



LA TROBE
UNIVERSITY

School of Allied Health,
Human Services and Sport

**RESEARCH
CAPABILITY**

**OCCUPATIONAL
THERAPY**



LA TROBE
UNIVERSITY

La Trobe Rural
Health School

Acknowledgement of Country

LaTrobe University proudly acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the lands our campuses are located on.

We recognise that Indigenous Australians have an ongoing connection to the land and the University values their unique contribution both to the University and the wider Australian society.

We are committed to providing opportunities for Indigenous Australians, both as individuals and communities through teaching and learning, research and community partnerships across all our campuses and online.

We pay our respects to Indigenous Elders, past, present and emerging.

Indigenous art by Dixon Patten of Bayila Creative





OUR VISION

To promote health and wellbeing through participation in occupations of self-care, education, work, leisure and social activities for all members of the community by conducting innovative, impactful research.

OUR FOCUS

Our research focuses on creating innovative solutions to improve rehabilitation, access to health services and resilience and quality of life for all individuals and communities. We work collaboratively with industry partners and interdisciplinary teams to understand occupation in context, improve mental health in schools and the community, and address complex health issues in rural and community settings.

RESEARCH CAPABILITY

OUR OBJECTIVES

- Drive world-leading research that creates knowledge, influences practice, and improves the health, wellbeing and participation of individuals and communities.
- Partner with industry to develop and foster a culture of collaboration, innovation and research impact.
- Build research capacity and a global reputation through national and international collaboration.
- Guide and mentor students to be leading researchers, practitioners, and future leaders.

OUR STAFF

Our world leading occupational therapy researchers provide a distinct advantage in our research capability. Team strengths include understanding and implementing real-life change that makes an impact with people and communities.

We collaborate widely with local, national and global institutions, academies and governing bodies.

OUR GRADUATE RESEARCH STUDENTS

We offer PhD, Clinical Doctorate and Masters research. All domestic research candidates receive research training program fee offset scholarship. Many of our students are embedded in and conduct research with industry partners including health service networks, research institutes, community organisations and schools. Our academic staff are globally recognised for their expertise and applied research, providing excellent training to our post graduate students in the key areas of:

- community and rural health
- health service delivery
- implementation science
- lived experience
- mental health
- occupational science
- paediatrics
- participation and wellbeing
- professional identity and workforce
- scholarship of teaching and learning
- stroke rehabilitation.



STAFF PROFILES



Tamara Tse

Associate Professor Tamara Tse currently serves as the Discipline Lead in Occupational Therapy. Dr Tse is committed to education that improves occupational therapy services and care. Dr Tse is the principal investigator of several research projects at St Vincent's Hospital Melbourne, Northern Health and La Trobe University, and co-investigator of research projects at La Trobe University, St Vincent's Hospital Melbourne, and Melbourne Health. Dr Tse has a strong track record of mentorship and building the capacity of occupational therapists in clinical research and tertiary education, having supervised and mentored over 20 undergraduate and graduate occupational therapists.

Key research interests:

- participation-related outcomes
- understanding and improving what people do and why they do it.



Leeanne Carey

Emeritus Professor Leeanne Carey is an Occupational Therapist and Neuroscientist who is recognised as a world leader in the science of occupational therapy, evidence-based rehabilitation, and translation of neuroscience to stroke rehabilitation. Her research is new and original, represents a shift in rehabilitation focus, is internationally recognised, and is published in some of the highest-ranking journals across fields of Rehabilitation, Stroke and Neuroimaging. Dr Carey has over 200 peer-reviewed publications and has attracted financial support from competitive grant schemes of over \$35 million.

Key research interests:

- restorative approaches to stroke rehabilitation and targeting of rehabilitation through novel brain imaging and biomarkers
- nature of sensorimotor impairment and impact on function
- translation and implementation of evidence-based practice.



Katherine Harding

Professor Katherine Harding is an Occupational Therapist and Health Services Researcher, and Professor of Allied Health and Implementation Science at Eastern Health, one of La Trobe University's Academic Health Collaboratives. She leads a program of research that aims to improve access to ambulatory and community based-health services. Strategies for enhancing the flow of patients through health services developed through her work have been widely implemented in health services across Australia, and adopted into government policy. Katherine also has an active role in building research culture and capacity among allied health professionals at Eastern Health.

