FALLS INJURY PREVENTION COLLABORATIVE STEERING COMMITTEE

A/Prof PAUL VARGHESE MBBS FRACP Grad Dip PH
Chair: Falls Injury Prevention Collaborative Steering Committee
Chair: FIPC Data & Reporting working group
Chair: FIPC Falls Clinics / Falls Specialist Officer working group

Dr Paul Varghese is the current Director of Geriatric Medicine at the Princess Alexandra Hospital and Co-chair of the Division of Medicine-PAH. He studied at University of Queensland and trained as a General Physician before completing his fellowship in Geriatric Medicine in 1992. He practices in clinical geriatric medicine with clinical interests in the areas of amputees, dementia, falls and the acute care of the elderly. He is actively involved in undergraduate and post graduate teaching and holds the clinical title of Associate Professor with the University of Queensland. He is the current Chair of the State Falls Injury Prevention Collaborative, and is Chair of the Older Persons Health Network. He sits on a number of clinical reference groups at both a State and Federal level. His research interests include falls, clinical database design, tele-geriatrics and the management of patients with dementia.

A/Prof SANDY BRAUER PhD, BPhty (Hons)
FIPC Head Researcher

Associate Professor Brauer is a senior academic in the Division of Physiotherapy at the University of Queensland. Her research interests encompass the prediction of falls and management of fallers in both the community and in hospital, particularly in relation to balance and gait dysfunction. She is currently the Asia-Pacific representative on the International Society for Postural and Gait Research, and is a founding board member of the Australia and New Zealand Falls Prevention Society.

Associate Professor Brauer is currently a chief investigator of 4 NHMRC project grants, two of which she leads. She has published widely in high impact journals for the field such as Journals of Gerontology. Her publications include the most highly cited paper in 2008 (>180 citations) in Physical Therapy, the leading generalist physiotherapy journal internationally, having the highest impact factor. She has presented some 100 papers at national and international conferences, including...
invited and keynote addresses. This includes being a keynote speaker at the 2008 Australia and New Zealand Falls Prevention Conference, the primary international conference on falls prevention in the southern hemisphere. She is currently advisor to nine PhD candidates.

**SATYAN CHARI**

**Affiliations:** MHFESA - Member of the Human Factors and Ergonomics Society of Australia  
**Chair:** FIPC Environmental working group

Satyan Chari is the Program Coordinator for Falls Prevention at the Royal Brisbane and Women’s Hospital. Satyan is an experienced occupational therapist with broad clinical and research interests in injury prevention, particularly among older people. Satyan is also the current chair of the Environmental Research Working Group of the Queensland Falls Injury Prevention Collaborative. Satyan is concurrently pursuing a research higher degree with Monash University, exploring the role of extrinsic factors in falls among older hospital patients.

**DR REBECCA BELL**

**PhD, MHlthSc, BA (HMS)**  
**Co-ordinator of the FIPC:**  
**Principal Project Officer – Falls Injury Prevention Program (Mon-Wed)**

Rebecca’s PhD investigated the relationship between aerobic fitness, physical function and falls among community dwelling older people. This research included laboratory based research, clinical assessments and population health applications. Rebecca was a co-author of "Queensland Stay On Your Feet® Community Good Practice Guidelines - preventing falls, harm from falls and promoting healthy active ageing in older Queenslanders." Rebecca is an Accredited Exercise Physiologist with the Australian Association for Exercise and Sports Science and she is the Principal Project Officer for Falls Injury Prevention, Patient Safety Centre, Queensland Health.

