



THE UNIVERSITY OF  
MELBOURNE

# Advancing General Practice and Primary Care through Research and Education

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Department of General Practice and Primary Care  
Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences







We acknowledge the Traditional Owners  
of the lands upon which our campuses  
are situated.

We pay our respect to their elders past  
and present.





# Our Values

INTEGRITY

EXCELLENCE

INNOVATION

COLLABORATION

RESPECT







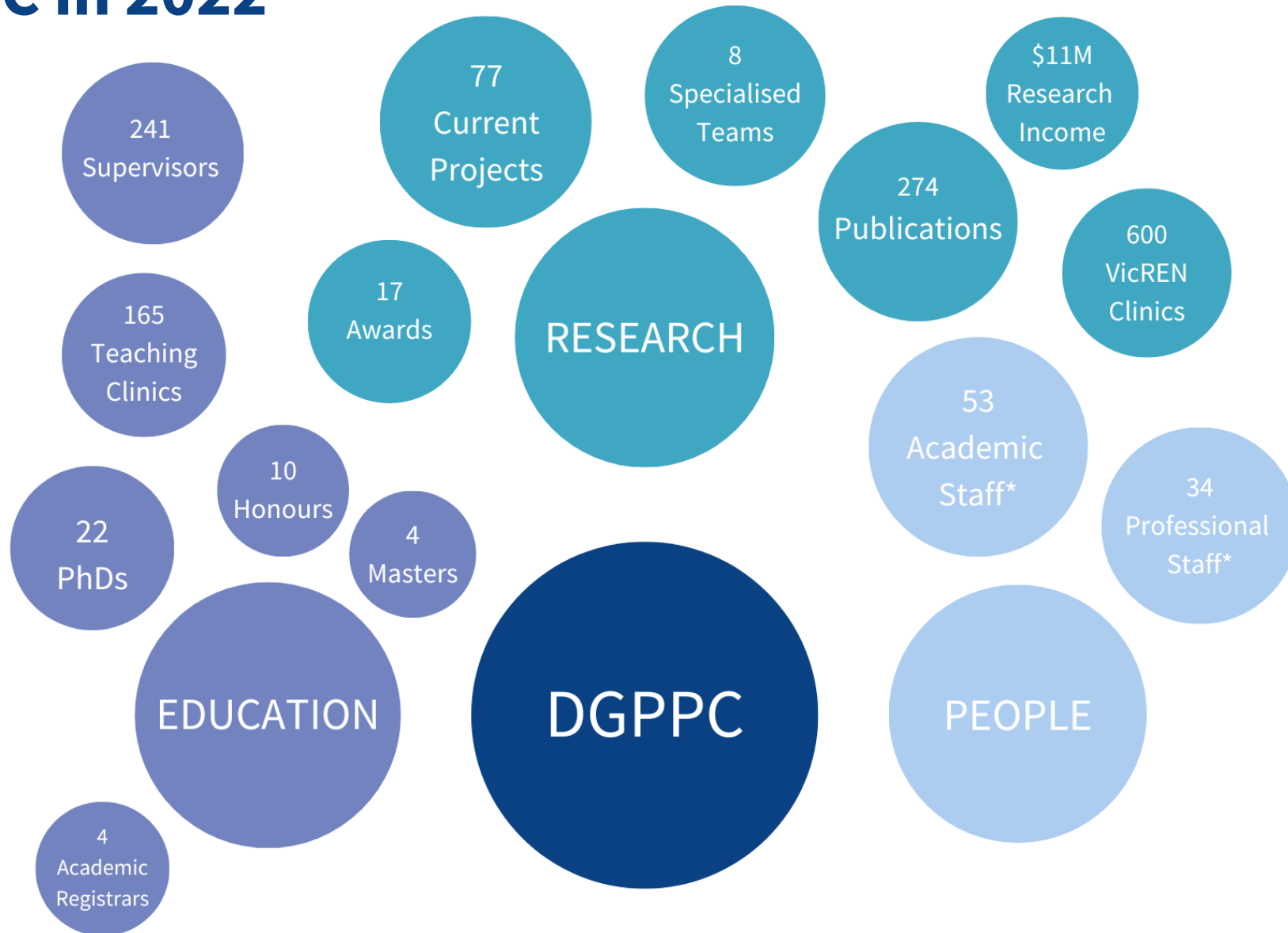
## Our Vision

Through research partnerships and education, we work with communities and practitioners to enhance the healthcare system, placing the person at the heart of healthcare and improving health outcomes.