Key research interests:

- managing demand and reducing waiting lists for health services
- implementing evidence into practice in health services
- building research culture and capacity in health services.



Carol McKinstry

Professor Carol McKinstry is a Professor of Occupational Therapy, the Deputy Dean of the Rural Health School and Chair of Academic Board. She is internationally recognised for her research relating to rural health workforce and leads the workforce research stream in the Violet Vines Marshman Centre for Rural Health Workforce. Carol is a board director with Occupational Therapy Australia and past president, and also a Trustee on the Occupational Therapy Australia Research Foundation.

Key research interests:

- preparation of students for rural practice
- recruitment and retention of rural workforce
- development of workforce skills in telehealth.



Melissa Black

Associate Professor Melissa Black is an Occupational Therapist and Associate Professor in the Discipline of Occupational Therapy at La Trobe University. Her research focuses on neurodevelopmental conditions, with a particular emphasis on participation, well-being, and neurodiversity-affirmative practice. She is committed to co-produced, community-engaged research and has a strong track record in supervision and mentorship, having supported over 35 honours students and several PhD candidates. Dr. Black is passionate about building research capacity and advancing inclusive, strengths-based approaches to improve outcomes for neurodivergent individuals.

Key research interests:

- neurodevelopmental conditions
- International Classification of Functioning (ICF)
- neurodiversity-affirmative and strengths-based practice
- resilience and mental health



**Mohammad
(Russell)
Mosayed
Ullah**

Dr Mohammad (Russell) Ullah is a Senior Lecturer in Occupational Therapy with clinical and academic experience in Australia and Bangladesh. He is a member of an international working group on spinal cord injuries, and a co-author of chapters in the Model of Human Occupation textbook. Dr Ullah has led large-scale, internationally funded rehabilitation projects and contributes to interdisciplinary health research. Including wheelchair design for low-resource settings.

Key research interests:

- assistive technology and work participation after trauma
- National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS)
- occupation-focused practice in community health
- correctional and justice health.



Siann Bowman

Siann Bowman is a Senior Lecturer and highly experienced clinician in the areas of youth mental health, adult mental health, psychiatric crisis and emergency mental health practice. She is a member of the International Early Intervention and Prevention in Mental Health Association (IEPA), the Occupational Therapy Academic Network for the Centre for Mental Health Learning, and an advisor to the National Eating Disorders Strategy. She contributed as an expert to the Royal Commission into Victoria's mental health system. She has authored many peer-reviewed research articles, presented her research at many national and international conferences and conducted mental health training both in Australia and Europe. Siann has a strong track record of mentorship and building the capacity of occupational therapy students to work in mental health practice. Her quantitative research has focused on early psychosis, student mental ill health and suicide in primary and secondary schools.

Key research interests:

- occupational therapy in mental health practice
- youth mental health
- schools and students with mental ill health
- the impact of an individual's mental illness on family members.



Shinead Borkovic

Dr Shinead Borkovic is a Senior Lecturer in Occupational Therapy and Course Coordinator of the Bachelor of Occupational Therapy (Honours) delivering high quality teaching and coordination in the undergraduate program. Shinead completed her PhD in 2023 focusing on global professional identity development for occupational therapists. Shinead has led curriculum redesign and strategic projects to decolonise allied health curriculum and has presented at national and international occupational therapy and education focused Conferences.

Key research interests:

- exploring perceptions of professional identity
- contemporary practice concerns including burnout, gender-responsive practice and artificial intelligence
- the effective preparation of graduates for cultural diversity within occupational therapy.



Kylie McIntyre

Dr Kylie McIntyre is a Senior Lecturer, as well as Course Advisor and Discipline Lead, in Occupational Therapy at the La Trobe Rural Health School in Bendigo with a passion for rural health. She is a current member of the Australasian Military Medicine Association, Australasian Society for Traumatic Stress Studies, and Online Victorian Emergency Workers and Mental Health Community of Practice Network. Her innovative doctoral research explored the influence of meaningful activity on health and psychosocial adjustment during the transition from military service to civilian life.

Key research interests:

- occupational science
- trauma/posttraumatic growth
- first responder research.



