

ASSBI NEWS

September 2023

Issue 84

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



ASSBI

Sharing knowledge, Enriching lives

WORDS FROM OUR PRESIDENT



Things have been busy at ASSBI, as usual. Planning is full steam ahead for the **2024 ASSBI Conference**, to be held in Sydney from 2-4 May 2024 at the Four Seasons Hotel. Block out your calendars!

ASSBI are also partnering with several organisations including the Federation of European Societies of Neuropsychology (FESN), the International Neuropsychological Society (INS), and the Sociedad Latinoamericana de Neuropsicología (SLAN), to host the **Global Neuropsychology Congress** from 3-5 July 2024 in beautiful Porto, Portugal. This congress will be an international meeting of minds, bringing together members of ASSBI, FESN, INS, and SLAN, as well as many other friends and colleagues from around the world. The congress will incorporate research and clinical practice topics relevant to neuropsychology and related fields, to ensure that everyone in our global community benefits from the very best neuropsychological science and practice. See <https://www.globalneuropsychology.org> for more information.

ASSBI's journal *Brain Impairment* has also been undergoing some changes with our new publisher, CSIRO. The staff at CSIRO have been very engaged and enthusiastic about the journal, and we are excited about this new phase which will include a new look and "cover". *Brain Impairment* is also now listed on PubMed which will attract more international submissions. Congratulations to *Brain Impairment*'s Editors Jenny Fleming and Grahame Simpson, and Chair of the Publications Committee Leanne Togher, for all the work they put into these fantastic new developments for our flagship journal.

In other exciting news, ASSBI now has the status of a "charity", which will allow us to accept philanthropic donations to support our activities. We hope to engage with the philanthropy community to allow us to expand our professional development opportunities, awards, resources, and other activities aligned with our strategic plan.

Speaking of the 5-year strategic plan, we are commencing the second year of planned activities, including convening a lived experience sub-committee who will work to develop and grow ASSBI's lived experience engagement. Stay tuned for more information about this in the coming months. Also keep a look out for a new and improved website, featuring our new logo and easier ordering of resources, amongst other things.

Our student teams have also been busy coming up with some new initiatives to feature the wonderful research being done by our

student members. We are also looking to recruit a new student coordinator (the fabulous Aishani's term will be up at the end of this year), and student ambassadors for Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane, Tasmania, Perth, Gold Coast, Auckland. If you are interested, please apply, or if you know any students who may be keen, please encourage them to apply! It really is a great community and we always welcome new student members and leaders.

Dana Wong, President, ASSBI

EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT



As Dana said we have been super busy with the Journal and the Website. We hope to have the new site ready within the month so please bear with us while we put everything together. We have also been busy with site visits for the conference when we found out that the Sofitel couldn't host us. Shout out to Sofia who helped us out with getting a new venue in place – much appreciated.

Please enjoy this newsletter and don't forget to get copy for the last one of the year - December Newsletter to me by 15th November 2023.



Also I became a Nana in July. The wonderful Marlie Mary is the daughter of my youngest son Andrew and his beautiful partner Bec and I think she's gorgeous.

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

STRATEGIC PLANNING GROUPS

We are currently reviewing the replies to questions asked at the conference and a few people asked if specific topics could be addressed at future conferences or training events. We'd like to ask you about two of these here. If you would like to hear more about

- the NDIS and
- neurodegenerative disorders and dementia

we would be grateful if you could take the time to [email us](#) to indicate in one or two sentences what particular information regarding these topics would be of interest to you.

SOCIAL MEDIA



Like us on [Facebook](#),

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

If you have anything interesting you would like tweeted or mentioned on Facebook, contact Lizzie or Travis via assbisocialmedia@gmail.com.

Lizzie Beadle and Travis Wearne – Social Media Officers

WEBSITE

As we have said already in this newsletter ASSBI is in the process of refreshing and improving our website. As a result, you might come across pages that are still in development (i.e., not fully functioning yet), or find that some existing pages are temporarily unavailable. We thank you for your patience over this interim period and will endeavour to complete the updates as quickly as possible.

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

The student ambassador teams have a few exciting things coming up in the next few months including student events for Brain Injury Awareness Week in August, launching a new research series and various different position opening within the ambassador program for 2024-2025.

Please go down to the students' section for more details

NEW PUBLISHED ARTICLE

Communication and psychosocial outcomes 2-years after severe traumatic brain injury: development of a prognostic model.

Leanne Togher, Elise Elbourn, Belinda Kenny, Cynthia Honan, Emma Power, Robyn Tate, Skye McDonald, Brian MacWhinney
Archives of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.apmr.2023.04.010>

What is the study about?

