TROPICAL HEALTH RESEARCH UNIT
FOR NURSING AND MIDWIFERY PRACTICE

BIENNIAL REPORT OF ACTIVITIES

2014 - 2015
For further information, contact:

Townsville Hospital and Health Service

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Cover photograph:
Townsville city skyline at dusk
INTRODUCTION .......................................................................................................................... 1
AIMS AND GOALS .................................................................................................................... 2
OUR PEOPLE ............................................................................................................................ 3
  CORE STAFF .......................................................................................................................... 3
  RESEARCHERS INVOLVED ON PROJECTS .............................................................................. 4
RESEARCH PROJECTS ........................................................................................................... 7
  A SELECTION OF THRU’S RESEARCH PROJECTS ................................................................. 9
OTHER ACTIVITIES ................................................................................................................ 11
  TOWNSVILLE HEALTH RESEARCH WEEK ..................................................................... 11
  ETHICS ROUNDS ................................................................................................................... 13
  NURSING AND MIDWIFERY GRAND ROUNDS ................................................................ 14
  RESEARCH TRAINING WORKSHOPS .................................................................................. 16
  STUDENT SUPERVISION ..................................................................................................... 17
  TEACHING CONTRIBUTIONS ............................................................................................... 18
  COMMITTEE AND WORKGROUP MEMBERSHIP ............................................................... 18
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT ................................................................................................ 20
OTHER RESPONSIBILITIES ................................................................................................. 22
PUBLICATIONS ....................................................................................................................... 24
  IN PRESS .................................................................................................................................. 24
  PEER REVIEWED .................................................................................................................... 24
  NON-PEER REVIEWED ............................................................................................................. 27
  BOOK ..................................................................................................................................... 27
PRESENTATIONS ....................................................................................................................... 27
  POSTERS ................................................................................................................................. 29
2016 AND BEYOND ............................................................................................................... 30
Introduction

It is my pleasure to write this introduction for the fourth Biennial Report of Activities for the Tropical Health Research Unit for Nursing and Midwifery Practice (THRU). THRU, a joint initiative of the Townsville Hospital and Health Service (THHS) and James Cook University (JCU), has continued its goals of supporting nursing and midwifery research that makes a difference to the people of North Queensland, Australia, and internationally.

Joint ventures such as THRU face many challenges, not the least in achieving synergy between the needs and desires of all the stakeholders. However, THRU is a small, cohesive team of three core people: Professor of Nursing – Tropical Health, Nurse Manager – Research, and Administrative Officer, and it manages to collaborate within and across services and sectors. I feel privileged to have worked alongside nurses and midwives in the health services and our professional colleagues from other disciplines to undertake research and generate evidence that can be applied in practice.

During 2014 and 2015, THRU staff continued to disseminate our research findings through peer reviewed publications and conference presentations, and we achieved our anticipated goals of engaging with the community and media to publicise our studies. You will read about some of this work in this Report. Of course, we also started new research studies that have yet to be shared. THRU is very appreciative of all the patients, clients, families and other participants in these studies, and thank them for giving so generously of their time and effort to help us reach our research goals.

Whilst I left THRU in the latter half of 2015 to take up a new appointment in New South Wales, I am still working with Dr Wendy Smyth and Kay Newman to finalise several research studies and perhaps to collaborate on future studies. I have reflected on how valuable an initiative such as THRU is, to engage with clinical staff and to undertake research that benefits patients directly. The facilities within THHS range from a tertiary-level hospital to a small multipurpose health centre, to community services; all located in this unique tropical setting of North Queensland. Because THRU is the only dedicated clinical nursing and midwifery research unit in a tropical environment in Australia, it is vital that its work continues.

I applaud THRU, Wendy, Kay and my friends and colleagues in North Queensland and look forward to seeing THRU continue to produce some of the finest and important research in Australia. I hope you enjoy reading this Report, and appreciate how the team has ensured that this initiative we call THRU ‘works’.

Professor Linda Shields
Professor of Nursing – Tropical Health
Aims and Goals

The aim of the Tropical Health Research Unit is to contribute to innovation and excellence in care by fostering a culture of inquiry amongst nurses and midwives, assisting them to fulfil their professional responsibilities with regard to undertaking research, and by participating in and engaging with research, thereby ensuring that their daily nursing and midwifery practices incorporate the best available evidence.

The Tropical Health Research Unit is a partnership between the Townsville Hospital and Health Service and Nursing, Midwifery and Nutrition, James Cook University, and an affiliate of the Centre for Nursing and Midwifery Research, James Cook University. It will advance clinical nursing and midwifery research at the Townsville Hospital and Health Service and James Cook University, and is comprised of staff from both the health service and university sectors. We will contribute to, and collaborate with, the core business of the Townsville Hospital and Health Service and James Cook University.

The primary focus of our research is the health of people living in the tropics, including regional, rural and remote, culturally diverse areas and populations. From mid-2015 to mid-2017, our focus will be on:

- person-centred care
- research utilisation.

Goals of the unit include:

- promoting, fostering and supporting the health of people living in the areas served by the Townsville Hospital and Health Service and James Cook University
- actively seeking research ideas
- fostering research engagement across clinical, academic and commercial sectors, and the community.
Our People

Core staff

Professor Linda Shields
MD, PhD, FACN, FAAN
Professor of Nursing – Tropical Health

Linda held the position of Professor of Nursing – Tropical Health and Director of THRU from mid-2012 until September 2015. During her time in THRU Linda expanded her research interests into areas which allowed her to investigate the role of the tropical environment on health outcomes and how nurses and midwives can influence these.