**Asmita
Mudholkar**

Dr Asmita Mudholkar is a Senior Lecturer in Occupational Therapy at La Trobe University's Rural Health School (LRHS). Asmita is also an adjunct research fellow at the University of the Sunshine Coast, QLD and James Cook University's Central QLD Centre for Rural and Remote Health. Asmita completed her PHD at Latrobe University, researching feeding difficulties in very young children.

Key research interests:

- autism
- paediatric feeding difficulties
- rural & remote health
- clinical education and interprofessional practice.



Tenelle Hodson

Dr Tenelle Hodson is a Senior Lecturer in Occupational Therapy at La Trobe University, with a strong research interest in the sustainability of health care services, inclusive of economic, social, and environmental sustainability. She believes that drawing upon implementation science principles is vital to enable such sustainability to occur. To date, much of her research has focused on the lived experiences of people with illness and disability, particularly neurological conditions and injuries, to better understand what is required from services to meet their needs. She is particularly interested in the contextual factors that influence the diversity of outcomes for such individuals and finding ways to ensure these are considered when creating or implementing approaches to improve health outcomes and occupational participation. She believes that partnering with people with lived experience when doing this is vital for the success of such approaches and aims to integrate co-design into her research projects.

Key research interests:

- life after acquired brain injury
- co-design
- sustainability – environmental, economic and social
- implementation science.



Juan Pablo Saa

Dr Juan Pablo Saa is a Lecturer in Occupational Therapy at La Trobe University. He is an occupational therapist and public health researcher with experience in evaluation and rehabilitation of cognition after stroke. He currently coordinates the research honours program for the School of Allied Health, Human Services and Sport. His professional journey includes working and studying in Chile, the USA, Spain, and Australia, which has enriched his expertise and perspective on health issues. Juan Pablo's main research focuses on advancing stroke recovery practices through international and multidisciplinary collaborations.

Key research interests:

- stroke
- neuro-rehabilitation
- cognition
- predictive models
- rehabilitation built environment.



Hannah Slootjes

Dr Hannah Slootjes is a Lecturer in the Discipline of Occupational Therapy at La Trobe University. Dr Slootjes is passionate about high-quality teaching and bridging research-practice gaps through integrated knowledge translation. Her research and teaching draw on feminist theory, occupational justice, gendered health inequities, and innovative practice, aiming to embed gender-responsive and inclusive frameworks within occupational therapy curriculum design, research, and strategic projects. Hannah has presented nationally and internationally across occupational therapy, maternal health, and women's health.

Key research interests:

- matrescence, perinatal transitions, and motherhood
- occupational needs, transformations, and wellbeing
- gender-responsive occupational therapy across the life course
- feminist theory, co-occupations, and occupational science.



Cheryl Neilson

Cheryl Neilson is a Lecturer in Occupational Therapy at La Trobe University's Rural Health School (LRHS). Cheryl expertise focusses on neurological rehabilitation and paediatrics and is undertaking a PhD exploring 'sustainable translation of knowledge to practice in regional Australia' as part of the multi-site SENSE Implement study'.

Key research interests:

- knowledge translation
- co-design approaches with students as partners.



Ana Brown

Anahita (Ana) Brown is a Lecturer in Occupational Therapy at La Trobe University. She is a passionate occupational therapist with over 17 years of experience in the fields of mental health and neuro-behaviour. Ana's PhD research is centred on how occupational therapists conceptualise and utilise sensory modulation interventions in adult acquired brain injury settings, to treat behaviours of concern. She has authored several peer-reviewed research articles, presented her research at national conferences and co-authored a book chapter.

Key research interests:

- sensory modulation
- human behaviour
- neuropsychiatry.



Claire Dalliston

Claire Dalliston is a Lecturer in Occupational Therapy at La Trobe University. Claire's clinical background includes experience and interest in working with people who live with neurological conditions, across the lifespan. Claire has worked in both the public and private sector and has presented at the National Occupational Therapy conference on her areas of interest that include outcome measures in community occupational therapy services and innovation in the National Disability Insurance Scheme.

Key research interests:

- neurological rehabilitation.



Raffaele Quattrocchi

Raffaele Quattrocchi is a Lecturer in Occupational Therapy with extensive experience in clinical education, student supervision, and the development of high-quality, practice-based learning. Clinically, he has predominantly worked in community aged care and palliative care. He has also contributed across higher education and workforce development, leading initiatives that enhance clinical reasoning, professional behaviours, and student readiness for contemporary Occupational Therapy practice.

