

ASSBI NEWS

March 2024

Issue 86

Working together to improve the lives of people living with brain conditions



ASSBI

Sharing knowledge, Enriching lives

WORDS FROM OUR PRESIDENT



Happy not-so-new year to all in our ASSBI community! I am writing this from New York, where I have just found out that the International Neuropsychological Society (INS) have confirmed that their mid-year meeting in 2025 will be co-hosted with ASSBI and held in Brisbane. This is a very exciting next step in our longstanding alliance with INS over several successful mid-year meetings. The most recent of these was in 2021, when the conference which was planned to be in Melbourne moved online at the last minute (co-convenors Kerryn Pike, Travis Wearne and I together with conference organisers Margaret and Matt Eagers are still recovering!) It will be wonderful to have the opportunity to meet in person this time.

This year's ASSBI conference convenor Elise Bogart (Elbourn) and the program committee have put together a fabulous program – don't miss it in Sydney from 2-4 May 2024 at the Four Seasons Hotel. Don't forget to book accommodation at the conference hotel while the discounted rate is still available. Early bird registration is also great value for money!

A warm welcome to our new national student coordinator, Nicole Feast (a clinical neuropsychologist who is doing a PhD at the University of Western Australia) – and thank you so much to our outgoing student coordinator Aishani Desai, who thankfully is staying on the ASSBI committee as part of our social media team. Nicole has gone straight to work helping plan a great program of student events and initiatives at both the ASSBI conference in Sydney and the Global Neuropsychology Congress in Porto from 3-5 July this year (<https://www.globalneuropsychology.org>), which is jointly hosted by ASSBI, INS, FESN and SLAN. There has been a lot of interest from Australian researchers, clinicians, and students for the Porto conference – I can't wait!

ASSBI is also currently reviewing ways in which we can better support engagement in our conferences, webinars and resources from people from low- and middle-income countries. We are very keen to provide more affordable opportunities to access ASSBI events and activities and expand our reach internationally. I'm looking forward to progressing this and other ASSBI initiatives with the hard-working executive committee in 2024.

Dana Wong, President, ASSBI

EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT



Please enjoy this newsletter and don't forget to get copy for the June Newsletter to me by 15th May 2024.

We've noticed that some people are not receiving emails about the conference and webinars from our registration platform CVENT. If this is happening to you, please action the undernoted:

How can I ensure I receive emails from Cvent?

To ensure you receive important emails from Cvent (and ASSBI), follow the links below to learn how to [whitelist](#) email addresses in email clients:

- Add a contact on [Android](#)
- Add an email address as a Contact in [Apple Mail](#)
- Move an email to the Primary tab in [Gmail](#)
- Add a trusted name to the Safe Senders List in [Outlook](#)
- Add a contact from an email in [Yahoo](#)

Additionally, you can have your tech department [whitelist certain IP addresses](#) for Cvent emails.

Cheers, Margaret Eagers, EO

ATTENTION

For the Global Neuropsychology Congress in July 2024, the 4 partner organisations, including ASSBI, have been asked to nominate a member from their society to achieve a **'Global Ambassador Award'**

This award will acknowledge the recipient's contribution to neuropsychology (and allied disciplines) at an international level. If you would like to nominate someone for this award, please email the name and a paragraph about that person (no more than 400 words), explaining why you think they should receive the Global Ambassador award, to ASSBI President Dana Wong (d.wong@latrobe.edu.au) by 26 April 2024 .

STRATEGIC PLANNING GROUPS

Our planning groups are meeting regularly to keep our strategic plan on track.

SOCIAL MEDIA



Like us on [Facebook](#),

[Follow ASSBI](#) on X. Become a contact on LinkedIn

The team have started disseminating the videos of the executive team through our various social media channels.

If you have anything interesting you would like us to report please contact Lizzie, Travis, Aishani, Louisa or Matt via assbisocialmedia@gmail.com.

Lizzie Beadle, Travis Wearne, Aishani Desai and Louisa Selvadurai
– Social Media Officers

WEBSITE

Signing in, as a member or associate, will give you the opportunity to update your own information **including your email address**. If you are an ASSBI member, it will also give you access to *Brain Impairment*. In addition, ASSBI members receive at least a 10% discount in the Store. If you want to change your email address login with your old email address or [email Matthew](mailto:email@assbi.com.au) to change it prior to you logging in. <https://www.assbi.com.au>

Be sure to add information about your discipline and your geographical base, as this will help us to better understand our ASSBI community.

