

## OPPORTUNITY TO COLLABORATE WITH HEALTH CARE STAFF ON CLINICAL RESEARCH

[Queensland Rural Health Innovation and Research Collaborative](#) (QRHIRC) is a network of health care service and education providers which aims to improve health outcomes for communities in the Darling Downs and South West QLD regions. As part of their commitment to improve research capability in regional and rural communities QRHIRC provides research skills workshops each year to members of QRHIRC organisations.

QRHIRC has identified a small group of novice research-interested health service employees who are keen to develop their research skills and have applied to participate in the 2026 QRHIRC Intensive Research Training Program (IRTP). QRHIRC is looking for research mentors who have the time to invest in helping develop novice researchers, through assisting them as they apply the skills and knowledge obtained at the QRHIRC workshops to design and implement an identified research project.

Most of these health staff are not aiming at a research career, nor undertaking an HDR, but are looking to develop the skills to allow them to answer clinical questions arising from their practice and embed research into the clinical role. Your role will be to guide, encourage and assist the clinician or their team through the research process. Workshops will run in June, July, August and September, culminating in submission of a research protocol for ethical review in November.

An orientation session for mentors and participants on the first workshop day will include time to negotiate a mentoring agreement to clarify expectations (on both sides) and provide formal structure to the relationship. This 1.25-hour session will occur in-person on Baillie Henderson Hospital Campus on Wed 17<sup>th</sup> June (8:30-9:45) and is mandatory for all mentors and health service staff participating in the program.

As a mentor you would be offered an Associate Investigator role on the health service staff-led research project and co-authorship of any research outputs, should you remain on the project.

Mentoring health service staff, especially those in a fulltime clinical role, is both a stimulating and challenging venture, as many clinicians have sparse understanding of, or experience in research and academic processes and are driven by clinical needs and culture. This is an enterprising role with an opportunity to build research capacity into our public health services, while establishing networks and building understanding of research processes within the public health service.



### Program details:

#### When:

- 17<sup>th</sup> June – 10<sup>th</sup> November 2026 (HREC submission due).
- Mentor support will continue through to the finalisation of the research project, including write-up of a manuscript for publication, by agreement between the mentor and mentee.

#### What:

- Participants will attend 4 full-day workshops in June, July, August and September (Clinician-researcher attendance at all workshops is mandatory; **mentor attendance is only required for the morning of Workshop 1 on 17<sup>th</sup> June.**
- Ongoing availability to the mentee throughout the program; **minimum commitment 1 hour per fortnight.**
- **Compulsory 0.5 hour check-in meeting via Teams with mentee and QRHRC coordinator in July/August.**
- Associate Investigator on project and co-author of outputs as negotiated.
- Mentor peer discussion group consisting of 3 x 0.5 hour Teams meetings. These meetings, whilst highly recommended, are not compulsory.

### How to get involved:

There will be **Information sessions via Teams on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> April, Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> April and Friday 8<sup>th</sup> May**, to accommodate differing availabilities. Please register [here](#) to attend. **Attendance at this event is required for all prospective mentors irrespective of whether they have participated as a mentor previously.**

Following the Q&A session, those academics expressing a desire to participate in the IRTP as a mentor for the first time will be emailed a link to register and complete a pre-program survey. Survey questions will allow the IRTP organisers to match mentors to suitable trainees.

**Registrations close 14<sup>th</sup> May 2026.** Mentors will be contacted to confirm their participation, based on a suitable mentee being identified, by 26<sup>th</sup> May 2026.