Linda’s personal areas of research and scholarship are in paediatric and child health nursing, and history. Her particular interest in history lies around nursing during the Nazi era in Europe. She has been involved in the development of inventions that improve the way we care for people, and an invention under development is a nasogastric tube which can safely determine correct placement in the stomach. Other inventions are planned and she has learned much about development, research translation, and intellectual property and patent law with this branch of research.

Linda was involved with many collaborative studies – with staff of the THHS and JCU and with national and international studies. These studies included her ‘working with families’ research, a project about managing surgical waste and cystic fibrosis research, to name just a few.

Linda had 17 papers and one book published in 2014 and 2015. She continued her work on the National Blood Authority Paediatric Committee. Last year, Linda was awarded a Silver Medal by the European Society for Person Centred Healthcare for family-centred care research and in mid-2015 was awarded Fellowship of the American Academy of Nursing because of her work on family-centred care and the history of nursing in Nazi Europe.

Linda left THRU on 4th September 2015 to take up a position as Professor of Nursing at Charles Sturt University in Bathurst, NSW and we thank her for her work in the THRU and wish her well in her new role.

Dr Wendy Smyth
PhD, MAppSc, MBus, GradDipQuality(Dist), BA
OND(Hons)(UK), MACN
Adjunct Senior Research Fellow, College of Healthcare Sciences, James Cook University

In her role as Nurse Manager–Research for the THHS, Wendy continues to work alongside nurses and midwives to facilitate their engagement with research. Many research projects have started with an idea from the clinical area. Wendy supports nurses and midwives to plan and undertake research by providing focused education and mentoring along the research journey. Another key aspect of Wendy’s role is to assist nurses and midwives with finding and using appropriate research evidence in their practice.
Kay Newman
DipHlthSc, CertIIIBus
Administrative Officer

Kay has an extensive administration background spanning a variety of industries and services. Kay provides organisational and administrative support to Unit staff and research staff seconded to the THRU.

Researchers involved on projects

Gail Abernethy
NNT, GCHSt, PGDPHTM, BHealth(Nursing)
Research Assistant

Even though she relocated to far north Queensland, Gail has continued her involvement with THRU as a research assistant on several projects.

Megan Hayes
Student Nurse, James Cook University

Megan (Meg) Hayes, an undergraduate nursing student from JCU, was successful in her application for one of two inaugural summer scholarships that were offered by the Centre for Nursing and Midwifery Research. The main project Meg worked on during the internship period was ‘Measuring patients adherence to haemodialysis regimens’. We would certainly welcome her back in THRU.

Elizabeth Heyer
BNSc
Clinical Trials Coordinator, Haematology Clinical Trials

Liz’s experience in clinical trials was pivotal to her role as one of the co-investigators on the “Randomized trial of two creams in the skin care of patients receiving radiation therapy for breast cancer in the tropics (Radiation Therapy Skin Care Trial)”. Liz was an active participant in writing papers relating to this project.
Dr Jenny Kelly  
PhD, MPH, MA (Women’s Studies), Grad Dip Ed, BN, MACN  
Research Fellow

Jenny is a registered nurse and midwife with additional qualifications in adult education, women’s studies and public health. She has many years of rural and remote nursing and midwifery and teaching experience. Jenny worked on the TropiKids Longitudinal Study.

Nadine Laffin  
BNSc  
Clinical Nurse, Radiation Therapy Unit Manager, Cancer Clinical Trials

During 2014-2015, Nadine continued as the Principal Investigator for the Radiation Therapy Skin Care Trial. She has co-authored two publications in this time.

Associate Professor David Lindsay  
PhD, MEd, BN, GradCertEd, CritCareCert, FACN  
Nursing, Midwifery and Nutrition  
College of Healthcare Sciences, James Cook University

David’s involvement with THRU has continued principally with respect to the ‘Long term condition self-management practices of Queensland Health’s nurses and midwives: Current status and impact’ and the ‘Long-term condition self-management practices of Townsville Hospital and Health Service’s medical and health practitioner workforce: A comparison study’ projects.

Joleen McArdle  
BNSc, PGCertNSc(RenalN)  
Nurse Unit Manager – Renal Satellite Units, Townsville Renal Service

Joleen was the Principal Investigator for the ‘Tropical wound dressing protocols for haemodialysis central venous catheter exit sites: Pilot for randomized controlled trial’ (CVC) project. Joleen’s thesis for her Master of Nursing Science (Research), which was based on this study, was submitted for examination at the end of 2015.
Kimberley Quayle  
BN, CertIV(TechInfo)  
Clinical Nurse, Townsville Renal Service

Kim continued as a research assistant on the ‘Patients’ adherence to haemodialysis study’. Her major roles were to design the data collection tool, enter the data, and disseminate the results.

Associate Professor Kerrianne Watt  
PhD, BSc(Hons)  
Public Health and Tropical Medicine  
College of Public Health, Medical and Veterinary Sciences, James Cook University

In addition to providing statistical support to researchers, Kerrianne is a co-investigator on a funded project: ‘Establishment of TropiKids longitudinal study in North Queensland: Validation of tools’.