Raffaele is dedicated to fostering supportive, evidence-informed learning environments that empower students to become confident and capable practitioners.

Key research interests:

- clinical education and supervision
- aged, palliative, and end-of-life care
- allied health workforce development.



Yvonne Mak-Yuen

Yvonne Mak-Yuen is a Lecturer in the Discipline of Occupational Therapy at La Trobe University. Yvonne's expertise focuses on neurological rehabilitation and is currently undertaking her doctoral of philosophy focusing on the development and trial of the implementation of an evidence based-somatosensory assessment tool (SENSeAssess) to investigate its feasibility and clinical utility within clinical rehabilitation and community settings for adult stroke survivors. She has experience in leading and mentoring clinical staff and students in developing their skills in areas of quality and research project and is passionate about delivering enhanced patient safety and quality of care through translation of evidence-based practices.

Key research interests:

- somatosensory impairment and impact on function
- implementation of evidence-based practice into clinical settings
- neurological rehabilitation.



Tiffany Chan

Tiffany Chan is a Lecturer in Occupational Therapy at La Trobe University. She is a registered occupational therapist in Australia and Hong Kong. Her clinical background includes working with children and adolescents in private organisations and schools. Her current research focuses on occupational therapy education, students' placement experiences, and supporting children and adolescents in school settings.

Key research interests:

- occupational therapy in paediatric practice
- occupational therapy education
- investigating the role of occupational therapy in emerging settings.



**Farnaz
Khoshmanesh**

Dr Farnaz Khoshmanesh is a Lecturer and researcher at La Trobe University with clinical and research expertise in aged care and rehabilitation. Her work focuses on improving outcomes for older adults through evidence-based practice. Farnaz's current research examines the effectiveness of Geriatric Evaluation and Management (GEM) Units and the extent to which current practices align with clinical guidelines. She has experience in occupational therapy and allied health across Australian and international healthcare settings.

Key research interests:

- supporting older adults to remain active during hospitalisation
- addressing gaps in healthcare practitioners' understanding of how to support older inpatients with cognitive and/or behavioural impairments
- investigating optimal models for delivering inpatient rehabilitation services.



**Katharine
Lancaster**

Katharine Lancaster is a Lecturer in the Discipline of Occupational Therapy at La Trobe University. Her work has also included research assistant on the 'Active Support' project with the Living with Disability (LiDS) research team. For her Masters research, Katharine investigated the wellbeing outcomes for parents of children with disability. Currently Katharine's role has extended into clinical education.

Key research interests:

- experiences of people with disability in the education system
- peer support for people with disabilities and their caregivers.



Amy Oman

Amy Oman is a Lecturer in the Discipline of Occupational Therapy at the La Trobe Rural Health School (LRHS) in Bendigo. Amy has undertaken a variety of roles in clinical practice, entrepreneurship and leadership development. Amy is passionate about supporting students to reach their full potential by becoming engaged learners and clinical decision makers. Amy's current role includes supporting undergraduate occupational therapy students through their journey LRHS.

Key research interests:

- increasing access to early years support
- innovation in paediatric practice
- rural health leadership.



Kieva Richards

Kieva Richards is a Lecturer in Occupational Therapy at La Trobe University. Kieva is an experienced occupational therapist, academic and early career researcher. Kieva is an active member of the Victorian Occupational Therapy Divisional Council.

Key research interests:

- aged care
- occupational engagement for persons living with dementia
- occupational justice.

WORLD CLASS RESEARCH TEAMS AND FACILITIES

NEUROREHABILITATION AND RECOVERY RESEARCH LAB

The Neurorehabilitation and Recovery research group is a multidisciplinary team of researchers, health professionals, research students and partners committed to developing the science of neurorehabilitation needed to enable individuals who experience a stroke to meet the demands of everyday living and return to valued activities.

Our focus includes:

- understanding how the brain adapts and how we might harness that potential in rehabilitation
- science-based rehabilitation of arm function after stroke
- development and use of tailored interventions supported by new technologies and artificial intelligence (AI)
- mapping recovery trajectories and biomarkers of recovery
- translation to clinical practice.