# DGPPC in 2022





# Strategic Focus

- Integration and collaboration across health, education, social and legal sectors
- Informing teaching and learning, research practice and consumer policies
- Improving health outcomes for all Australians





# Program Areas

## Maximising Research Impact

- Eight dedicated teams connecting research with communities
- Leading multiple collaborative research initiatives

## Strengthening the Primary Care Community

DGPPC

## Inspiring Future Primary Care Leaders

- Student GP placement program
- Postgraduate training, including nursing
- Research training
- Academic Registrar Program
- Honours program





## Areas of Focus



# Maximising Research Impact

Our teams 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 and interdisciplinary 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.







# DGPPC Research Teams



Sexual And Family Violence (SAFE)



Children and Young People's Health



Primary Care Mental Health



Cancer in Primary Care



HaBIC R<sup>2</sup>



Primary Care Trials Unit



Data for Decisions



Data Driven Quality Improvement

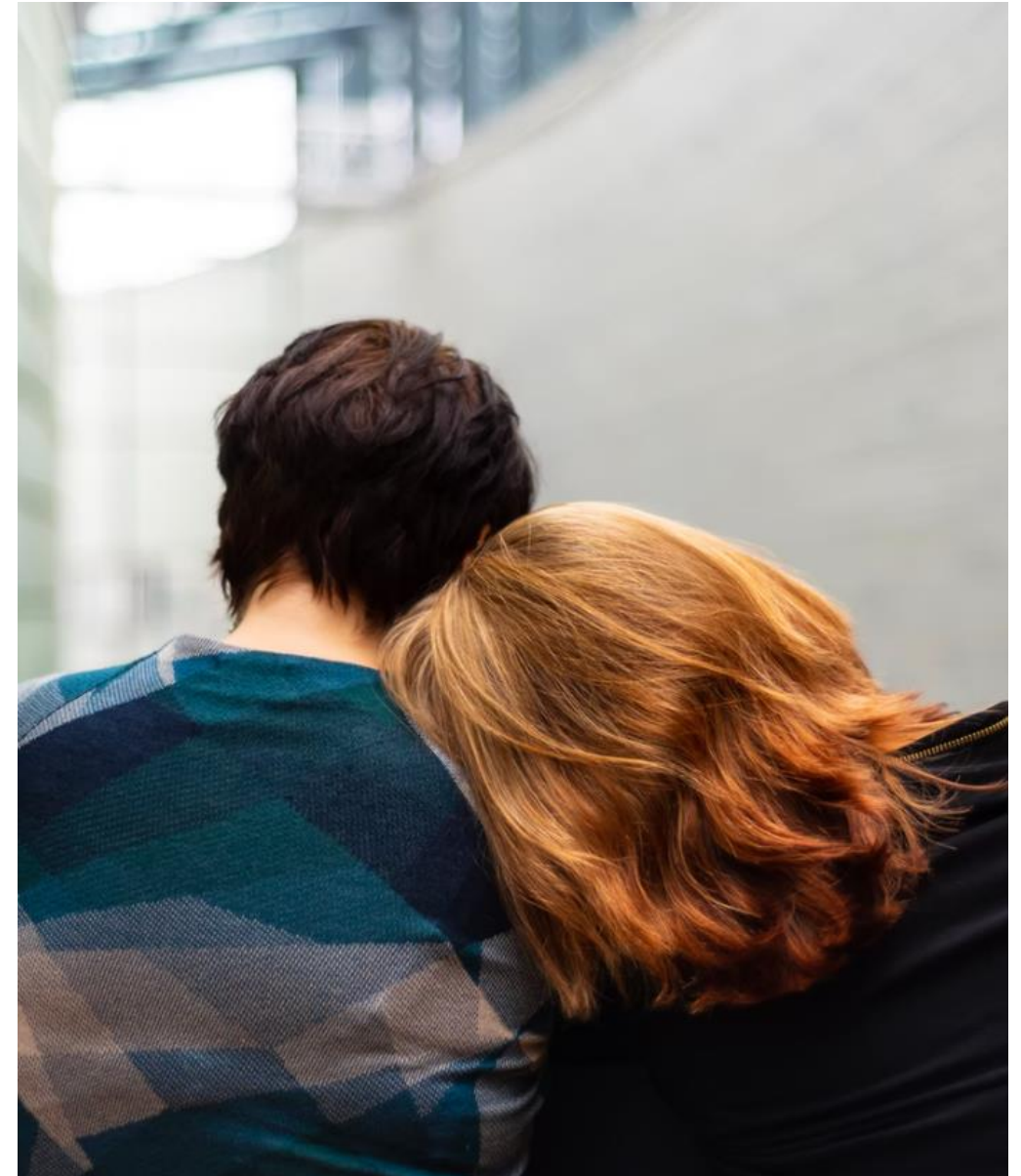


# Sexual And Family violence (SAFE)

Working in collaboration with people with lived experience of family, domestic and sexual violence, and practitioners, this program aims to change policy and practice around responding to mainly violence against women and their children. Three main areas are:

- Understanding dynamics of abuse and violence to inform tailoring of health responses and
- Online tools for healthy relationships
- Health system change for all members of the family

Our team leads the Safer Families Centre, which is the first dedicated centre to research the health sector responses needed to improve the safety, health and wellbeing of women, children and young people.







