



2025-26
Q4 Edition:
TAAHC
Newsletter



Tropical Australian Academic Health Centre

NEWSLETTER

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The TAAHC team were incredibly proud to deliver this workshop and are deeply grateful to everyone who contributed their expertise, insights and passion. The outputs from this day will now inform the development of the TAAHC Impact Framework, helping us better articulate the value of research and research translation across northern Queensland.

A sincere thank you to everyone who attended—the future of research translation in our region is stronger because of your contribution.



TAAHC Team members with Board Chair, Sharon Kelly and Executive Director, Scott Davis - attending the Impact Framework Workshop

Shaping the future: TAAHC's Impact Framework Workshop

On June 5th, TAAHC hosted our **Impact Framework Workshop**, bringing together 38 senior leaders, researchers, clinicians, and health partners from across Queensland. The day focused on a critical question for every Research Translation Centre: how do we meaningfully measure the impact of research, research translation, and innovation on the communities we serve?

The engagement throughout the day was exceptional. Participants brought diverse perspectives, challenged assumptions and worked collaboratively to explore what impact really looks like across our region. Through robust discussion and shared experience, we began the important task of identifying the outcomes and measures that matter most to our communities, health services, researchers and partners.

The energy in the room reflected a genuine commitment to ensuring that research is not only undertaken, but is translated into better health outcomes, stronger health systems, improved workforce capability and greater economic and social value.

For TAAHC, this work is about more than measurement. It is about understanding where we create value, demonstrating accountability, and ensuring that future investments are directed towards activities that make the greatest difference.



Helen Griffiths, Kylie Fischer, and Maria Edmondstone



Rhondra Jones and Michael Crowe



taahc@taahc.org.au



(07) 4781 5036



www.taahc.org.au

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Australian Health Research Alliance Council Update

As a proud member of the Australian Health Research Alliance, TAAHC recently participated in the Australian Health Research Alliance (AHRA) Council discussions with representatives from the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) and leaders from across Australia's health and medical research sector.

The Australian Government's commitment to increase investment through the Medical Research Future Fund is welcome news for the health and medical research community.

For our region, health challenges are often amplified by distance, workforce shortages, service access issues, socioeconomic disadvantage and the unique needs of rural, remote and First Nations communities.

The discussions at AHRA reinforced that Australia is increasingly recognising the importance of research translation and implementation. The challenge now is ensuring that investment reaches the regions and that the benefits are realised in communities where health inequities remain greatest.

We look forward to working with our members, AHRA, NHMRC, government and community partners to ensure northern Queensland and tropical Australia play a leading role in shaping the next generation of health research, translation and innovation.

The measure of success will not be the number of research papers produced. It will be whether people across our region experience better health outcomes, improved access to care and a stronger, more sustainable health system as a result of that investment.



Australian Health Research Alliance Council

New Research Translation Fellow Joins TAAHC

We are pleased to welcome [Kylie Fischer](#) to the TAAHC Team as a Research Translation Fellow, in partnership with Torres and Cape Hospital and Health Service.

Kylie is an experienced Clinical Nurse Educator, Clinical Trials Coordinator and Nurse Researcher, with a strong background in rural, regional, and remote healthcare, particularly within Torres and Cape communities. Her work is grounded in practical, clinician-led research that addresses real-world health service challenges and improves equity of access to high-quality care.



Kylie Fischer, Torres and Cape HHS

Kylie has led and contributed to innovative research focused on improving acute burn care for children in remote settings, working closely with frontline clinicians, cultural advisors, and health services to co-design evidence-informed, culturally safe models of care. Her research aims to strengthen clinical capability, standardise best-practice pathways, and support workforce sustainability across geographically dispersed health systems.

Kylie brings a strong commitment to translating evidence into practice, building clinician research capability, and ensuring research delivers meaningful impact for patients, families, and communities.

Joining Stevie Perks and Chrissie Timbs, TAAHC Research Translation Fellows work collaboratively with our partners to embed research translation capabilities within our member organisations.



ISHCA26

26-27 November 2026 | Brisbane

**Implementation Science
Health Conference
Australia**

2026 THEME

**Innovate
Implement
Impact**

TAAHC are proud to co-present ISHCA26 with Health Translation Queensland (HTQ).

As **Australia's premier implementation science conference** for the health sector, ISHCA is dedicated to embedding high-quality evidence into clinical practice.

This year, HTQ and TAAHC will unite researchers, clinicians, policymakers, and health leaders to explore the latest advances in evidence synthesis and knowledge translation. Attendees will gain expert insights through engaging case studies and real-world results.



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Queensland**



**TRANSLATIONAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE
AUSTRALIA**

For more information: www.ishca.au



Empowering Remote Kidney Transplant Patients

In May, CMD PhD candidate and Cairns Hospital Senior Renal Pharmacist, Tara Watters, travelled to Thursday Island to deliver vital kidney transplant medication education. Co-facilitated by patient peer mentors who have already received transplants, the sessions supported patients and families preparing for transplantation. Tara was accompanied by secondary supervisor Professor Beverley Glass and Transplant Coordinator Dr Bronwyn Hayes.

Participants engaged deeply with topics including immunosuppressant management, side effects, and the importance of medication adherence.

Highlighting the impact of the initiative, one peer mentor noted, "I wish I'd had this before my transplant," underscoring the value of early pharmacist involvement.

Co-designed with extensive consultation and input from clinicians, patients, carers, and the Queensland Indigenous Reference Group, this pilot education program is part of Tara's PhD research which focusses on improving patient experience of kidney transplantation in rural and remote areas. The project is highly timely following the launch of the North Queensland Kidney Transplant Service (NQKTS) in Townsville.