When your membership is due you will receive a couple of reminder emails and you can renew and pay online by Visa, MasterCard or PayPal if you have an account. You can also transfer your fees via the bank – if you do this, email [Margaret](mailto:Margaret@assbi.com.au) so she can put your payment through. NO CHEQUES PLEASE.

If you have anything you wish to post on the site or have any feedback please email me at admin@assbi.com.au.
Matthew, Webmaster

NEWS



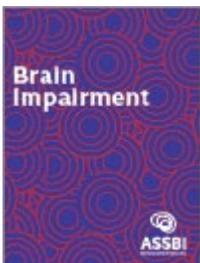
Congratulations to Lizzie Beadle our Social Media Officer on the birth of her second baby Evelyn Rose Beadle-Lappin on 5th January from everyone at ASSBI.

What a gorgeous little girl

BRAIN IMPAIRMENT

ASSBI's multidisciplinary Journal

We are excited to report that the first tranche of articles are now published in *Brain Impairment* under the banner of CSIRO Publishing. The first article to be published under our new arrangements was 'Yumul, Anderson, Catroppa, & McKinlay. Parent-child interaction after mild traumatic injury in preschoolers. *Brain Impairment*, 25, IB23089 <https://doi.org/10.1071/IB23089>'. See **NEW PUBLISHED ARTICLE** below for a synopsis of the paper



By the end of 2023, articles accepted for publication in *Brain Impairment* were sitting in First View for up to 18 months, and we had a backlog of almost 30 articles waiting to be published in a specific Issue. With the new Continuous Publication model under CSIRO Publishing, as new manuscripts are ready, they will be published straight away. We already have 28 articles published for 2024. The other important change is the significant increase in Open Access articles, with currently 64% (18/28) of articles now in this category. This is double the number we had in our last year with CUP.

We are looking forward to our first Editorial Board meeting at the ASSBI National Conference in May, with CSIRO Publishing being able to provide a live publishers report (another first).

Jennifer Fleming and Grahame Simpson, Co-Editors



NEW PUBLISHED ARTICLE

Parent-child interaction after mild traumatic brain injury in preschoolers

Joy Noelle Yumul, Vicki Anderson, Cathy Catroppa, Audrey McKinlay

Brain Impairment <https://doi.org/10.1071/IB23089>

What is the study about?

When a very young child sustains a traumatic brain injury (TBI), parents are the primary source of information for the child's history, symptoms, and recovery. Further, available evidence suggests that the quality of interactions between very young children and their parents may be reduced for months after such an injury. In contrast, it remains unclear how the quality of these interactions may shape parents' report of their child's outcomes. This brief report described the quality of parent-child interaction at one week after a mild TBI, and explored how this might impact parent report of pre-injury characteristics and child outcomes.

What we did

This study was part of a broader study investigating post-concussive symptoms and behaviour outcomes up to three months after mild TBI in preschoolers. Nine participants from the broader study participated in a video recorded, 20-minute observation of parent-child interactions during play activities in the home. Parent-child interaction was rated using an established scale that assessed both parent and child qualities. Correlation coefficients were calculated to examine the relationships between variables.

What we found

The quality of parent-child interaction for most of the parent-child dyads was reduced at one week post-injury. There was a positive relationship between the quality of these interactions and parents' ratings of their child's developmental status. There was also a negative relationship between the quality of interactions and parents' ratings of parental stress, acute post-concussive symptoms, and child behaviour. This exploratory research highlighted the need for further research on how the quality of parent-child interaction may impact parental report of outcomes, and how it may be utilised as a potential avenue for intervention.

STUDENTS

Dear ASSBI and Student Community,

Recruitment for 2024 Student Ambassador Program: Final call for applicants!

Recruitment is still ongoing!

We are currently seeking expressions of interest from students across all health disciplines for the following positions and in the following cities:

1. Team Leader

- Positions available: Adelaide, Perth, Gold Coast, Brisbane, Tasmania, Auckland.
- Term: 1-2 years

2. Student Ambassador

- Available Positions: Adelaide, Melbourne, Perth, Gold Coast, Brisbane, Tasmania, Auckland.
- Term: 1 year

How to apply:

Please visit the ASSBI Student web page for further information about the Student Ambassador Program
<https://assbi.com.au/Student-Opportunities>

The application form can be accessed here:

<https://forms.gle/cz2YsEnLzCikh9PB6>

Please note that, as we have extended the deadline, applications will be reviewed as they are received. So if you are interested in being involved in the ASSBI Student Network for a position in a city listed above, please don't delay in submitting your application! Any questions, please contact Nicole Feast (ASSBI National Student Coordinator) via nicole.feast@research.uwa.edu.au
Nicole Feast, **National Student Coordinator**

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

ASSBI Webinars and Workshops - 2024

Invitations to register for ASSBI's webinars and workshops for 2024 will be sent out shortly.