# Children and Young People's Health

This 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.

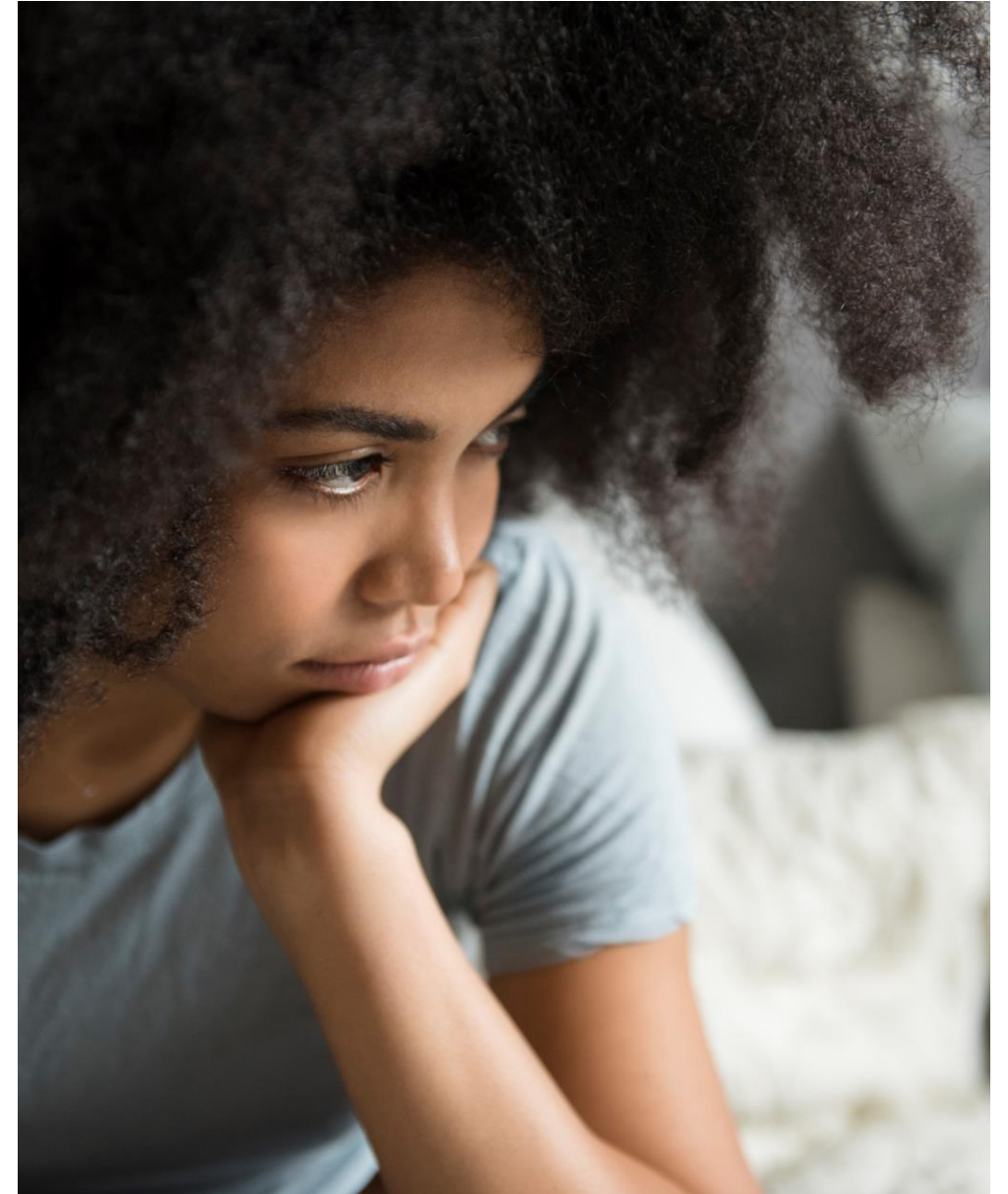


# Primary Care Mental Health

Focused on optimising person-centred mental health to enhance physical and mental wellbeing, this program has four streams of research:

- Experiences of care
- Participatory systems re-design using co-design
- Innovations in models of care and management
- Risk stratification for triaging mental health needs

The team also leads national and international flagship projects in experience co-design, heart health, stepped care and mental health systems reform.

