

The Hidden Leadership of Rural Occupational Therapists

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WHAT DON'T WE KNOW?

Rural occupational therapists **demonstrate** leadership every day—but leadership within rural occupational therapy remains under-recognised and under-theorised.

This research seeks to understand **how rural occupational therapists describe and enact leadership.**

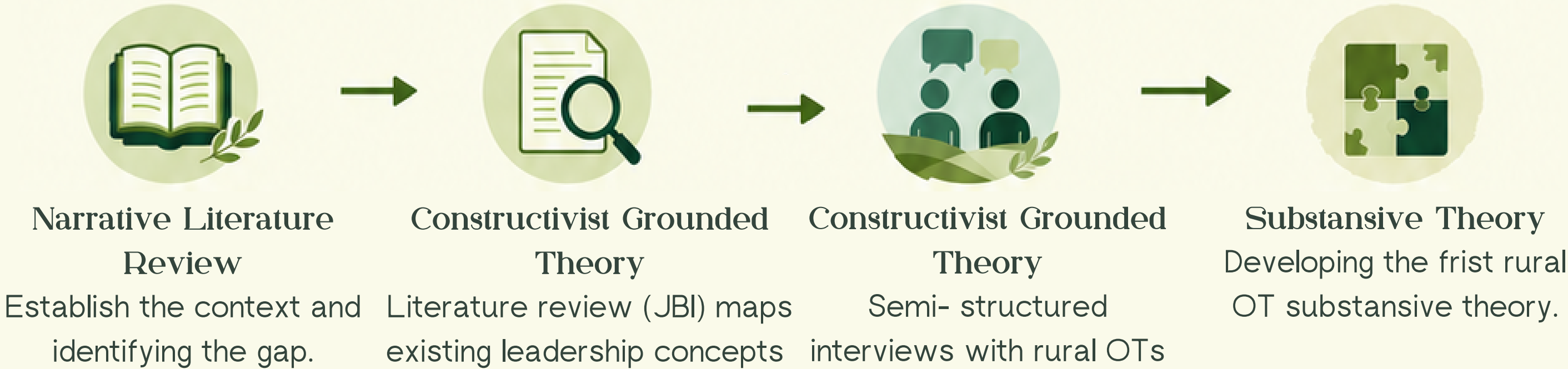
Rural occupational therapists lead every day through advocacy, innovation and community partnerships. Yet little is known about how this leadership is understood or enacted. This research aims to make that leadership visible.

Aim

Develop a substantive theory explaining how rural occupational therapists describe and enact leadership.

Research Question

How do rural occupational therapists describe and enact leadership?



Constructivist grounded theory methodology: Semi-structured interviews with rural occupational therapists, using purposive and theoretical sampling, iterative coding, constant comparison, memo writing, reflexivity and rigour to co-construct a substantive theory of leadership.

Expected Contribution

Education

Prepare graduates for rural leadership

Rural Communities

Support sustainable services

Practice

Recognise leadership beyond formal roles

Research

Develop the first substantive theory of rural OT leadership

Findings may help OT Australia, universities and health services better prepare and support rural occupational therapists for leadership activities.

Rural occupational therapists lead every day. This research will make that leadership visible by developing the first theory grounded in their lived experiences.

References



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