Webinars – Wednesdays at lunchtime 1.30-2.30

5th June – Lucette Cysique – **Viruses as direct and indirect risk factors for all-type mild cognitive impairment and dementia**

4th September – Matt Staios – Topic: Working with multicultural groups

13th November – Katie Banerjee – Topic: Medicinal cannabis for children

Workshop

Will be held in Rockhampton (12.30 – 4.30)

16th August – Kerry Pike – Topic: Interventions for cognition/aging

Previous ASSBI webinars and Workshops are available in the [ASSBI Online Store](#) some are also available FREE on our members page

ASSBI CONFERENCES

[Go to the ASSBI website to keep up to date](#)

ASSBI's 47th CONFERENCE (#assbi2024)



The Four Seasons Hotel Sydney discount rate of \$350 per night is only available until 1st March 2024 or until allocations are exhausted, so please lock in your accommodation quickly! [Click Here](#) and head to the Reservation page. Enter the dates you wish to stay, enter the Promo Code **240501MER** and select Find Rooms to find the Discounted room offer we have secured!

1st April – early bird closes – [REGISTER NOW](#)

Elise Bogart (Elbourn) and her committee are excited to share information on the six half-day workshops reasonably priced at \$150 (\$110 for student members) on Thursday 2nd May. NOTE these are not included in the conference cost.

Conference Workshop Presentations



Prof Julia Rucklidge

Nutritional Therapies for Optimizing Brain Health: How to implement nutrition into your practice

Workshop 1 (Thursday am)

Synopsis:

Professor Julia Rucklidge has become well-known for her ability to succinctly communicate the latest research relating to nutrition and mental health. In this workshop, Prof Rucklidge will discuss the data that describe an alarming picture of food choices serving as risk factors to all kinds of psychiatric problems. She will describe dietary patterns and food choices that have been supported by scientific evidence. She will also introduce the recent paradigm shift of using broad spectrum micronutrients to treat these challenges, reviewing the hypothesized mechanisms of action and the evidence to date. The talk will challenge our current treatment regime for mental disorders and suggest an alternative course of action. She will also provide clinically relevant tips and recommendations that can be immediately used to enrich and broaden therapeutic interventions in the real world.

Overview and Learning Intentions

- Why it is essential to consider the role of nutrition/diet in understanding and treating psychological distress
- Research on dietary patterns and their role in the expression and treatment of mental health problems
- Learn easy ways to help clients improve diet
- Understand why in some cases additional nutrients may be necessary in addition to a good diet



Dr Nicholas Behn

**“The whole of me feels more uplifted”:
Learning how to deliver projects in practice for people with acquired brain injury
Workshop 4 (Thursday pm)**

Synopsis:

Project-based intervention is an emerging example of a context-sensitive treatment for people with brain injury. The intervention helps people with brain injury create a meaningful real-life context where people collaborate to develop a concrete product, that benefits others. Examples of projects may include videos, educational pamphlets, artwork, drama presentations or letters to the press. Research has demonstrated that projects may help to improve communication skills, improve mood, alter a person's sense of identity, and increase opportunities for social connection while giving people something to do post-injury. This interactive workshop will provide background to the intervention, describe some of the underpinning theory and evidence-base including a controlled trial and qualitative studies. We will discuss your role as a therapist or facilitator, and some of the challenges that come from running projects with a range of service-users. Case studies will be presented to demonstrate the impacts of the intervention. There will be an opportunity to ask questions and reflect on your own clinical practice to identify how projects may be incorporated to your own service and in what form. While much of the research discussed will be focused on communication impairments, there is much relevance for the wider multidisciplinary team and other health sectors including, other allied health professionals, social care, private and charitable health sectors.

Learning objectives/outcomes

1. Gain knowledge of the evidence-base about project-based intervention and the positive impact it can have for people with brain injury.
2. Develop a deeper understanding of the intervention and how best to facilitate the creation of projects, with insights into common pitfalls and challenges.
3. Learn how to adapt and apply project-based intervention to your own clinical services provided to people with brain injury.