**KATE SMITH**

**PGradDip (Health Promotion), BN, DipAScN**  
**Co-ordinator of the FIPC:**  
**Principal Project Officer – Falls Injury Prevention Program (Thurs-Fri)**  
**Chair:** FIPC Cross Continuum working group

Kate Smith commenced with Queensland Health in 2006. Currently she is working in a shared role as Principal Project Officer- Falls Injury Prevention at the Patient Safety Centre in Queensland Health (Thursday-Friday). Her substantive role is Senior Project Officer – Injury Prevention with the Health Promotion Branch – Queensland Health, focusing on falls prevention and child hood injury prevention (Monday-Wednesday). Kate is a co-author of the Queensland Stay On Your Feet® Community Good...
Practice Guidelines and Toolkit. Kate’s background is as a registered nurse with post graduate diploma in health promotion. She has worked predominantly in the injury prevention field including KidsafeWA, and she was the Injury Prevention Manager at the Injury Control Council of WA (ICCWA) where she worked on the development of the Steps to Stay on Your Feet WA, Volunteer Guidelines, Speakers Kit and other aspects the WA falls program.

HEIDI STUETZEL B.ExSci, B.Bus
FIPC Secretariat
Senior Project Officer – Falls Injury Prevention Program

Heidi has recently joined Queensland Health as the Senior Project Officer for Falls Injury Prevention after spending the last five years working in the National Health Service and local government in London, UK. During this time she gained extensive health project management experience in areas including public health, health inequalities, health policy and community engagement. She has a tertiary background in Exercise Science and is currently studying her Masters in Health Services Management.

CHRIS GORK DipBus (Frontline Management)
FIPC Non Government Organisation Community Representative

Chris Gork is a Registered Nurse graduating from the Royal Children’s Hospital, Melbourne, Victoria. Chris has over 25 years experience in aged care holding positions as a Workplace Health and Safety Officer, Clinical Nurse and Dementia Clinical Nurse Consultant. Along with her love of aged care, Chris has a strong interest in education and resource development. After completing her Certificate IV in Training and Assessment she went on to work as a Workplace Trainer/Facilitator in Aged Care for Spiritus and Brisbane North Institute of TAFE.

Chris is currently the Practice Development Consultant for Spiritus. She holds membership on the QLD State-wide Dementia Network and Consumer Resource subgroup, and ACQ Clinical and Infection Control Network. Diploma of Business Frontline Management with Australian Institute of Management.

DR. NANCYE PEEL B.Phty (Hons), MPH,PhD (Population Health)
FIPC Consumer Representative

Nancye Peel is a Research Fellow in the Centre for Geriatric Medicine, the University of Queensland. Her career spans clinical practice, academia, and public service policy and research. Her research interests for the past 12 years have included the determinants of health and quality of life in ageing populations as well as the prevention of disability, specifically from falls. From 1995-1998 she was project
manager on a falls prevention randomised control trial. Subsequently, as a consultant seconded to Queensland Health, she audited falls prevention activities in Queensland and developed a strategic plan for falls prevention among older people to be implemented state-wide across community, acute care and residential care settings. From 2001 to 2005 Nancye undertook full time doctoral research to investigate the relationship between healthy ageing determinants and fall-related hip fracture risk in older people. In 2006 she was awarded a University of Queensland Postdoctoral Research Fellowship and in 2007 in consultation with the Health Promotion Unit, Population Health and the Patient Safety Centre, Queensland Health, she developed the Queensland Stay On Your Feet® Community Good Practice Guidelines: Preventing falls, harm from falls and promoting healthy active ageing in older Queenslanders. In 2009, Dr Peel completed an evaluation of the Queensland Health Falls Safety Officer Pilot Project for capacity building in falls prevention across the continuum of care.

**DR CHRISTINE FAWCETT** MBBS FRACP
*Chair: FIPC Education & Resources working group*

Dr Christine Fawcett is a geriatrician and currently works as the Clinical Director of Geriatrics and Rehabilitation for the Sunshine Coast and Wide Bay Health Service District Southern Cluster. Her clinical interests surround the care of the elderly across the continuum and in particular falls prevention, dementia, delirium and stroke. She has been associated with the collaborative from its inception, and is currently the chair of the Education and Resources Working Group.