Dr Kristin Wicking  
PhD, MSN, GradCertEd(TertTchg), BSN  
Nursing, Midwifery and Nutrition  
College of Healthcare Sciences, James Cook University

In 2015, Kristin was actively involved in the CVC project as an Advisor to Joleen McArdle. After Linda left, Kristin took over as Primary Advisor for Danielle Edwards’ Bachelor of Nursing Science (Honours).
## COMPLETED

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project Title / Team Members</th>
<th>Funding</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Long-term condition self-management practices of Queensland Health's nurses and midwives:</strong></td>
<td>Office of the Chief Nursing and Midwifery Officer, Queensland Health Nursing and Midwifery Experienced Researcher Grant, granted 2010</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wendy Smyth, David Lindsay, Colin Holmes and Anne Gardner</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Early origins and aetiology of obesity, metabolic syndrome and diabetes in the tropics</strong></td>
<td>James Cook University, New Professor Grant, granted 2012</td>
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<tr>
<td>Linda Shields</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Patients’ perceptions of hospital acquired infections (HAIs) in North Queensland: A pilot study</strong></td>
<td>Far North Queensland Hospital Foundation, granted 2012</td>
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<tr>
<td>Matt Mason, Wendy Smyth, Vanessa Sparke, Kerrianne Watt, Janine Carrucan and Linda Shields</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Disposal of surgical waste using microwave pyrolysis</strong></td>
<td>James Cook University and Griffith University, Collaboration Across Boundaries, granted 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Linda Shields, Mohan Jacob, Kati Bazaka, Lee Stewart, Rowan Truss, Graham Brodie, Allana Bryan, Jennifer Ashton, Roy Kimble and Wendy Smyth</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Positivity in the young patient: The calming effect of art</strong></td>
<td>Townsville City Council, Regional Arts Development Fund, granted 2014</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lorna Hempstead, Linda Shields, Allana Bryan</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Measuring patients’ adherence to haemodialysis regimens in the tropics</strong></td>
<td>Unfunded</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wendy Smyth, Vicki Hartig, Amy Burrows and Valli Manickam</td>
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Operating Theatre murals commissioned with funds from the Townsville City Council's Regional Arts Development Fund
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<tr>
<td>Long-term condition self-management practices of Townsville Hospital and Health Service’s medical and health practitioner workforce: A comparison study</td>
<td><strong>Wendy Smyth</strong>, David Lindsay and Daryl Brennan</td>
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<tr>
<td>Funding</td>
<td>Private Practice Research and Education Trust Fund, Townsville Hospital and Health Service, granted 2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Funding</td>
<td>Australian College of Nursing, RCNA Research Grant, granted 2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Establishment of TropiKids Longitudinal Study in North Queensland: Validation of tools</td>
<td><strong>Linda Shields</strong>, Kerrianne Watt, <strong>Wendy Smyth</strong>, David Plummer and Jake Najman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Funding</td>
<td>Private Practice Research and Education Trust Fund, Townsville Hospital and Health Service, granted 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Who ‘owns’ the child in hospital?</td>
<td><strong>Linda Shields</strong>, Ryley Molloy, <strong>Wendy Smyth</strong> and Jane Mills</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Funding</td>
<td>Unfunded</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Information needs and priorities of parents of infants newly diagnosed with cystic fibrosis in Queensland</td>
<td><strong>Linda Shields</strong>, Danielle Edwards, <strong>Wendy Smyth</strong>, Kristin Wicking, Tonia Douglas, Claire Wainwright, Melanie Jessup, Rhondda Jones and Lynn Priddis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Funding</td>
<td>Unfunded</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Working with families: Perceptions of working with children and their parents</td>
<td><strong>Linda Shields</strong>, <strong>Wendy Smyth</strong>, Rosemary Kruze, Abdalla Mamun and Andrew White</td>
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<tr>
<td>Part A: Community services, THHS</td>
<td>Part B: Rural hospitals, THHS</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Linda Shields</strong>, <strong>Wendy Smyth</strong>, Rosemary Kruze, Abdalla Mamun and Andrew White</td>
<td>Part C: Emergency Department, THHS</td>
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<tr>
<td>Healthcare staff knowledge of delirium before and after education</td>
<td><strong>Wendy Smyth</strong>, Kelly Wright, Sandra Burton and Helen Murray</td>
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<td>Funding</td>
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A Selection of THRU's Research Projects

Who ‘owns’ the child in hospital?

**Linda Shields**\(^1\), Ryley Molloy\(^2\), \(^3\), **Wendy Smyth**\(^1\) and **Jane Mills**\(^2\)
\(^1\)Tropical Health Research Unit, \(^2\)James Cook University, \(^3\)Townsville Hospital and Health Service

Ryley Molloy, a Registered Nurse in the Emergency Department at The Townsville Hospital, has interviewed parents, nurses, doctors and allied health staff. Analysis of the interview transcripts will help to clarify the concept of who ‘owns’ the child in hospital, and how it affects care delivery.

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Information needs and priorities of parents of infants newly diagnosed with cystic fibrosis

**Linda Shields**\(^1\), Danielle Edwards\(^2\), \(^3\), **Wendy Smyth**\(^1\), Kristin Wicking\(^2\), Rhondda Jones\(^2\)
\(^1\)Tropical Health Research Unit, \(^2\)James Cook University, \(^3\)Townsville Hospital and Health Service

Cystic Fibrosis (CF) is an inherited disorder with no known cure and requires significant lifestyle changes for both the individual affected and their families. This study piloted ‘The Care of Cystic Fibrosis Families Survey’ and assessed the information needs and priorities of parents with children diagnosed with CF via newborn screening. The questionnaires were distributed to three convenience samples of parents. This study was the subject of Danielle Edwards’ Bachelor of Nursing Science (Honours) and her thesis will be submitted in early 2016.

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Working with families: Perceptions of working with children and their parents

Part A: Community services, THHS
**Linda Shields**\(^1\), **Wendy Smyth**\(^1\), Rosemary Kruze\(^2\), Abdalla Mamun\(^3\) and Andrew White\(^2\)

Part B: Rural hospitals, THHS
**Linda Shields**\(^1\), Kindee Lawty\(^2\), **Wendy Smyth**\(^1\), Abdalla Mamun\(^3\) and John Smithson\(^4\)

Part C: Emergency Department, THHS
**Linda Shields**\(^1\), **Wendy Smyth**\(^1\), Debbie McCarthy\(^2\), Jeremy Furyk\(^2\), Lisa Lucas\(^2\), Leone Lovegrove\(^2\) and Abdalla Mamun\(^3\)

\(^1\)Tropical Health Research Unit, \(^2\)Townsville Hospital and Health Service, \(^3\)University of Queensland, \(^4\)James Cook University

A model of care often espoused to be used in paediatric and child health is ‘family-centred care’. According to this model, care is planned around children and their families. However, studies in acute paediatric settings have indicated that nurses, doctors and allied health staff prefer working with the children rather than with their parents. This set of studies uses the validated ‘Working with Families’ questionnaires in three different settings – community child health, a tertiary emergency department, and acute rural facilities. It has also provided an opportunity to involve nurses from those three different settings on the research teams.