Prof Tamara Ownsworth
Psychotherapy for people with life-limiting neurological conditions: Implementation of the Making Sense of Brain Tumour program
Workshop 5 (Thursday pm)

Synopsis:

This workshop will initially provide an overview of the rationale and evidence-base for psychotherapy interventions for people with life limiting conditions, including those arising from neurological disorders. This will include existential therapies focused on sense-making and meaning-making to reduce distress and promote well-being in the face of physical, cognitive and behavioural decline, as relevant to many neurological conditions. Based on >20 years of research and practice in the neuro-oncology field, Tamara will outline the approach and techniques used in the Making Sense of Brain Tumour (MAST) program to support individuals, couples and caregivers to understand, manage and finding meaning in the context of brain tumour and bereavement. Case studies will be presented to demonstrate the application of techniques, along with MAST participants' own accounts of the impact of the program. Through small group discussions, attendees will apply MAST principles to conceptualise clients' presenting issues and tailor psychotherapy approaches based on clients' goals and characteristics.

Workshop aims:

- To provide a rationale, review of approaches and clinical perspectives on the benefits of psychotherapy for people with life-limiting neurological conditions.

- To share experiences and lessons from developing, evaluating and implementing the MAST program through face-to-face and remote delivery modes.

- To support attendees to develop greater knowledge, skills and confidence to conduct psychotherapy with people with life-limiting conditions.

Level: intermediate

Learning objectives for this workshop are for attendees to:

Aim #1: Gain knowledge of different approaches to psychotherapy for people with life limiting neurological conditions, including the rationale, evidence base and techniques.

Aim #2: Learn about a specific existential model of psychotherapy used to promote sense-making and meaning-making after diagnosis of brain tumour, including individual, couple and caregiver-specific interventions.

Aim #3: Understand how to conceptualise the core issues underlying or contributing to clients' distress and apply this knowledge to tailor therapy to the client's goals and characteristics.



A/Professor Michelle Kelly
The provision of support for family carers of people with dementia
Workshop 6 (Thursday pm)

Synopsis:

After receiving a diagnosis of dementia, the person and their families often report that the provision of care is non-existent, or "a vacuum". While there are some evidence-based interventions designed to support family carers, the delivery of these in clinical and social care services is inconsistent at best, absent at worst. This workshop will cover some of the reasons why post-diagnostic support for the family carer is important, some of the evidence-based programs available and a deep dive into one program with some skill building exercises to enhance confidence in the delivery of these types of programs.

Learning Objectives/Outcomes:

1. Knowledge of the difficulties that people with dementia and their families face following diagnosis.
2. Knowledge of options for supporting a family carer of a person with a diagnosis of dementia.
3. Skills in the delivery of post-diagnostic support for family carers.



Prof Jennie Ponsford (Chair)
Treating Fatigue and Sleep Disturbance after Traumatic Brain Injury and Stroke –
Workshop 3 (Thursday am)

Presenters:

- Dr Lucy Ymer
- Dr Kate Frencham

- Dr Natalie Grima
- Dr Monique Roper

Synopsis:

Fatigue and sleep disturbance affect up to and over half of all people with a traumatic brain injury or stroke. These debilitating symptoms increase the risk of mental health disorders, impact participation in day-to-day activities and can delay return to work or study after an injury. It is therefore critical that fatigue and sleep are targeted early and effectively during rehabilitation.

This workshop aims to present a novel, person-centred psychological therapy devised specifically to address sleep and fatigue symptoms for individuals with a brain injury – cognitive behavioural therapy for sleep disturbance and fatigue (CBT-SF). We will present a brief background to the topic, discuss the development and evaluation of CBT-SF in our recent randomised controlled trial, and offer some of the key practical skills and techniques covered in this manualised intervention. We will discuss important adaptations for common cognitive impairments when working with people with a brain injury, present case studies and allow for question time. This workshop aims to be interactive and assist clinicians in building their skills and confidence in supporting their clients with fatigue and sleep problems.

