

CFAHR Evidence Brief

Developing a Prioritised Agenda to Drive Speech-Language Pathology Research within Health in Queensland

Authors and Affiliations

Finch, E^{1,2,3}, Ward, E. C.,^{2,3} Brown, B.,^{1,3} Cornwell, P.,⁴ Hill, A. E.,² Hill, A. J.,² Hobson, T.,⁵ Rose, T.,² Scarinci, N.,² Marshall, J.,⁵ Cameron, A.,¹ & Shrubsole, K.^{2,6}

¹Princess Alexandra Hospital, Brisbane, QLD, Australia,

²The University of Queensland, Saint Lucia, QLD, Australia,

³Centre for Functioning and Health Research, Brisbane, QLD, Australia,

⁴Griffith University, Brisbane, QLD, Australia,

⁵Children's Health Queensland, Brisbane, QLD, Australia,

⁶Southern Cross University, Gold Coast, QLD, Australia

Funding Source: Metro South Health Research Support Scheme

Alignment with [Metro South Health Research Strategy 2019 - 2024](#)

- Build research capability
- Increase research capacity
- Embed research in clinical services
- Translate research to better health
- Research excellence

Alignment with [Allied Health Research Capability & Development Strategy 2021 - 2025](#)

- Engage staff as research consumers
- Enable staff as research generators
- Build research-enabling infrastructure and strategic processes
- Strengthen leadership in research and innovation
- Enhance internal research collaboration and synergy
- Strengthen partnerships with consumers and external stakeholders

Alignment with [Allied Health Research Capability & Development Strategy 2021 - 2025](#)

- Standard 1 – Clinical Governance
- Standard 2 – Partnering with consumers
- Standard 3 – Preventing and controlling healthcare-associated infection
- Standard 4 – Medication safety
- Standard 5 – Comprehensive care
- Standard 6 – Communicating for safety

V2 Effective: June 2022

We care about you



Queensland
Government

- Standard 7 – Blood management
- Standard 8 – Recognising and responding to acute deterioration

Practice Issues

Evidence-based practice is a critical component of speech pathology practice; however, there is often a disconnect between the research evidence generated and areas of clinical need. Prioritised research agendas, which bring together key stakeholders, can help ensure that research is conducted according to key areas of clinical need. The James Lind Alliance in the United Kingdom has spearheaded the development of prioritized research agendas across a range of health issues. As yet, no research agenda has been developed to guide speech pathology research across a health service.

Evidence

Two collaborative, prioritised speech pathology research agendas were developed using the Nominal Group Technique (NGT) according to the views of clinical speech pathologists, academic speech pathologists and consumers of speech pathology services in Queensland Health. The two areas targeted for research agendas were: Service Delivery and Expanded Scope of Practice. Within each research agenda, speech pathologists and consumers prioritised a need for more research in areas related to specific speech pathology practice areas (e.g., Alternative and Augmentative Communication, Communication Partner Training), as well as broader professional issues (e.g., telehealth, working with Culturally and Linguistically Diverse families).

Practice Change

This study successfully developed two research agendas to drive speech pathology research in health within the areas of service delivery and expanded scope of practice. The next stage of the project will involve widespread dissemination of the research agendas to drive targeted research within health.

Publication/s

Finch, E., Ward, E. C., Worrall, L., Shrubsole, K., Brown, B., Cornwell, P., Hill, A. E., Hill, A. J., Hobson, T., Rose, T., Cameron, A., & Scarinci, N. (2020). Developing a Prioritised Agenda to Drive Speech-Language Pathology Research within Health in Queensland. *Journal of Clinical Practice in Speech-Language Pathology*, 22(1), 22-28.

Finch, E., Ward, E. C., Brown, B., Cornwell, P., Hill, A. E., Hill, A. J., Hobson, T., Rose, T., Scarinci, N., Marshall, J., Cameron, A., & Shrubsole, K. (early online, 2021). Setting a prioritised agenda to drive speech-language therapy research in health. *International Journal of Language and Communication Disorders*. DOI: 10.1111/1460-6984.12626

Adapted from Tilley Pain (Townsville HHS)

Based on the Australian Healthcare and Hospitals Association's Health Policy Evidence Brief

Metro South Health Research Strategy 2019 – 2024 https://qheps.health.qld.gov.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0012/2325000/research-strategy.pdf

Allied Health Research Capability & Development Strategy 2021 – 2025 <https://metrosouth.health.qld.gov.au/sites/default/files/allied-health-research-strategy.pdf>

National Safety and Quality Health Service Standards <https://www.safetyandquality.gov.au/sites/default/files/migrated/Overview-of-the-NSQHS-Standards-second-edition.pdf>