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Long-term condition self-management practices of Townsville Hospital and Health Service’s medical and health practitioner workforce: A comparison study

Wendy Smyth¹, David Lindsay² and Daryl Brennan³
¹Tropical Health Research Unit, ²James Cook University, ³Townsville Hospital and Health Service

This study has similar aims to that of an earlier study of THRUs, the ‘Long-term condition self-management practices of Queensland Health’s nurses and midwives: Current status and impact’. Healthcare professionals, like those in the wider community, need to manage their own long-term conditions. This study will identify the types of long-term conditions reported by doctors and health practitioners, and the self-management strategies they use to manage their main long-term condition.

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Healthcare staff knowledge of delirium before and after education

Wendy Smyth¹, Kelly Wright², Sandra Burton² and Helen Murray²
¹Tropical Health Research Unit, ²Townsville Hospital and Health Service

Delirium is a frequent complication of hospital admission, yet it often remains undiagnosed. This may be related to a lack of staff knowledge about predisposing factors and other predictors of delirium. Education has improved staff knowledge and recognition of delirium; however, most of those studies have only assessed nurses’ knowledge. This study aimed to measure delirium knowledge across members of a multi-disciplinary team working in two wards of The Townsville Hospital, where there is a high prevalence of patients with delirium, using a pre- and post-educational intervention. One hundred and fifty-one staff completed questionnaires. Of the 39 staff who completed questionnaires both pre and post the education, there were statistically significant improvements in their knowledge about dementia post-education compared to pre-education. This project demonstrated that a multi-faceted educational intervention can contribute to improving knowledge of delirium.

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Family-centred care in cystic fibrosis: A pilot study

Linda Shields¹, Tonia Douglas², Melanie Jessup³, Lynn Priddis⁴, Wendy Smyth¹, Lisa Burling⁵, Gail Abernethy¹, Claire Wainwright² and Neil Archer⁵
¹Tropical Health Research Unit, ²Royal Children’s Hospital, Brisbane, ³Australian Catholic University, ⁴Curtin University, ⁵Townsville Hospital and Health Service

Family-centred care, a model where care is planned around the whole family, not just the individual sick child, is widely used in paediatrics, but is notoriously difficult to implement effectively. A systematic review of family-centred care as a model of care for cystic fibrosis patients and their families has demonstrated a lack of studies around this topic. This project will help to address that by testing perceptions of family-centred care held by staff and parents caring for children with cystic fibrosis, specifically for those living in a regional/rural/remote setting.
**Other Activities**

**Townsville Health Research Week**

This is becoming established as the key opportunity for health researchers to share their research findings at a local level. A hard-working core of people (from THHS and JCU) contribute to the planning and the running of the event. In 2014, Professor Shields chaired the organising group. That year, the familiar combination of workshops in the mornings and presentations in the afternoon was followed. However, for the first time, presentations were grouped according to themes rather than the professional group of the presenters. THRU staff supported the novice nurse/midwife presenters in many ways, including assisting them to write their abstracts and prepare their presentations. Dr Jenny Kelly and Dr Wendy Smyth co-ordinated the review of nursing/midwifery abstracts. Jenny led the checking and formatting of abstracts as they were printed in the ‘Annals’.

**Nursing and Midwifery Research Topics and Presenters**

**2014, 7th–10th October**

**Ten-minute Presentations**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Presenter</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Implementing evidence in order to promote freedom of movement for women in labour</td>
<td>Annemarie Lawrence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Significance of antenatal steroid treatment on the prevalence of pressure injuries in neonates</td>
<td>Deanne August</td>
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**Mini Oral Presentations**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Presenter</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Genetic literacy of Australian registered nurses and midwives and their use of genetics in clinical practice</td>
<td>Helen Wright</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hepatitis B status of Papua New Guinea short-term students attending the Townsville Sexual Health service</td>
<td>Natasha Miller</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mum ICU – who are you?</td>
<td>Marie McAuliffe</td>
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<tr>
<td>Patients’ perceptions of hospital-acquired infections in two facilities in north Queensland, Australia: a pilot study</td>
<td>Janine Carrucan</td>
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<tr>
<td>A profile of CKD patients and their outcomes in a nurse practitioner model of care in north Queensland</td>
<td>Anne Graham</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Information needs and priorities of parents of infants newly diagnosed with cystic fibrosis: literature review</td>
<td>Danielle Edwards</td>
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<tr>
<td>Does the use of an antimicrobial disposable curtain reduce cleaning time, laundry costs and the rate of multi-resistant organism transmission?</td>
<td>Mandy Davidson</td>
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<tr>
<td>A little bit of help goes such a long way: experiences of a student research intern initiative</td>
<td>Wendy Smyth</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hypothyroidism in pregnancy: feto-maternal complications at The Townsville Hospital</td>
<td>Robyn Chadwick</td>
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<tr>
<td>Patients prefer being in a single room, even if they do not know they have an infection</td>
<td>Kathlean McLean</td>
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### Poster Presentations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Poster Title</th>
<th>Author/s</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Adherence to haemodialysis regimens: how big is the problem and what can we</td>
<td>Wendy Smyth, Vicki Hartig, Amy Burrows, Kimberley Quayle, Megan Hayes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>do to make it easier?</td>
<td>and Valli Manickam</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cochrane review of upright versus recumbent positions for women during</td>
<td>Annemarie Lawrence, Lucy Lewis, Justus Hofmeyr and Cathy Styles</td>
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<td>first stage of labour</td>
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### 2015, 8th October