Learning objectives/outcomes

1. Increase knowledge of common sleep and fatigue problems after brain injury and how they impact rehabilitation and recovery
2. Understand current treatment approaches and the benefits of tailored psychological interventions
3. Learn key CBT-SF techniques for managing fatigue and sleep symptoms and how to adapt this psychological intervention for people with a brain injury



A/Professor Michelle Villeneuve
Person-Centred Emergency Preparedness: Role and contributions of allied health providers in disaster risk reduction
Workshop 2 (Thursday am)

Synopsis:

Emergency and disaster situations are challenging for everyone but even more so for people with a disability and chronic health conditions who are reliant on others to provide every-day function-based supports. The increasing frequency of disasters over the past few years including global pandemic, bushfires, and floods means that allied health and disability support providers need to be informed and prepared to enable themselves, their staff, and their clients to navigate through emergency and disaster situations. Emergency and disaster management planning is an emerging role with limited practical guidance on how it should be implemented by community, disability, health and rehabilitation service providers. A focus on Person-Centred Emergency Preparedness (P-CEP) is essential to prepare, prevent, manage, and respond to emergency and disaster situations, thereby ensuring the health, safety, and wellbeing of all individuals. This workshop will examine the role and contributions of service providers in protecting the safety, well-being, and inclusion of the people they support in reducing disaster risks.

Key areas that will be covered include:

- The importance of emergency and disaster management planning for both service providers and clients
- The drivers for Disability Inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction
- The impact that a lack of planning and preparation for emergency situations can have on individuals (across the life span) who are reliant on others to provide function-based supports and services

- What is Person-Centred Emergency Preparedness and key elements
- How Person-Centred Emergency Preparedness can be incorporated into practice at an individual, community and organisational level with the inclusion of case examples
- Application of Person-Centred Emergency Preparedness to fulfil the requirements of NDIS Practice Standard on emergency and disaster management
- Opportunities for allied health care and disability support providers to take a lead role in Person-Centred Emergency Preparedness in the community

This workshop will answer the questions:

1. What is P-CEP?
2. Why is it important?
3. What is my role?
4. What are the roles of other stakeholders?
5. How do I get started?
6. Where can I get support?

We look forward to seeing everyone in May 2024!!

Sponsorship is available, if you wish to sponsor/partner with ASSBI [click here](#)



Future Conferences

2025 – 2nd to 5th July
 INS/ASSBI 7th Pacific Rim Conference
 Brisbane, Queensland, Australia

Past Workshops and Webinars

are available for purchase #assbiworkshops

[CLICK HERE](#) to see more and order. Jessica Trevena-Peters, Jennie Ponsford, Adam McKay, Dana Wong and Alinka Fisher have all presented full day training workshops. Neera Kapoor and Caroline van Heugten 90 min webinars and a multitude of 60-minute webinars have been presented and are available in the [ASSBI ONLINE STORE](#)

Non-ASSBI Events



Seminar on Concussion /Mild Traumatic Brain Injury
 Saturday 23rd March
 1pm – 5pm
 Parkville, Victoria



WFNR 13th World Congress for Neurorehabilitation
 22nd to 25th May 2024 in
 Vancouver, Canada



21st NR-SIG-WFNR Conference - HYBRID
on 30th June & 1st July 2024
F2F in Coimbra, Portugal,
online and on demand



Global Neuropsychology Congress will be held face to face on 3rd to 5th July 2024 in Porto, Portugal. Hosted by INS/FESN/SLAN/ASSBI.



7th AADPA Conference will be held HYBRID on 27th & 28th July 2024 FtF in Brisbane, QLD, online and on demand. 4 Workshops on 26th July.



School of Nursing 50th Anniversary Conference Will be held F2F on 4th to 6th September 2024 - Curtin University, Perth, WA

Australian Clinical Psychology Association (ACPA) will be held face to face on 8th & 9th November 2024 in Sydney, NSW

Australasian Cognitive Neuroscience Society (ACNS) will be held face to face on 25th to 29th November 2024 in Newcastle, NSW

The Order of Australia Association NSW will be held face to face on 1st to 4th May 2025 at Sofitel Wentworth, Sydney, NSW

ASSBI RESOURCES

ASSBI Resources is going from strength to strength. Please contact Elise: elise.elbourn@sydney.edu.au or Skye: s.mcdonald@unsw.edu.au if you have any queries or suggestions about Resources.

PLEASE NOTE that you do NOT have to be a member of ASSBI to purchase any of the material for sale

ASSBI Resources now has an intervention program for Metacognition and Social Participation for those with an Acquired Cognitive-Communication Disorder. IMPACT is an empirically tested program designed to rehabilitate cognitive-communication in people with traumatic brain injuries or any other condition that may impair cognitive-communication. Please see [here](#) for more details.