Current major projects:

- NHMRC Ideas grant: Staying connected: personalising stroke recovery and rehabilitation through new technologies for people with stroke living at home
- NHMRC Partnership: A Network of sites and 'up-skilled' therapists to deliver best-practice stroke rehabilitation of the upper limb.



NEUROREHABILITATION
AND RECOVERY LAB

fostering the optimal rehabilitation experience

TELEHEALTH RESEARCH AND TRAINING FACILITY

La Trobe's telehealth training facilities ensure best practice training for allied health and nursing students, and better equip clinicians undertaking professional development.

The facility features a telehealth audiovisual setup including microphone, cameras, display screens and computers; technology to stream or record video for larger groups of students or professionals; and mobile telehealth hardware to allow for high quality offsite telehealth consultations.



EMBEDDED RESEARCH WITH HEALTH SERVICE PARTNERS

Under the umbrella of the Academic Research Collaborative in Health (ARCH), La Trobe University has Senior Academics in Allied Health leading research units at Eastern Health, Northern Health, Melbourne Health and Alfred Health. Working as a collaborative, these units drive research activity that matters to health services, provide research training for health professionals, support higher degree research students in allied health and facilitate the translation of research into practice.



WHY CHOOSE OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY AT LA TROBE?



1st in Victoria

We're the best in Victoria and third in Australia for employer satisfaction, with a rating of 88.1 per cent.

Quality Indicators for Learning and Teaching (QILT), 2023, [2022 Employer Satisfaction Survey \[PDF, 812 KB\]](#)



Internationally recognised expertise

Researchers in our team are recognised as Fellows of the Academy of Research of the Australian Occupational Therapy Research Foundation, and the Academy of Research of the American Occupational Therapy Foundation.



High impact research

Our research has been assessed as delivering high impact through the implementation of the SENSE assessment and training approach.

Excellence in Research for Australia 'Engagement and Impact' assessment
[ERA Research Impact](#)



World-leading research

Our research in Occupational Therapy is rated 'well above world standard'.

Australian Research Council, 2019, [Excellence in Research for Australia \(ERA\) Outcomes 2018](#)

INDUSTRY RELATIONSHIPS

We currently have active research projects with leading industry and clinical partners in fields of neurology and stroke research, paediatric services, mental health, hospital and rehabilitation services, community health services, and post-traumatic stress.

OPPORTUNITIES TO ENGAGE WITH OUR RESEARCH TEAM

There are numerous opportunities to partner with us on research projects and problem-solving initiatives, including:

- » Masters/PhD projects (2-3 years duration; may require some funding)
- » Honours projects (12 month duration)
- » Collaborative grant applications
- » Professional education

CONTACT US

If you are interested in working together but don't know where to start, please just email or give us a call:

Dr Tamara Tse

Discipline Lead, Occupational Therapy

E: T.Tse@latrobe.edu.au

P: +61 3 9479 3764





LA TROBE
UNIVERSITY

School of Allied Health,
Human Services and Sport

WANT TO KNOW MORE? GET IN TOUCH

Dr Tamara Tse

Discipline Lead, Occupational Therapy
School of Allied Health, Human Services and Sport
La Trobe University

E: T.Tse@latrobe.edu.au

P: +61 3 9479 3764

STAY CONNECTED

Facebook

La Trobe University

Instagram

@latrobeuni

TikTok

@latrobeuni

LinkedIn

<https://www.linkedin.com/company/latrobealliedhealth/>

Disclaimer: The information contained in this publication is indicative only. While every effort is made to provide full and accurate information at the time of publication, the University does not warrant the currency, accuracy or completeness of the contents. The University reserves the right to make changes without notice, at any time in its absolute discretion, including but not limited to varying admission or assessment requirements, or varying or discontinuing any course or subject. To the extent permitted by law, the University does not accept responsibility for any loss or damage occasioned by use of any of the information contained in this publication. For course information updates, please visit: [latrobe.edu.au](https://www.latrobe.edu.au)

La Trobe University is a registered provider under the Commonwealth Register of Institutions and Courses for Overseas Students (CRICOS). CRICOS Provider 00115M. Published by La Trobe University, June 2025



LA TROBE
UNIVERSITY

La Trobe Rural
Health School

[latrobe.edu.au](https://www.latrobe.edu.au)