It is well established that people with a brain injury are at risk of poor recovery outcomes. Whilst communication disorders are

presumed to play an important role in outcomes, there is limited existing evidence on this topic. The aim of this study was to determine what early communication factors could predict outcomes for people with a severe brain injury into the chronic stages of recovery.

What we did

We tracked a cohort of 57 participants from TBIBank who had a severe Traumatic Brain Injury from 3 months through to 2 years following their injury. We collected a range of prognostic variables including early measures of speech, language, cognition and cognitive-communication (with the Functional Assessment of Verbal Reasoning and Executive Strategies; FAVRES). The outcome measures at 2 years included measures of conversation, perceived communication skill and psychosocial functioning.

What we found

Cognitive-communication disorder (as measured by the FAVRES) was present in almost 70% of the cohort at 6 months post-injury. We also found that cognitive-communication skills at 6 months predicted work capabilities, social integration and conversation participation at 2 years post-injury. We concluded that cognitive-communication is a modifiable variable that could be targeted across the first two years post-injury to maximise outcomes.

BRAIN IMPAIRMENT



ASSBI's multidisciplinary Journal

The Editors are proud to announce that in preparation for the move of *Brain Impairment* to new publishers CSIRO in 2024 we have a new cover.



To login to the Brain Impairment site of Cambridge University Press, **login** to the ASSBI website and [click on this link](#) to get directed

to the Brain Impairment page of the CUP website, if you require any help with this please email [Margaret](mailto:Margaret@assbi.com.au). To read some of the articles from the author's perspective [click here](#)

Jennifer Fleming and Grahame Simpson, Co-Editors

STUDENTS

The student ambassador teams have a few exciting things coming up in the next few months including student events for Brain Injury Awareness Week in August, launching a new research series and various different position opening within the ambassador program for 2024-2025.

Student Events

The student teams put on several exciting events for the brain injury awareness week including a **movie night** (*A screening of 'The Crash Reel'*), a **panel discussion on challenges faced in higher education post-brain impairment** (*Addressing the challenges of brain impairment for higher education: Unlocking your potential*) and an **art and student social networking event**, with the brain injury themed artworks being showcased across platforms in an effort to raise awareness.

For more details of these events, please visit the ASSBI student website: <https://www.assbi.com.au/ASSBI-student-events>

Celebrating Research Series: Call for abstracts

ASSBI Student Teams are proud to announce the first ever **Celebrating Research Series** to be held at the end of this year (Date: TBA)

All ASSBI students will have the opportunity to apply to present their original research in brain impairment as a pre-recorded video abstract.

This is an incredible opportunity to present your research to a national audience **at no cost!**

We also have some exciting prizes for the winning student abstract. Stay tuned to find out more.

Eligibility criteria to apply

- Original research with the student presenting having been involved in the research to a significant degree.
- This opportunity is open to all student members of ASSBI. If you are not a member and would like to submit an abstract, please use this link prior to applying <https://assbi.com.au/Join-us> (Membership is \$80)
- If the research has been presented in previous settings, they will still be considered but preference will be given to students/research that has not been presented before.

Submission process

Please visit the ASSBI Student page on further information on how to apply: <https://assbi.com.au/Student-Opportunities>

Recruitment for Student Ambassador Program: Call for applicants 2024-2025

The ASSBI student ambassador program is currently recruiting! We are seeking expressions of interest from students across all health disciplines in Australia and New Zealand who would like to be a part of the Australasian Society for the Study of Brain Impairment (ASSBI) student community for 2024 and 2025!

We encourage both undergraduate and postgraduate students from all universities across Australia and New Zealand; and across all disciplines (e.g., Speech Pathology, Clinical Psychology, Neuropsychology, Occupational Therapy, Nursing, Medicine, Social Work, Psychiatry, Physiotherapy) to apply. Please also apply if you are from a city/regional area not listed above and would like to be considered.

Positions available

- 1. National Student Coordinator**
 - One position vacant
 - Can be located anywhere in Australia or New Zealand
 - Term: 2 years
- 2. Team Leader**
 - Positions available: Sydney, Melbourne, Perth, Brisbane, Hobart, Launceston, Auckland.
 - Term: 1-2 years
- 3. Student Ambassador**
 - Available Positions: Melbourne, Adelaide, Sydney, Perth, Newcastle, Brisbane, Hobart, Launceston, Auckland.
 - Term: 1 year

How to apply:

Please visit the ASSBI Student page on further information on how to apply: <https://assbi.com.au/Student-Opportunities>

Questions: Please contact Aishani Desai (aishani-bharat.desai@hdr.mq.edu.au)

Aishani Desai, **National Student Coordinator**

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

ASSBI Webinars

Previous ASSBI webinars and Workshops are available in the [ASSBI Online Store](#)

We had some ideas put on the white board at the conference and will get to these shortly. BUT Please get in touch with Margaret if you have ideas of whom to invite to deliver a webinar in 2023.