We also now provide a link to free online training to learn about common scams, and how to stay safe online from people with ABI who have been through this themselves. With funding from the TAC, the CyberABlility team have developed these free resources. Click on cyberABlility.org.au for more information and project links, or head to our resources page at ASSBI

Our fabulous ASSBI Resources products span assessment and remediation of a wide variety of neuropsychological, cognitive and emotional disorders commonly seen in people with brain disorders. Products include PDF and video downloads as well as paper versions of professionally produced manuals and kits that can be posted to anywhere in Australia.

To see the range go to our Resources page. <https://www.assbi.com.au/Resource>. To get members price (10% discount) login to the ASSBI website first.

All resources in PDF form can be purchased instantly. Buy the PDF version and then you will receive the link to download a pdf of a manual or kit and webinar as soon as you pay. If you wish to purchase the UK version tick that option. You can pay online by PayPal OR using Debit/Credit cards Visa or MasterCard.

Non-members have access to some free downloads too – [click here](#) to see the full list of manuals and free to downloads on offer. There are also some FREE webinars which showcase some of our kits [CLICK HERE](#)

Skye McDonald and Elise Elbourn, ASSBI Resources

OPPORTUNITIES FOR INVOLVEMENT

There are a lot of colleagues out there wanting your help, have a look and see if you can help out [CLICK HERE TO SEE ALL REQUESTS FOR HELP](#)

Are you a health professional who works with stroke patients? Can you help with our research?

We are currently seeking **health professionals in Australia who have current experience working with stroke patients** to participate in this study with full ethics approval from Monash University (ID #32484). You can access more information and express interest in this research by following this link (takes less than 2min): <https://redcap.link/cogpoststroke>

Participants will take part in an interview, and a researcher will ask questions about your experience and perception of working with stroke patients with cognitive impairment. Interviews are conducted either face-to-face or via videoconferencing. This is a chance to share your experience and help us understand what can be done to improve rehabilitation and care of stroke survivors in Australia. Regards, A/Prof Rene Stolwyk, Dr Vincent Oxenham, Dr Elizabeth Lynch, Ms Miki Boneh

M.O.S.T-project: Meaningful Outcomes for School-aged kids with CCDs from TBI

We are trying to understand which treatment outcomes are most important for school-aged kids with cognitive-communication disorders (CCDs) arising from TBIs and their families.

In this project, we will interview children and teens with brain injuries and their parents. Interviews may last for up to 20 minutes. Interviews will happen over Zoom, meaning families can take part from home (or anywhere that is easiest for them!).

Children and teens will suggest treatment outcomes to help a fictional character with a TBI.

In their interviews, parents will be asked about what aspects of their child's communication and life they would most like to help following their TBI.

The results from the M.O.S.T project will be integrated with results from an international e-Delphi study to provide guidance for clinicians undertaking assessment and outcome measurement in clinical practice.

Children, teens and their families are eligible to take part, if:

- They are between 5 - 18 years of age;
- They have a cognitive-communication disorder or difficulties (CCD) following a traumatic brain injury (TBI) (or concussion);
- They live in Australia.

Interested families can visit <https://swiy.co/UQMOSTProject> to read more about our study and register their interest. Please don't hesitate to contact

Dr Sarah Wallace (s.wallace3@uq.edu.au) or Lauren Crumlish (Lauren.crumlish@uqconnect.edu.au) if any questions arise.



This research study has ethical approval from The University of Queensland [2022/HE000609].

Child Apraxia of Speech Trial

We are researchers from the Speech and Language Group at Murdoch Children's Institute. We're conducting a trial of methylphenidate (Ritalin) as a possible intervention for Childhood Apraxia of Speech (CAS). The study is open to 6-12-year-old children within 130km of MCRI who are either diagnosed with CAS or have suspected CAS, and elevated inattentive and/or hyperactive symptoms. Please find attached our study flyer for further information.

Interested participants can express their interest here:

<https://redcap.link/znc13io>

Please feel free to be in touch with Prof Angela Morgan for any queries: angela.morgan@mcri.edu.au or (03) 8341 6458.

Angela Morgan and Elana Forbes

Current practice methods of rehabilitation professionals in the assessment of financial capability in people with acquired cognitive impairment: a mixed methods study.

- Are you an occupational therapist, neuropsychologist or other rehabilitation professional?
- Do you work with people who have acquired cognitive impairment due to acquired brain injury (ABI) or neurological disability (dementia, Parkinson's disease, multiple sclerosis etc.)?
- Are you/ or have you been previously involved in exploring or assessing a person's **financial capability** (financial capacity/competence)?