Tara's project is one of five Priority Health Projects funded through TAAHC's NHMRC Accelerator grant **Boosting collaborative research translation for healthier north Queenslanders**. In addition to strengthening models of care, the grant supports research capacity and capability across northern Queensland—pairing experienced researchers with emerging clinician-researchers to solve real-world health challenges. Backed by her advisory team—Professor Andrew Mallett (primary), Professor Beverley Glass, and Dr Nicki Scholes-Robertson—Tara's education program is now rolling out across Cairns, Thursday Island, Cooktown, Townsville, Mackay, and Mt Isa.

Photography Competition - Submit today!

This year, we are running a photography competition to bolster our community engagement through connection and meaningful participation. This is a cost neutral exercise which we anticipate will result in wide spread promotion of TAAHC and it's core values.

June Entrants

Below: Erub Island - Torres Strait
Captured by Joshua Paterson



Right: Camooweal - Train Tracks
Captured by Anthony Castles



PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION

FRAMING HEALTH IN THE TROPICS

Stories of care, community, and place

Submit here

☒ Healthcare or research in regional, rural or remote settings	☒ Healthcare workers, learning and partnering for impact
☒ Community life, wellbeing, and connection	☒ Landscapes and environments that we live and work in.

Clinical Excellence Queensland Showcase

TAAHC are incredibly proud of all members who presented at the recent Queensland Health Clinical Excellence Showcase and represented north Qld regional, rural, and remote health services so eloquently.

The 2026 Clinical Excellence Showcase was held on 17 – 18 June at the Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre. Each year, the Showcase is a key event for health professionals from across Queensland who are at the forefront of transforming healthcare delivery by partnering with and listening to their communities.

This year's event featured 47 presentations from frontline healthcare workers, researchers and administrators as well as 53 ePoster displays – and the largest audience in the Showcase's 10-year history.

We encourage you to visit the CEQ Improvement Exchange website where you can read all about the wonderful projects presented this year.

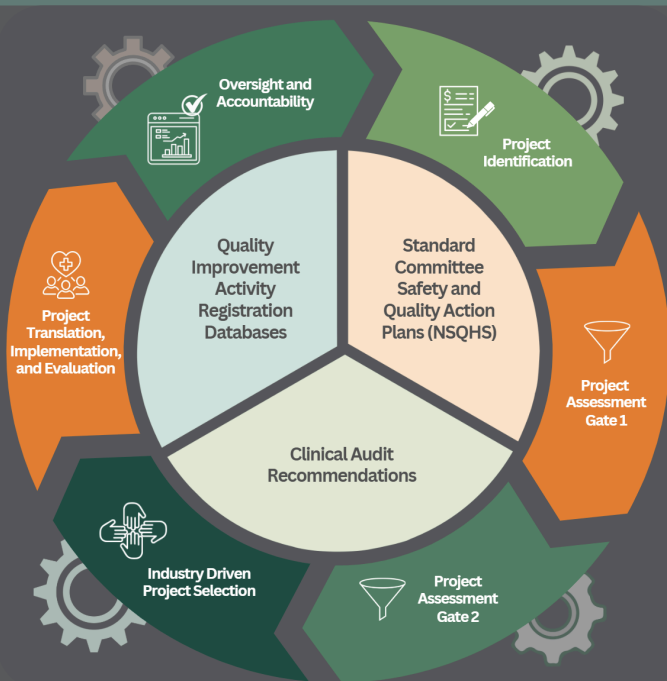


[CLICK HERE to view the CEQ Improvement Exchange website](#)

Local Improvement to System Impact: Research Translation Model for Northern HHSs

In collaboration with our northern Qld HHS partners, the TAAHC Research Translation team have been working to develop a structured, region-wide mechanism to identify, prioritise and scale high-value quality improvement and innovation projects. This work is designed to support consistent, evidence-informed decision-making across geographically dispersed and resource-diverse settings.

The draft structured pathway outlined below will bring together the expertise of the TAAHC Research Translation team, local HHS representatives, and Qld Health. By creating a coordinated approach, we aim to ensure that successful and translatable initiatives can be shared, adapted and implemented where they are needed most—strengthening care delivery and improving outcomes for communities across northern Qld.



Kylie Fischer, Chrissie Timbs, and Stevie Perks



North Qld support in Research Translation

The TAAHC Research Translation Team continues to expand its regional footprint, with embedded fellows currently **supporting 12 projects across four North Queensland health services.**

Fostering collaborative partnerships remains central to our mission. Recently, the team has focused on engaging key stakeholders to identify high-impact research translation initiatives throughout the region.

This collective effort empowers rural, regional, and remote healthcare workers by providing structured education and hands-on guidance in the application of implementation science methodologies. The team provides practical support, guiding staff through the development of comprehensive implementation plans, project logic models, and evaluation frameworks.



5 - 7 August 2026

Mparntwe - Alice Springs

NORTHAUST.ORG.AU

TAAHC Research Resources

Interested in research but not sure where to start? Or looking for some guidance to help progress your research? Browse our curated list of resources!

[Browse our curated list of resources](#)

What's Ahead

As we head into Quarter One FY26/27, our momentum continues to build for an impactful year ahead. We are focused on driving our strategic objectives forward—keep an eye out for some of the following developments in our next edition!

- Enhancing capacity in health economics training
- Conclusion of our 2026 Research Translation Course
- Introduction of the new Research Development and Impact Committee