**A/Prof SUSAN BRANDIS** B.Occ.Thy, B.Bus (Health Admin) distinction FCHSE, CHE
*Chair: FIPC Nutrition & Falls working group*

Susan Brandis is the Chief Allied Health Officer GCHSD and is a registered Occupational Therapist with additional qualifications in business and health administration. Susan has been employed by Queensland Health in roles including Director of Occupational Therapy, Director of Allied Health, Geriatric and Rehabilitation Services, and Executive Officer Medical Aids Subsidy Scheme. Susan was the manager of the Australian Falls Prevention project (Australian Council Safety and Quality in Health Care) that produced the “Green Box”. She also led the team that published the original and subsequent additions for “Best Practice guidelines for Falls Prevention in hospitals and residential Aged Care facilities” for Queensland Health. In 2006 she was part of the implementation team responsible for establishing the Quality Monitoring Unit of the Health Quality and Complaints Commission for the Queensland Government. Her career includes leading and publishing a number of state and national quality improvement programmes in the areas of falls prevention, improving continence management, consumer engagement and support discharge initiatives. She has been an adjunct
DONNA WATERHOUSE  BN  
**FIPC North Queensland Representative**

Donna has 20 years experience in aged care and is currently the Clinical Nurse Consultant for the Townsville Health Service District. This position is dedicated to Falls Injury Prevention and management in the acute care and residential aged care settings, extending into the community settings. The position has been successful in building partnerships, communication pathways and support networks with government and non government organisations throughout the district. The CNC Falls Injury Prevention provides advice, support, direction and education at both local and strategic levels. This role contributes to patient care, safety, and risk management processes within the HSD and facility. Donna continues to provide a pro-active and consistent approach to the implementation of the National falls injury prevention best practices to influence change in health care delivery and patient safety within the HSD.

DR IAN WILLIAMS  MBBS (Qld), FRACGP  
**FIPC General Practitioner Representative**

Dr Ian Williams has been practicing in full time General Practice for over 20 years. He is principal of Camp Hill Medical Centre where he works with 14 other General Practitioners and is President of the South East Alliance of General Practitioners (Brisbane). As a current surveyor for Australian General Practice Accreditation Limited he has performed over 300 practice surveys.

Ian is an Honorary Senior Lecturer with the University of Queensland. His research interest is *Aged care in the community*, and he is very interested in interdisciplinary care. Ian’s practice employs three practice nurses, 2 mental health nurses, a credentialed diabetes educator, a community nurse and a pharmacist. The practice also works closely with specialist colleagues and other allied health professionals.

PATRICIA KINBACHER  PGradCertEdu, MN, BN  
**FIPC Residential Aged Care Facility Representative**

Patricia is the Nurse Unit Manager/Facility Manager for a Residential Aged Care Facility (High Care) at Zillmere (Brisbane). Patricia has held a strong emphasis on research and completed a research thesis in 2002 concentrating her research on the social needs of elderly men living alone in a rural community. This research has created opportunity for service provision review and for the development of further research in this area of study. Within her role as Facility Manager, some of her responsibilities include working toward continuous improvement in
Clinical Care; maintaining Best Practice Standards in clinical Care and complying with the Aged Care Standards. This includes Falls prevention strategies to reduce the incidence of falls in our aged and frail residents. Patricia has vast experience in Aged Care and is well accustomed to Aged Care Standards Requirements and Best Practice in Aged Care.

KATE WOOD  PGradBN, PGradCert (Health Management)
FIPC Nursing Representative

Kate is the Clinical Nurse Consultant of the Brain Injury Rehabilitation Unit at the Princess Alexandra Hospital and is currently in the role of Acting Nursing Director for the Division of Rehabilitation at the Princess Alexandra Hospital.

Kate completed her general training at the Royal Brisbane Hospital in 1982 and completed her post graduate Bachelor of Nursing through Queensland University of Technology in 1994. Further studies in 2001 saw her complete a post graduate certificate in QLD health management.

Kate has a strong interest in the area of stroke and neurology and she has worked with stroke patients since 1990. She has 15 years experience as a Nurse Unit Manager in the areas of Geriatric Assessment and Rehabilitation and Acute Stroke and Neurology and general medicine, plus 5 yrs part time in the field of aged care.