Assessing **financial capability**, or the behaviours and approaches to personal financial decision-making may involve exploring a person's ability to manage money, shop, budget and pay bills. It may also involve examining how a person makes financial choices, plans ahead, or gains assistance with financial tasks if required.

Aim: To explore the current methods and practices of rehabilitation professionals in the assessment of financial capability following acquired cognitive impairment and understand their perspectives of desired aspects in future assessment tools.

Share: Please share your experiences with other rehabilitation professionals and the research team in a focus group (in-person or online) with an accompanying short survey to help build knowledge of current practice to inform assessment development.

Contact: Research team: Sarah Swan s.swan1@uq.edu.au
0406 532 778

Freyr Patterson, f.patterson@uq.edu.au

Jenny Fleming, j.fleming@uq.edu.au

This study has ethical approval from the University of Queensland (2022/HE002294)



The Concussion Essentials Studies

Examining an individualised treatment, including education, physiotherapy & psychology for children and adolescents 8 – 18 years who have persisting symptoms following a concussion.

Study 1 - For children and adolescents less than 3 weeks post-concussion 8-week treatment vs. Usual Care

Study 2 - For children and adolescents 3 to 12 months post-concussion 12-week treatment

Plus, all participants receive

- concussion-targeted physiotherapy assessment,
- neuropsychology assessment, and
- symptom monitoring

Where?

The Royal Children's Hospital, or Mt Waverley location Face-to-Face and telehealth appointments available

Interested?

Patients: Contact the study team for more information

E: takecare@mcri.edu.au

Ph: 0423 188 247

Health professionals: Refer by visiting

<https://redcap.link/concussion>

Occupational therapy researchers at La Trobe University are seeking survey participants for a study exploring how occupational therapists treat behavioural changes to optimise participation for people living with brain injury.

You May Qualify if You

- You are an AHPRA accredited occupational therapist
- You work, or have worked within the last 2 years, with adults living with brain injury and behavioural changes

Participation involves

If you decide to take part in the research, you would be asked to:

- Complete a 15-minute survey, online

Your decision to participate in research is voluntary.

Reimbursement for participation

There are no additional costs associated with participation in this research study, nor will you or the participant be paid.

If you would like more information or are interested in being part of the study, please contact Ana Brown: ana.brown@latrobe.edu.au

Survey link:

<https://redcap.latrobe.edu.au/redcap/surveys/?s=AJFF3NP7T8YD DD7E>

TREATMENT FOR PERSISTING POST-CONCUSSION SYMPTOMS IN ADULTS

We are trialling an 8-week interdisciplinary intervention including **neuropsychology, physiotherapy, and medicine** disciplines for persisting symptoms after mild traumatic brain injury/concussion. The treatment is **free of charge for all participants** and is taking place in Melbourne. Participants will receive one of two management regimes – (1) a full assessment (neuropsychology and physiotherapy) and psychoeducation or (2) a full assessment and interdisciplinary treatment.

We are looking for participants who:

- Have had a mild traumatic brain injury/concussion within the past 2 weeks-to-24 months
- Have persisting post-concussion symptoms (at least 2 weeks post-injury, but less than 24 months post injury)
- Are aged between 16-70 years
- Have adequate English language
- Do not have an acute psychiatric condition, active substance use, or significant neurological history

Interested?

If you or anyone you know might be interested in participating, contact **Jack Nguyen** or **Stephanie Antonopoulos** on **9426 8923** or by email at spp-irecover@monash.edu for more information. **We welcome self-referrals and clinician referrals.**

This study is approved by the Monash University Human Research Ethics Committee (HREC no. 23005).

Principal Researcher Ms Yash Bedekar (Epworth) and co-investigators Dr Pamela Ross (MERRC), Prof Jennie Ponsford (MERRC), Dr Marina Downing (MERRC) and Dr Linda Barclay (Monash University)

Our study aims to identify current vocational rehabilitation practices of AHPs working traumatic injury in Australia, and their perceived vocational rehabilitation training needs. Based on the findings of our group's recent research into early vocational rehabilitation after major traumatic injury, and the results of the survey for this study, training will be developed, delivered and evaluated.

Participation criteria: Qualified Occupational Therapists, Physiotherapists, Speech and Language Pathologists, Clinical Psychologists, Neuropsychologists, Exercise Physiologists and Social Workers, who are currently working in Australia, within traumatic injury rehabilitation. This includes traumatic brain injury, spinal cord injury and major orthopaedic trauma, including traumatic amputation.