ASSBI CONFERENCES

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

ASSBI's 46th CONFERENCE in Darwin

Conference Report

The 46th ASSBI Annual Brain Impairment Conference was held as a hybrid conference in Darwin, Northern Territories on the lands of the Larrakia people. The theme of the conference, *Moving Forward Together*, reflected ASSBI's commitment to inclusiveness which was, in part, why we included an online component to the conference. The conference theme also reflected how exciting it was to have the opportunity to come together face-to-face for the first time since 2019. Most importantly, *Moving Forward Together* represented the exciting things that have been going on behind the scenes at ASSBI including the implementation of a strategic plan which led to the unveiling of a new ASSBI logo at the conference.

We had a total of 282 attendees for the conference – 172 attended in person in Darwin, and 110 others joined us online. We had attendees join us from each of the states and territories across Australia. We also attracted an international audience, with attendees from New Zealand, Singapore, Hong Kong, and the United States.

The pre-conference workshops included four topics covering different aspects of brain impairment. A/Prof Sarah Russell and her team presented a thought-provoking workshop called, 'Learning "propa ways" to engage – Ideas on how to achieve successful outcomes when working with Aboriginal and Torres Strait communities. Prof David Shum joined us from Hong Kong to discuss memory and executive functioning with a talk called, 'The application and efficacy of technological interventions for individuals with brain injury'. A/Prof Dawn Neumann spoke to workshop attendees about 'Reducing alexithymia and emotion dysregulation after brain injury through training emotional awareness: What we've learned and how to do it', sharing her work from the United States. A/Prof Emma Sciberras shared a workshop called 'Let's talk ADHD: Symptoms, assessment and how to help?'.

The main conference started on Friday morning with a beautiful Welcome to Country from Larrakia woman, Mrs. Jeanneen McLennan. Jeanneen shared that the Larrakia people refer to themselves as the 'Saltwater People' and she encouraged us all to dip a toe in the waters around Darwin so they would know we were there and could welcome us. Following Jeanneen's welcome, Prof David Shum shared some insights with us about his neuropsychological research, including his journey from Australia to Hong Kong. We then had the privilege of learning from our lived experience panel. The panel started with a video compilation put together by our student teams that showed highlights of

conversations they'd had with people with lived experience. Following the video, we heard from Ché Phillips, Bruce Powell, and Jennifer Cullen. Each had their own unique story to tell and each provided us with powerful words for reflection, change, and action. The first 3 of 15 concurrent sessions kicked off after the Lived Experience Panel session. Each session was built around a core theme and included a combination of oral and datablitz presentations, as well 5 "How To" sessions. Our 15 themes focused on a range of topics including housing, NDIS, service access, models of care, and the use of technology in rehabilitation. Other sessions focused on psychosocial wellbeing, mental health, social cognition, cognitive communication, and supporting behaviour. We also had concurrent sessions focused on concussion, memory, and dementia, as well as sessions that discussed self-concept and identity and lived experience. The conference also offered multiple opportunities for attendees to engage with poster presentations which also covered a wide range of topics.

Day 1 ended with a presentation from A/Prof Sarah Russell, entitled 'Navigating a research journey through the islands of the Torres Strait'. A/Professor Dana Wong then delivered her presidential address called, 'Thinking small and big: Integrating individual clinician, and systems levels of understanding to improve outcomes after acquired brain injury'.

On Day 2, we heard from our final two keynote speakers – A/Prof Dawn Neumann and A/Prof Emma Sciberras. Dawn applied the James Gross 'Process Model of Emotion Regulation' to emotional and behavioural dyscontrol after brain injury while Emma stepped through the developmental course of ADHD in children and adolescents. Following a few more concurrent sessions, our student co-ordinator Aishani Desai, chaired an interactive workshop for students that allowed them to meet with leading researchers in the field either one-on-one or in small groups to talk all things research in a round-robin format. Thank you to our dynamic researchers – Vicki Anderson, Dana Wong, Michelle Kelly, Natasha Lanin, Emmah Doig, Melissa Brunner, and Ian Kneebone – who provided such valuable guidance to our student attendees. We ended Day 2 by celebrating our award winners. The following awards were presented:

- Douglas Tate Award for the best paper in 2022 in *Brain Impairment*: Nicola Kayes et al for *Developing connections for engagement in stroke rehabilitation*
- ASSBI Student Awards:
 - Keven Walsh Award: **Dinithi Fernando**
 - Luria Award: **Jessica Hazelton**
 - Travel Award: **Mengjie Huang**
- Mindlink Brightwater Award for Interdisciplinary Presentation: **Ella-Rose Minter from Summer Foundation**

We also took time to acknowledge our sponsors, Transport Accident Commission (TAC), Summer Foundation, Brightwater Care and Drake Medox. A huge thank you was given to our student volunteers – Aishani Desai, Monique Hassarati and Sarah Haskard who kept the sessions running smoothly and were so willing to assist with whatever needed doing. And of course, the success of the conference would not have been possible without the tireless efforts of Margaret Eagers and Matt Eagers!

Finally, we thanked all our keynotes, presenters, and attendees for making the 46th ASSBI Annual Brain Impairment Conference one to remember.

Thanks again to everyone for your continued support of ASSBI. Barbra Zupan and Lizzie Beadle Conference Convenors

ASSBI's 47th CONFERENCE (#assbi2024)



Elise Elbourn and her committee are excited to announce that ASSBI's 2024 conference will be held in Sydney at the **Four Seasons** from 2-4 May. The theme for the conference is 'Looking Ahead: Innovations and Aspirations'. The conference will be face to face as well as have a streaming component. The call for abstracts is open and we are taking abstracts from people who wish to present either in person or via a recording. We will not be taking speakers streaming in this year to encourage attendance.

Our exciting program will include six half-day workshops on Thursday 2nd May, and keynote presentations from renowned international and national speakers on Friday 3rd May and Saturday 4th May.

The conference will include platform presentations, "how-to" sessions, datablitz presentations and posters. The programme will be drawn from abstracts covering all facets of brain conditions and rehabilitation across the lifespan. [Call for abstracts is open](#) and we will keep you updated on invited Keynote speakers.

AIRFARES TO SYDNEY FROM MELBOURNE AND BRISBANE ARE AT A DISCOUNT at the moment so get your flight bought quickly.

A LINK WILL BE AVAILABLE SHORTLY to book your discounted accommodation at the Four Seasons (\$350 per night for a limited time)

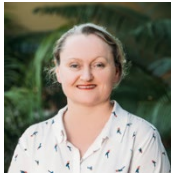
Keynote Speakers



Dr Nicholas Behn
Keynote and Workshop

Nicholas is a speech and language therapist who graduated from The University of Sydney, Australia in 1999. He worked as a speech and language therapist both in Australia and UK with a keen interest in working with people with communication problems following brain injury. His masters was in communication partner training and he completed a PhD in 2016, which was on the feasibility of project-based intervention for improving communication skills and quality of life in people with acquired brain injury. Since completing his PhD he has been a trial manager on a study exploring the feasibility of peer befriending for people with aphasia post-stroke. He is now a Senior Lecturer at City, University of London and an Advanced NIHR Postdoctoral Research Fellow. He has published 22 papers, 1 book chapter, is on the editorial board for Disability and Rehabilitation and Brain Impairment journal and is a guideline committee member for the National Institute of Clinical Excellence in the UK.

Profile: <https://www.city.ac.uk/about/people/academics/nicholas-behn>



**Professor Tamara Ownsworth
Keynote and Workshop**

Prof Ownsworth is a clinical neuropsychologist (BA(Hons), PhD Clinical Neuropsychology) with extensive experience in psychosocial intervention research for people with neurological disorders. After completing her PhD in 2001 she was awarded a NHMRC Public Health Post-Doctoral fellowship (2002-2006) and is now a Professor in the School of Applied Psychology and Research Director of The Hopkins Centre, Menzies Health Institute of Queensland (MHIQ). She is Executive Editor of Neuropsychological Rehabilitation and Past President of the Australasian Society for the Study of Brain Impairment. <https://experts.griffith.edu.au/19072-tamara-ownsworth>



