
 - *Rainbow Minds: Co-developing a mental health group intervention for LGBT+ high-school aged young people within the Darling Downs region* (led by UniSQ) - \$9,995
 - ✓ While two grant applications to the QRHIRC scheme were unsuccessful, these teams have been provided support to strengthen their applications and pursue alternative funding.
- QRHIRC's investment in research capability is yielding tangible results.
 - ✓ Two graduates of the Intensive Research Training Program (IRTP) successfully secured Toowoomba Hospital Foundation Novice Research Grants to progress projects developed during the program.
 - Ashleigh Smith, Toowoomba Hospital Pharmacist
Exploring Haematological Cancer Patient's Experiences of Pharmacist-led Education when commencing a new anti-cancer treatment in an outpatient setting
 - Kesaobaka Seladi, Senior Oral Health Therapist, Southern Downs
Parental knowledge, experience and perception of dental caries in 4-12 year old children in rural Darling Downs
- QRHIRC provided a formal letter of support for the Queensland Rural Alliance for Point-of-Care Infrastructure and Development (Q-RAPID), submitted to the Queensland Health Director-General in support of this clinician-led initiative.

Translation of innovation and research



-  QRHIRC-supported research is growing in ability to inform practice, policy and workforce development.
 - ✓ Professor Daniel Terry presented QRHIRC funded research *“Tackling pharmacist workforce challenges in the Heartland: Lessons learned from the Darling Downs”* at the 10th Rural & Remote Health Scientific Symposium.
 - ✓ Lucy Parker presented QRHIRC funded research *“Pharmacist recruitment and retention on the Darling Downs: driving sustainable solutions”* at the 2025 Are You Remotely Interested conference.
 - ✓ Confidential reports based on research outcomes have been shared directly with participating pharmacies from the *Pharmacist Recruitment and Retention on the Darling Downs* project, providing tailored insights into community strengths and modifiable challenges to inform future workforce recruitment strategies.



-  Relevant partner organisations were offered access to the MRFF-funded clinical trial *“Effectiveness of Preventing Chronic Pain after Whiplash Road Traffic Injury (PRioRTI)”*, supporting increased rural participation in nationally significant research.



-  QRHIRC was consulted by Queensland Health to inform the structure of a planned Research Translation Framework, reflecting recognition of QRHIRC's knowledge in bridging research and practice in rural contexts.

Improving research capability



-  Building sustainable research capability within rural health services remains a core priority for QRHIRC.
 - ✓ Twelve in-person research skills workshops were made available, expanding opportunities for local clinicians and researchers to develop capability across a wide range of essential research skills.
 - ✓ Five research novice clinicians participated in the six-month South West Queensland QRHIRC Intensive Research Training Program (IRTP).



Improving research capability (continued)



- ✓ Participants were supported by six experienced research mentors.
- ✓ Three participants submitted research ethics applications and completed the program, a further two participants are continuing progress with developing their research projects.
- ✓ A community based Aboriginal Health Practitioner completed interview training and has since conducted their first research interview as an investigator in the QRHIRC-funded “*Safe Yarns Build Bridges*” project.

Engaging local communities



- Community engagement and transparency are central to QRHIRC’s approach to rural research.
 - ✓ A consumer representative continued to contribute as a member of the QRHIRC Steering Committee, ensuring community perspectives inform strategic direction and decision-making.
 - ✓ The 2025 QRHIRC Research Symposium included intentional integration of health consumers, through in-person invitations, leading to consumer inclusion in roundtables discussing Healthcare Access for Regional and Rural Communities.
 - ✓ QRHIRC activities were showcased through external and partner channels, including:
 - [Darling Downs Health News](#) coverage of the QRHIRC Research Symposium
 - An article in *Partyline*, the National Rural Health Alliance magazine, highlights the IRTP and its graduates: [“Growing capability, transforming health: The rural research journey”](#)
- Public, clinician and researcher engagement
 - ✓ QRHIRC continued to grow its digital presence and reach across professional and community audiences:
 - Twitter/X: 155 followers, with posts receiving up to 112 views
 - Facebook: 93 followers, with posts reaching up to 353 accounts and generating 658 total views
 - Instagram: 99 followers, with posts reaching up to 158 views
 - QRHIRC website: 953 visits and 1,744 page views



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KEY



Facilitating connections and reach



Visibility and influence



Support and tools for collaboration



Increasing research capability and capacity



Research funding



Evidence of translation

Please contact the QRHIRC coordinator for further details related to this Impact Summary or QRHIRC research

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Darling Downs
Health