#### Ten-minute Presentations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Presenter</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A survey of unmet needs and self-efficacy in women diagnosed with</td>
<td>Tracey Ahern</td>
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<tr>
<td>breast cancer and the role of the breast care nurse</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>What really matters in person centred care? Measuring the patients'</td>
<td>Julie Shepherd</td>
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<tr>
<td>experience</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nursing students’ experiences of an evidence-based mental health</td>
<td>Melanie Birks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>first aid course to improve mental health literacy</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Rules sometimes need to be broken: Qualitative aspects of a randomised</td>
<td>Joleen McArdle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>controlled trial of wound dressings</td>
<td><strong>(Winner: Best Presentation Award)</strong></td>
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#### Mini Oral Presentations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Presenter/s</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Do staff working with families in community child health hold different</td>
<td>Rose Kruze</td>
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<td>perceptions than their counterparts in acute settings?</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Can being part of a multi-centred trial enhance family centred</td>
<td>Helen MacInnes and Jennifer Orbeso</td>
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<td>model of care at The Townsville Hospital?</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Advancing the role of the enrolled nurse in an oncology day unit:</td>
<td>Corrie Miles</td>
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<tr>
<td>A quality improvement project</td>
<td><strong>(Winner: Novice Presenter Award)</strong></td>
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<td>Staff knowledge of delirium improves following education: A pre/post</td>
<td>Helen Murray</td>
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<td>survey</td>
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<td>The incidence of boils on Palm Island</td>
<td>Pauline Wilson and Matthew Wigan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Congenital hypothyroidism with seizures: A case study</td>
<td>Ann Sproul</td>
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Poster Presentations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Poster Title</th>
<th>Author/s</th>
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| Robotic seals as therapeutic tools in an aged care facility: An exploratory study | Melanie Birks, Marie Bodak and Joanna Barlas  
(Winner: Best Nursing Poster) |
| The breast cancer nurse supportive care model                               | Tracey Ahern, Anne Gardner and Mary Courtney                                                      |
| The role of digital imaging and mobile camera application in neonatal skin injury assessment | Deanne August, Yoga Kandasamy, Robin Ray and Karen New |

Ethics Rounds

Ethics is a large part of every health professional's working life, and all our interactions with patients/clients, their families and other health professionals are guided by ethical principles. These sessions address a range of ethics issues by presenting clinical cases which have needed solution of ethical dilemmas. Once the cases are presented, usually by a clinician, they are discussed by a bioethicist (Dr Lynn Woodward) and others, and the audience is also invited to join the discussion.

THRU continued to co-ordinate these sessions until mid-2015.

2014

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Panel Members</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Consent, confidentiality and decision-making</td>
<td>Dr Melita Trout (TTH), Dr Lynn Woodward (JCU) and Prof. Colin Holmes (JCU)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The new Human Research Ethics Committee at THHS: Philosophies of ethics</td>
<td>Sara Potts (TTH) and Prof. Colin Holmes (JCU)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Choices in childbirth</td>
<td>Ros Lock (JCU), Karyn Bentley (JCU) and Dr Lynn Woodward (JCU)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pre-symptomatic genetic testing for Huntington's Disease: To test or not to test?</td>
<td>Helen Wright (JCU), Dr Lynn Woodward (JCU) and Dr Fiona Baird (JCU)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Panel Members</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Child protection: when does legislation override ethics?</td>
<td>Caroline Whitworth (TTH), Dr Peter McNaughton (TTH) and Dr Lynn Woodward (JCU)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parental autonomy and ethical decision making on the neonatal unit</td>
<td>Dr Sue Ireland (TTH) and Dr Lynn Woodward (JCU)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Nursing and Midwifery Grand Rounds

Nursing and Midwifery Grand Rounds were commenced in late 2010 as one strategy whereby nurses and midwives were supported to engage with evidence-based practice and to hear first-hand about local research. The format of the Grand Rounds has evolved over that time. In 2014, First Year of Practice (Graduate) Nurses delivered their case studies. In 2015, these case study presentations were incorporated into each Grand Round.

Evaluations of all the presentations continue to be positive, and nurses and midwives appreciate the opportunities to hear about diverse topics. We thank all presenters, especially novice presenters, for having the courage to present to their peers. And we thank attendees for participating in the healthy discussions that follow the presentations and for supporting their colleagues in this initiative.

