



Department of General Practice and Primary Care

Through research partnerships and education we work with communities to maximise wellbeing and health systems delivery.

The Department of General Practice and Primary Care is committed to promoting excellence in general practice through outstanding teaching and learning, research and research training, and knowledge transfer through our strong links with the general practice community and primary health care networks. With 125 staff supported by an operating budget of \$7 million and research income of approximately \$18.5 million annually, the Department has grown to become one of the largest and most successful primary care research and medical education centres in Australia.

VicREN is our practice-based research and education network, which connects us directly to almost 750 general practice clinics around Victoria who contribute to teaching and research at the Department.

For more information, visit gp.unimelb.edu.au

Primary care research

Our team of multidisciplinary researchers have specialised expertise in a range of subject areas and research methodologies and are supported by a network of researchers within Faculties across the University. Each of our research teams are led by world-renowned primary care academics who are passionate about their work. This breadth of expertise translates to our ability to conduct large scale, innovative and world-class primary care research focusing on a huge variety of topics.

Medical education

The Department of General Practice and Primary Care conducts a vast range of medical education programs. We run one of the largest general practice placements with the some of the most extensive exposure to general practice teaching in Australia for The University of Melbourne's Doctor of Medicine students. We deliver postgraduate training for primary care nurses, and research training for medical, honours, masters and PhD students in addition to an academic registrar program for doctors who are training to be GPs.



11
Honours
Students



29
Graduate
Researchers



750
VicREN
Practices



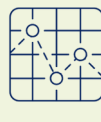
269
Teaching
Practices



4
Academic
Registrars



10,061
MD placement
days



51
Patron
Projects



405
Publications
2024

The Department also conducts a nurse immunisation short-course.

Family and Domestic Violence

Prof Kelsey Hegarty and Prof Laura Tarzia

Working in collaboration with a range of stakeholders, we aim to develop a strong evidence base through which policy and practice can be formed to provide firmer foundations for responding to the complex problem of violence against women and their children. Our team leads the Centre of Research Excellence to promote Safer Families (Safer Families Centre), the first dedicated Centre to lead research into the health effects of domestic violence and abuse and the health sector responses needed to improve the safety, health and wellbeing of women, children and young people.

Primary Care Mental Health

Prof Victoria Palmer

The Integrated Mental Health research group aims to optimise person-centred mental health that enhances physical and mental wellbeing. The program has four streams of research related to: experiences of care, participatory systems re-design, innovations in treatments and management, and risk stratification for mental health. We have led national and international flagship projects in co- design, stepped care and mental health systems reform.

HaBIC R2

Prof Dougie Boyle

HaBIC R2 brings technology expertise to research and health projects, delivering solutions to drive change and innovation that keep people privacy at the centre. We collaborate with stakeholders across health, research and government sectors. The HaBIC R2 mission is to support research objectives and enable the effective translation of health research into impact.

Primary Care Trials Unit

The focus of our Primary Care Trials Unit is to support the development, conduct and analysis of high-quality trials and other studies in primary health care and health services with a wide range of collaborators. Our focus is on health services research and implementation science using primary care innovation, clinical data analytics and linkage, and co-design with consumers and practitioners. We are experts in research, co-design and implementation in the complex, multidisciplinary primary care environment.



For more information,
click or scan here.

Data for Decisions

With the permission of general practices, we collate data from de-identified medical records and use the information for research to increase knowledge, quality improvement and improve healthcare practices. The data is stored in a University of Melbourne managed primary-care data repository called Patron.

Data Driven Quality Improvement

A/Prof Kylie Vuong

More than four in five Australians visit their GP once per year and 2 million attend every week. As medical knowledge continues to increase at an exponential rate it is critical that this knowledge is translated effectively into the general practice setting. Our program aims to facilitate quality and system improvement in general practice using a data-driven and integrated knowledge translation approach. We are a multidisciplinary team that works closely with health informaticists, analyst programmers and other key technical staff to develop technology, study factors critical to its implementation and evaluate its effectiveness.

Children and Young People's Health

Prof Lena Sanci

Our program aims to advance the health and wellbeing of children and young people through primary care and its integration with other health, social, workforce and education systems that support children and young people's wellbeing.

Our multidisciplinary team works across the areas of health risk behaviour (including a specific focus on sexual and reproductive health), mental health, adverse childhood experiences, physical wellbeing, preventive health and early intervention.

Cancer in Primary Care

Primary care plays a critical role across the cancer continuum, including prevention, screening, symptomatic diagnosis, and the long-term care of cancer survivors. The Cancer in Primary Care research group is one of the largest in the world with this focus. Our strengths are in randomised controlled trials of complex interventions in primary care, analysis of linked electronic medical record data, translation of risk prediction models and genomic tests for tailored screening and treatment, development of decision support tools and decisions.