**Associate Professor Michelle Kelly
Keynote and Workshop**

Dr Michelle Kelly is a Clinical Psychologist and Associate Professor in the School of Psychological Sciences at the University of Newcastle, Australia. Her research focus is on social functioning post diagnostic care for people with a diagnosis of dementia and their care partners. She also conducts work on mental health in ageing, and particularly within residential aged care settings. Michelle collaborates with researchers at the National Ageing Research Institute in Melbourne, University of New South Wales and University College London in this work. She also work closely with clinicians in public health settings, aged care service providers and not for profit organisations. Michelle completed the Bachelor of Psychology (Hons) at the University of Newcastle followed by a PhD and Master of Psychology (Clinical) at the University of New South Wales. Her honours research focused on cognitive functioning in healthy ageing, while her PhD research investigated impairments in social behaviour in adults who had sustained a brain injury. Michelle previously held the role of Clinical Psychologist with the Specialist Mental Health Service for Older People and a neuropsychology role with the Paediatric Brain Injury Rehabilitation team (Hunter New England Local Health District). Michelle continues to engage in Clinical Psychology work alongside her research including providing supervision for students undertaking clinical training in aged care settings. <https://www.newcastle.edu.au/profile/michelle-kelly>



**Associate Professor Dana Wong
ASSBI Presidential Address**

Dana is an Associate Professor and Clinical Neuropsychologist in the School of Psychology and Public Health at La Trobe University, with active roles in research, teaching and clinical practice. She leads the eNACT (Neurorehabilitation And Clinical Translation) Research Group, which focuses on innovative neuropsychological rehabilitation techniques to improve the lives of brain injury survivors, and enhancing clinical implementation of and clinician competence in these evidence-based interventions. She has over 70 peer-reviewed publications including a CBT for ABI manual (published by ASSBI Resources!) She was awarded La Trobe's 2020 Research Engagement and Impact Award, the 2021 Australian Psychological Society (APS) College of Clinical Neuropsychologists Award of Distinction, and several teaching excellence awards. Dana

is an Editorial Board member for ASSBI's journal Brain Impairment. In 2017 she led the development of BRAINSPaN, a multidisciplinary community of practice of clinicians and researchers in the brain impairment field. She is co-Chair of the Neuropsychological Intervention Special Interest Group of the International Neuropsychological Society as well as being President of ASSBI

We look forward to seeing everyone in May 2024!!

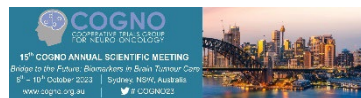
Sponsorship Is open, if you wish to sponsor/partner with ASSBI [click here](#)

Past Workshops and Webinars

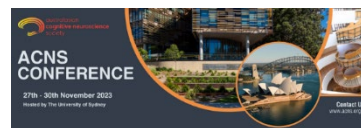
are available for purchase #assbiworkshops

[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 Conferences



15th COGNO Annual Scientific Meeting will be held IN PERSON on 8th - 10th October 2023 at The Hilton, Sydney, NSW, Australia. [REGISTER NOW](#)



ACNS Conference will be held IN PERSON on 27th to 30th November 2023 at Sydney University, NSW [REGISTER NOW](#)



21st NR-SIG-WFNR Conference will be held HYBRID on 30th June & 1st July 2024 Face to face in Coimbra, Portugal, online and on demand for 90 days post-conference. CALL FOR ABSTRACTS WILL OPEN IN DECEMBER



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



7th AADPA Conference will be held on 27th - 28th July 2024 Face to face in Brisbane, QLD, Australia, online and on demand for 90 days post-conference. Workshops on 26th July. CALL FOR ABSTRACTS WILL OPEN IN DECEMBER

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

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).



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.

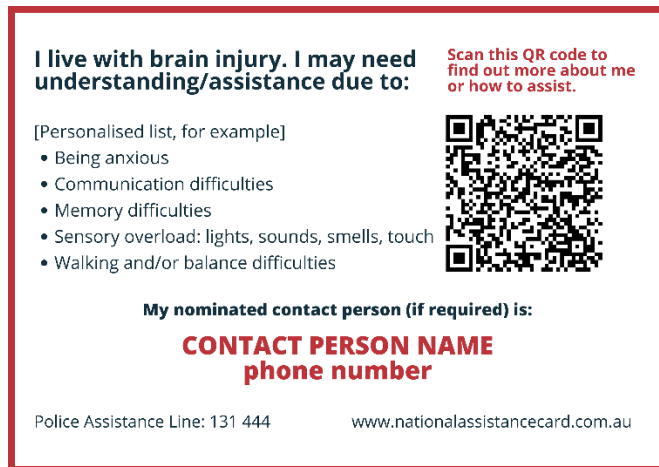
The National Assistance Card can be used in everyday or emergency situations to assist the cardholder in communicating their unique areas of difficulty and any assistance they may need.

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



"... but because I had my National Assistance Card in my running bag, I had the confidence to do it."

- Belinda, National Assistance Cardholder