Topics and Presenters

2014

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Presenter/s</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Recommended new guidelines for treatment of gestational diabetes,</td>
<td>Robyn Chadwick</td>
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<tr>
<td>and my research plans for 2014</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Working outside the box</td>
<td>Brendan Porter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patient satisfaction with the heart failure service</td>
<td>Maureen Pitt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chronic kidney disease – Nurse Practitioner research</td>
<td>Anne Graham</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Townsville prostate cancer nursing service – 2 years on</td>
<td>Trish Husband</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midwifery to the future</td>
<td>Marie McAuliffe, Phoebe Backhouse and Chloe Westwood</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anti-microbial stewardship – isn’t that ‘doctor business’?</td>
<td>Julie Chandler and Janine Carrucan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prevalence of persistent pain in Australia today, 2014</td>
<td>Carol Kanowski</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Behind the wire – a snapshot of offender health</td>
<td>Donna-Marie Bloice and Carla Vernon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First year of practice case study presentations</td>
<td>Renae Vagg, Anne Hartshorn-Smith, Monique Chetland, Abner White, Victoria Lancini and Morgan Scoble</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First year of practice case study presentations</td>
<td>Mark Wyer, Kristen Macdonald, Jodi Ruddell, Lisa Johnston and Tanika Parker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nursing research. Boring? Never!</td>
<td>Prof. Linda Shields, Dr Wendy Smyth and Danielle Edwards</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>Title</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Medication errors and patients’ own medications</td>
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<td>Refusing medications – case study: Lactulose and encephalopathy</td>
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<td>Person-centred care</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Case study – a patient with Hodgkin’s disease</td>
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<td></td>
<td>A day in the life of an offender health nurse</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Pain in the neck: A complex palliative care case</td>
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<td>Ensuring a pain free end of life journey</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Blood transfusions: To give or not to give</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Haemovigilance – blood transfusions</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Pain, let’s talk about it…</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Pain management of cardiac surgical patient</td>
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<td>Research in ED: Implications for nursing</td>
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<td>Compartment syndrome</td>
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<td>Taipan envenomation</td>
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<td>Demystifying the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Schizo-affective disorder</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Midwifery case presentation</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Long term conditions in THHS nurses and midwives: How we found out about them</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Beyond the black stump – rural hospitals in THHS</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>City vs country: A comparison of tertiary and rural hospital facilities</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Research Training Workshops

In 2014, Professor Linda Shields, with the assistance of THRU staff and the Research Governance Administrator, co-ordinated these monthly training workshops. Topics and presenters were varied, and responded directly to the needs of novice researchers. In 2015, Allied Health took responsibility for organising the workshops.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Presenter/s</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Design of a research study and proposal development</td>
<td>Prof. Linda Shields and Dr Yoga Kandasamy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research integrity: Ethics and governance</td>
<td>Dr Wendy Smyth and A/Prof. Andrew Crowden</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Writing grants</td>
<td>Prof. Linda Shields, Prof. Jon Golledge, Annette Ryan, Rose Green and Tina Langford</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finding the evidence</td>
<td>Dr Wendy Smyth and Bronia Renison</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>An introduction to clinical audits and how Clinical Information Services can assist you</td>
<td>Janet Askern, Cynthia Sweeney and Lindy Petrich</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quantitative method Part 1</td>
<td>A/Prof. Richard Franklin and Dr Venkat Vangaveti</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Defining a research question</td>
<td>A/Prof. Kerrianne Watt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Writing a systematic review</td>
<td>Prof. Linda Shields</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The qualitative difference – searching for meaning in text and talk</td>
<td>A/Prof. David Lindsay and Dr Wendy Smyth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grounded theory – an introduction to the methodology</td>
<td>Prof. Melanie Birks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Writing for publication</td>
<td>Prof. Linda Shields</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Bronia Renison (THHS Library Director) and Wendy Smyth co-teaching EndNote reference manager
## Student Supervision

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Supervisory Panel</th>
<th>Topic</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>PhD</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nicole Brown (JCU)</td>
<td>Reinie Cordier, Renee Speyer and Linda Shields</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Helen Wright (JCU)</td>
<td>Linda Shields, David Lindsay and Kerrianne Watt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bronwyn Griffin (UQ)</td>
<td>Kerrianne Watt, Linda Shields and Roy Kimble</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Henny Suzanna Mediani (Curtin)</td>
<td>Ravani Duggan, Rose Chapman, Alison Hutton and Linda Shields</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cindy Branch-Smith (Edith Cowan)</td>
<td>Linda Shields, Julie-Anne Pooley and Tonia Douglas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Master of Nursing Science (Research)</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joleen McArdle (JCU)</td>
<td>Anne Gardner, Wendy Smyth and Kristin Wicking</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Bachelor of Nursing Science (Honours)</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ryley Molloy (JCU)</td>
<td>Linda Shields, Wendy Smyth and Jane Mills</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Danielle Edwards (JCU)</td>
<td>Linda Shields, Wendy Smyth and Kristin Wicking</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Danielle Edwards – all smiles after her successful pre-completion seminar on 4th December, 2015
Teaching contributions

Professor Linda Shields contributed to the following JCU undergraduate subjects:

2014 and 2015: NS3118 Evidence Based Practice

Dr Wendy Smyth contributed to the following:

2014:
- Panel member ‘Health researcher clinician: using research at work’ to FHMMS Doctoral cohorts
- NS3118 Evidence Based Practice – guest presenter with Megan Hayes: What is it like being part of a nursing research team?
- Nurse Practitioner Masterclass – Bringing research to life – journal clubs and hints for reading articles
- Effective literature searching – workshop for Townsville Health Research Week. Role: co-presenter with Librarian
- EndNote reference manager – workshop for Townsville Health Research Week. Role: co-presenter with Librarian
- Co-presenter at several Research Training Workshops, The Townsville Hospital – Research integrity: Ethics and governance; Finding the evidence; The qualitative difference: Finding meaning in talk and text

2015:
- EndNote reference manager – workshop for Townsville Health Research Week. Role: co-presenter with Librarian
- Writing conference abstracts – co-presenter with Dr Jenny Kelly
- EndNote reference manager – regular training sessions. Role: co-presenter with Librarian

Committee and Workgroup Membership

Professor Linda Shields:

Centre for Nursing and Midwifery Research, Program Leader – Maternal and Child Health Research – JCU
Clinical Innovation, Education and Research Committee – THHS (2014)
National Blood Authority Paediatric/Neonatal Committee
Nurse Leaders Forum – THHS (2014)
Nursing and Midwifery Governance Board – THHS
Nursing Engagement Forum – THHS
Nursing Executive Clinical Advisory Forum – THHS (2014)
Private Practice Trust Fund Research Standing Committee – THHS
Research Committee of the Discipline of Nursing, Midwifery and Nutrition – JCU
THHS Research Management Committee – THHS (2015)
THRU Business Meeting – THHS and JCU
THRU Research Meeting – THHS and JCU
Townsville Health Research Week Organising Group – THHS and JCU (2014)
Dr Wendy Smyth:

.Nurse Unit Manager/Nurse Manager/Midwifery Unit Manager Meeting – THHS
.Nursing Executive Clinical Advisory Forum – THHS
.Research and Education Committee – Rural Hospitals Service Group
.THHS Human Research Ethics Committee
.THRU Business Meeting – THHS and JCU
.THRU Research Meeting – THHS and JCU
.Townsville Health Library Committee – THHS
.Townsville Health Research Week Organising Group – THHS and JCU (2014)

Kay Newman:

.THRU Business Meeting – THHS and JCU
.THRU Research Meeting – THHS and JCU

The hospital acquired infections project poster was presented at the Australasian College for Infection Prevention and Control Conference held in Adelaide, South Australia in November, 2014
Community Engagement

THRU hosted two international guest presenters in 2014.

Dr Veronica Swallow
School of Nursing, Midwifery and Social Work
University of Manchester, UK

Dr Swallow is an expert in research into chronic diseases in children, for which she uses complicated mixed methods techniques. She is a Senior Lecturer at the School of Nursing, Midwifery and Social Work at the University of Manchester.

She gave a presentation titled ’Mixed Methods Research’ at James Cook University on 23rd April, 2014.

Professor Mark Lazenby
School of Nursing
Yale University, New Haven, Connecticut, USA

Professor Lazenby earned his Masters of Science in Nursing, specialising in oncology, from Yale School of Nursing in 2009. He is an Advanced Oncology Certified Nurse Practitioner. He previously earned a Masters in Theology from Fuller Theological Seminary, and a PhD in Philosophy of Religion from Boston University.

Professor Lazenby has an ongoing study that seeks to identify what influences where people in Botswana, Southern Africa, die (home or hospital). His is the first place-of-death study in sub-Saharan Africa.

He conducted a presentation titled ‘Global Perspectives in Palliative Care’ at The Townsville Hospital on 10th December, 2014.

Commemorative service for nurses who have died in the service of others

In Townsville, North Queensland on 4th May 2014, a commemorative service for nurses who have died in the service of others was held. The service was hosted by THRU, in conjunction with the Queensland Far North Region of the Australian College of Nursing, and the Townsville General Hospital Past Graduates’ Association. Her Excellency Ms Penelope Wensley AC, Governor of Queensland attended.

The focus of the service was nurses who have given their lives serving others. One hundred and three military nurses have died in action, from Sr Fanny Hines who died at the South African (Boer) War in 1900, to Flight Lieutenant Lynn Rowbottom who died when a RAN helicopter crashed during the relief effort after the Asian tsunami and earthquake in
2005. The 11 nurses who died when AHS Centaur was torpedoed off Moreton Island in 1943, the 12 who were lost at sea when the Vyner Brooke was sunk after the fall of Singapore in 1942, and in the same year, the 21 nurses who were massacred on Radji Beach were remembered.

While the military nurses are easy to find, civilian nurses are more difficult. Cecilia Bauer and Rose Wiles, in 1905, volunteered to nurse plague patients, caught the disease and died, and some civilian and military nurses died when they volunteered to nurse influenza patients in the quarantine station in Fremantle, WA in 1919. There must have been many others, courageous nurses who willingly took on caring for the sick, but who died as a result of this. It is sad that so little is known about them.

St James’ Anglican Cathedral was full, and the service was very moving. A lamp was passed from one generation of nurses to another, and a scroll with the names of those who have died was laid on the altar. Wreaths were laid, the Last Post played, and the Ode of Remembrance read.

Her Excellency stayed to meet people after the service, and was able to talk to many of those involved. As well as nurses, a large contingent of people from North Queensland attended, along with military personnel from all services. The Premier was represented by Mr John Hathaway MP, and the Prime Minister by Mr Ewen Jones MP, and the Member for Burdekin, Ms Rosemary Menkens, also attended.

**Community Forum**

On November 13th, 2014, with assistance from Associate Prof. David Lindsay & Helen Wright, THRU hosted its first community forum.

The attendees offered lots of ideas about nursing and midwifery research topics that would be of importance to them, people living in the Townsville region.

The forum was held in the Clinical Practice Building at JCU.
Other Responsibilities

Professor Linda Shields:
Honorary Professor, The University of Queensland
Fellow of the Royal Society of Medicine (UK)
Fellow of the Australian College of Nursing
Fellow of the Centaur Memorial Trust for Nurses, Queensland
Fellow of the Winston Churchill Memorial Trust
Member of Sigma Theta Tau International Phi Delta Chapter-at-Large
Member of the Australia New Zealand Society for the History of Medicine
Member of the Australian Association for the Wellbeing of Children in Healthcare
Member of the University of Queensland Medical Alumni
Life Member of Queensland University of Technology Foundation and Nursing Alumni
Life Member of the Australian College of Children and Young People’s Nurses

Member of Editorial Boards
- European Journal for Person Centred Healthcare
- Journal of Child Health Care
- Nordic Journal of Nursing Research
- Nursing Children and Young People
- Pacific Rim International Journal of Nursing Research

