**UQ Winter Research Project Description**

Please use this template to create a description of each research project, eligibility requirements and expected deliverables. Project details can then be uploaded to each faculty, school, institute, and centre webpage prior to the launch of the program.

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| **Project title:** | **Indigenous People’s Healthcare Services Accessibility and Utilisation of using Referral Pathways in Australian Healthcare System: A Systematic Review** |
| **Hours of engagement & delivery mode** | The project will be offered remotely or in hybrid arrangements. |
| **Description:** | Background  Referral pathways are the systems or processes by which individuals or clients are directed to appropriate services, programs, or professionals based on their needs. They are common in healthcare, social services, mental health, and other support systems.  Navigating a complex healthcare system following the referral pathways is a significant challenge for patients and carers, especially for Indigenous people living in regional/rural areas and needing healthcare service access to major city/urban areas. Even understanding hospital appointment schedules using referral pathways at the beginning with the involvement of multiple healthcare professionals throughout the treatment and follow-up (for example, cancer and cardiovascular disease) is complicated for Indigenous people when no support is available. In some instances, healthcare pathways are challenging for patients diagnosed at an advanced stage who need to rush to start treatment without a proper explanation from primary care service providers. Ultimately, it caused negative feelings about not managing the treatment appropriately. Research warrants exploring the Indigenous people's referral pathways within the Australian Healthcare systems.  Aim  This systematic review will explore the accessibility and utilisation of referral pathways by Indigenous people in the Australian Healthcare system and identify the gaps within the systems.  Methods  A systematic literature search will use different databases to identify qualitative and quantitative studies of Indigenous people’s accessibility and utilisation of referral pathways in Australia. The published studies that inform the referral type for the disease condition, adherence to referral, reasons for non-adherence to referral and gaps in healthcare system data will be extracted and summarised in the tables. |
| **Expected learning outcomes and deliverables:** | Scholars may gain skills in systematic literature searches using different databases and full-text screening using Covidence software. If time allows, scholars will extract data from the published articles. |
| **Suitable for:** | This application is open to applications from students with a background in health and medical science. |
| **Primary Supervisor:** | Dr Saira Sanjida, Research Fellow, UQ Poche Centre for Indigenous Health |
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