Our study consists of two parts:

Part 1: mapping survey as described above

Part 2: delivery and evaluation of vocational rehabilitation training as described above.

Please find a link for the Participant Information Sheet and access to the online consent and Qualtrics mapping survey:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1MJnFj5bIKALxw_X_dTSi6ZYFsdlijZKT/view?usp=drive_link

Within the Qualtrics survey, there are further links to information/consent for Part 2, and for qualitative interviews which we'd like to do with interested clinicians.

Thank you for your consideration.

Dear Clinician,

Do you wish to **navigate brain scans with ease**, and without being completely dependent on the radiology report?

Do you also wish to **understand** the images, and figure out what it **means for rehab**?

- What are all the affected structures?
- What functions are likely to be impacted?
- Which functions are more/less likely to recover?
- Which symptoms are due to the lesion/other reasons?

If enhancing your proficiency in brain imaging is on your professional development agenda, the **upcoming brain imaging course** is designed with you in mind - registration closes on the **3rd of March**.

The brain imaging course is **personal, engaging** and emphasises **practical** learning. Furthermore, the course is delivered by a rehabilitation clinician with extensive brain imaging experience rather than a radiologist, therefore it focuses on neurological rehabilitation rather than diagnosis.

By the end of the course, you'll be able to:

- Convert your anatomical knowledge from 3D to 2D.
- Identify structures in axial, coronal or sagittal planes, and determine when it's best to use each plane of imaging.
- Identify ALL the structures affected by the lesion (not just the ones mentioned in the radiology report).
- Identify the importance of each scan in the film bag, and differentiate between the different types of brain images (sequences), so that you know which images are best to look at.
- Distinguish between normal tissue and tissue affected by the lesion; what shades of grey are normal, and what aren't?
- Examine brain scans for small lesions that may have been missed (it happened before).
- Modify assessment and treatment according to the rehab information found in the images.
- Use brain imaging to discuss with your clients and colleagues the: impact of the lesion, treatment approach and potential for recovery.
- Feel confident in using brain images to extract rehab information missing from the radiology report.

Why This Course?

This course empowers you with the knowledge and skills to **confidently assess brain images** for rehabilitation purposes. Each concept is broken down into digestible, **easy-to-learn pieces**, ensuring you leave with a solid understanding and significantly boosted **confidence**.

Clinicians particularly enjoy the personal, engaging, and practical nature of the course, as well as the use of many **case studies**. Once you have this brain imaging knowledge, you'll be able to **understand your patients better** than ever before and know which symptoms can be attributed to the recent admission and which symptoms relate to personality, previous lesions or mixed diagnoses.

For more information and to secure a spot, [click here](#).

Spaces are limited due to the personal interactions which ensure that each participant gains the most from their learning experience.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.



Do you have clients/know people who would benefit from having a National Assistance Card?

The National Assistance Card is a [personalised card](#) to assist people with disability and health conditions in the community.

The National Assistance Card is available to everyone living with [brain injury](#) in Australia. In Tasmania, the Card is also being trialled with the [autistic community](#).

The National Assistance Card Service hope that, in the future, the Card will be available to all people in Australia with disability and health conditions.

The National Assistance Card can be used in everyday or emergency situations to assist the cardholder in communicating their unique areas of difficulty and any assistance they may need. Each Card includes a [personalised QR code](#) providing access to additional information (written or personalised video) that the cardholder has chosen to include about the impacts of their disability or health condition and how people in the community can assist them.

Scan the sample Card QR code below to view example cardholder information and video:

Is there a cost?

A new National Assistance Card costs \$44 (including GST).

A replacement Card costs \$22 (including GST).

NDIS participants whose NDIS plan is self or plan managed [may](#) be able to claim the cost of their National Assistance Card from their plan. People may also be able to claim the cost of the Card from other third-party organisations, such as compensation insurers.

For more information:

- **Visit our website:**
www.nationalassistancecard.com.au
 - Including our dedicated Service Providers page:
www.nationalassistancecard.com.au/information-for/service-providers
- **Watch our video:** <https://youtu.be/HkL7XutzOx4>

- **Read testimonials** from cardholders, businesses and service providers:

www.nationalassistancecard.com.au/testimonials

- **Contact us:**

- Email: info@nationalassistancecard.com.au
- Phone: 1300 242 827