Referee for peer review journals
- Acta Medico-Historica Adriatica
- American Journal of Infection Control
- Australian Journal of Rural Health
- Child: Care, Health & Development
- Collegian: The Australian Journal of Nursing Practice, Scholarship and Research
- Contemporary Nurse
- European Journal for Person Centered Healthcare
- Families, Systems, and Health
- International Journal of Mental Health Nursing
- International Journal of Nursing Practice
- International Journal of Nursing Studies
- International Nursing Review
- Issues in Comprehensive Pediatric Nursing
- Journal of Advanced Nursing
- Journal of Child Health Care
- Journal of Clinical Nursing
- Journal of Evaluation in Clinical Practice
- Journal of Medical Biography
- Journal of Medical Internet Research
- Journal of Pediatric Nursing
- Neonatal, Paediatric and Child Health Nursing
- Nursing Children and Young People
- Nursing Ethics
- Nursing and Health Sciences
- Palliative Medicine
- Public Health Nursing
Reviewer for research grants
- Centaur Memorial Fund for Nurses
- Kidney Research UK
- National Health and Medical Research Council of Australia
- Private Practice Education and Research Trust Fund, Townsville Hospital and Health Service

Reviewer for conferences
- Australian College of Children and Young People's Nurses, 2014

Board activities
- Australian Association for the Wellbeing of Children in Healthcare – Board of Directors
- European Society for Person Centered Healthcare – Lead, Special Interest Group – Child and Family-Centered Care
- T J Ryan Foundation – Board of Directors
- Working Papers in the Health Sciences – Advisory Board Member

Dr Wendy Smyth:
Member of the Australian College of Nursing

Reviewer of abstracts
- Townsville Health Research Week, 2014 and 2015

Reviewer for peer review journals
- Australasian Journal on Ageing
- Contemporary Nurse
- Journal of Clinical Nursing
- Journal of Palliative Care
- Journal of Renal Care (mentored a nurse to review a manuscript)

Reviewer of applications for Mona Kendell Nursing Development Association Inc. Research Awards

Reviewer for research grants
- Private Practice Research and Education Trust Fund, Townsville Hospital and Health Service
Publications

In Press

Moyle, W., Bramble, M., Bauer, M., Smyth, W., & Beattie, E. (2015). ‘They rush you and push you too much . . . and you can't really get any good response off them’: A qualitative examination of family involvement in care of people with dementia in acute care. *Australasian Journal on Ageing*. Advance online publication. doi: [http://dx.doi.org/10.1111/ajag.12251](http://dx.doi.org/10.1111/ajag.12251)


Peer Reviewed

2015


Shields, L. (2015). Guest editorial: What is "family-centered care"? *European Journal for Person Centered Healthcare, 3*(2), 139-144. doi: [http://dx.doi.org/10.5750/ejpch.v3i2.993](http://dx.doi.org/10.5750/ejpch.v3i2.993)


2014


**Non-Peer Reviewed**

**2015**


**2014**


**Book**


**Presentations**

**2015**

Kruze, R., Smyth, W., White, A., Mamun, A., & Shields, L. (2015, 7-9 October). Do staff working with families in community child health hold different perceptions than their counterparts in acute settings? Townsville Health Symposium, Townsville, Qld, Australia.

Smyth, W., Wright, K., Burton, S., & Murray, H. (2015, 7-9 October). Staff knowledge of delirium improves following education: Results of a pre/post survey. Townsville Health Symposium, Townsville, Qld, Australia.


Shields, L. (2015, 2-4 March). Keynote Address: Data on teaching programs in Australia. First International Scholars Workshop on Medicine After The Holocaust, Houston Methodist Research Institute and the Center for Medicine After The Holocaust, Houston, Texas, USA.


2014


Davidson, M., Carrucan, J., McLean, K., & Smyth, W. (2014, 7-10 October). Does the use of an antimicrobial disposable curtain reduce cleaning time, laundry costs and the rate of multiresistant organism transmission? Townsville Health Research Week, Townsville, Qld, Australia.


McLean, K., Carrucan, J., Trait, S., Davidson, M., & Smyth, W. (2014, 7-10 October). *Patients prefer being in a single room even if they do not know they have an infection*. Townsville Health Research Week, Townsville, Qld, Australia.

Smyth, W., & Hayes, M. (2014, 7-10 October). *A little bit of help goes such a long way: Experiences of a student research intern initiative*. Townsville Health Research Week, Townsville, Qld, Australia.

Wright, H., Lindsay, D., & Shields, L. (2014, 7-10 October). *Genetic literacy of Australian registered nurses and midwives and their use of genetics in clinical practice*. Townsville Health Research Week, Townsville, Qld, Australia.


**Posters**

2014


Smyth, W., Hartig, V., Burrows, A., Quayle, K., Hayes, M., & Manickam, V. (2014, 7-10 October). *Adherence to haemodialysis regimens: How big is the problem and what can we do to make it easier?* Townsville Health Research Week, Townsville, Qld, Australia.

As we move into 2016 having settled into the new university structure, Nursing, Midwifery and Nutrition is well placed to build on the excellent work of our research centres. Our commitment to engaging with our partners and communities ensures that we work to benefit peoples and societies in our unique context. We enjoy strong relationships and shared values with THHS that will support us in continuing to produce graduates that make a difference. We look forward to the challenges of 2016 and the opportunities it will bring for promoting excellence in education and research that ultimately translate to quality healthcare.

Professor Melanie Birks  
Head – Nursing, Midwifery & Nutrition  
College of Healthcare Sciences  
James Cook University

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Nursing and midwifery research will continue to grow in 2016 with a refocussing of links with JCU and our other university partners. The focus on research linked to innovation and excellence in clinical service delivery will be proactively promoted to our existing workforce and those nurses and midwives joining us at the start of their careers. Person centred care will continue to grow, focussing all our minds on ‘what is important to our patients and their families?’ Education and research will provide the building blocks for an exceptional future.

Judy Morton  
Executive Director of Nursing and Midwifery Services  
Townsville Hospital and Health Service