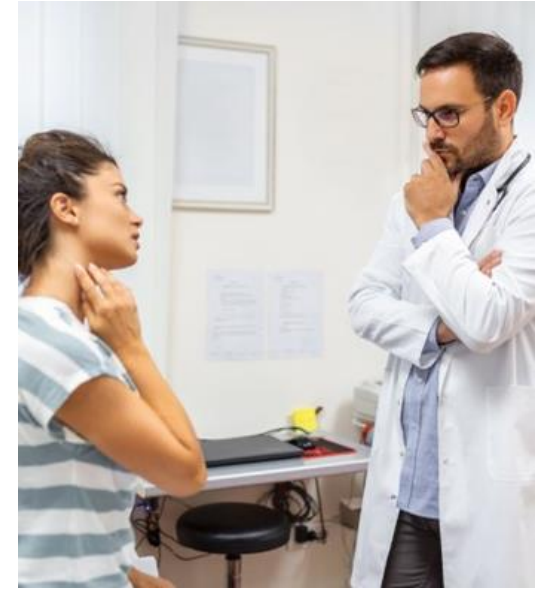




# Cancer in Primary Care

Primary care plays a critical role across the cancer continuum, including prevention, screening, diagnosis, and long-term care. Our team is one of the largest in the world with this focus.

We excel 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 decision aids; and systematic review and evidence synthesis.

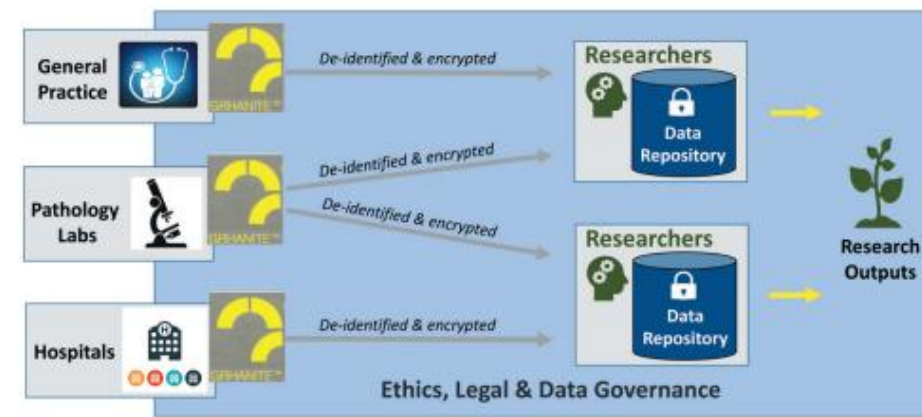




# HaBIC R<sup>2</sup>

HaBIC R<sup>2</sup> brings technology expertise to research and health projects. We aim to support research objectives and enable the effective translation of health research into impact.

Our team delivers tailored solutions to drive change and innovations that keep people and privacy at the centre. We collaborate with stakeholders across health, research and government sectors.







# Primary Care Trials Unit

The Primary Care Trials Unit focusses on health services research and implementation science using primary care innovation; clinical data analytics and linkage; and co-design with consumers and practitioners.

We have biostatistical expertise in trial design and analysis and lead the sector in research, co-design and implementation in the complex, multidisciplinary primary care environment.

Since 2005, we have led over 25 randomised, controlled trials with more than 24,000 participants in 370 general practices. More than half of these were funded in the last five years.



# Data for Decisions

In partnership with general practices across Victoria, we collate data from de-identified medical records and use the information for research to:

- Increase knowledge
- Quality improvement
- Improve healthcare practices

The Data is stored in a University of Melbourne managed primary-care data repository called Patron. Underpinned by a robust governance framework, researchers can request to access this data for research purposes. There are currently 22 programs that have been approved to use Patron data.

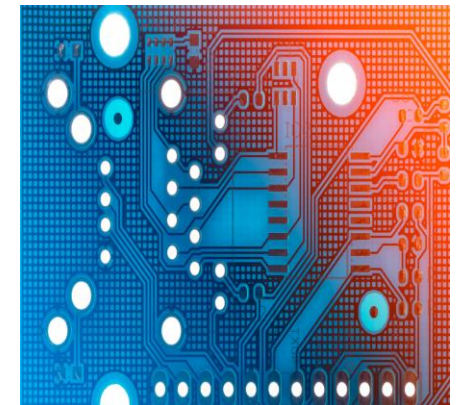




# Data Driven Quality Improvement

This program aims to facilitate quality and system improvement in general practice using de-identified data obtained through the Patron database and integrated knowledge translation using a Learning Health systems approach.

Our multidisciplinary team works closely with health informaticians, analyst programmers and other key technical staff to develop technology, study factors critical to its implementation and evaluate its effectiveness.







# Inspiring Future Primary Care Leaders

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.





# General Practice Placement Program

We are committed to enhancing general practice by providing our future doctors with an excellent education that engages with the community and the wider health care system.

Students are guided and supported in their learning experience by skilled general practitioners and exposed to a wide variety of patient situations. Many general practices that participate in our placement program are also involved in research.





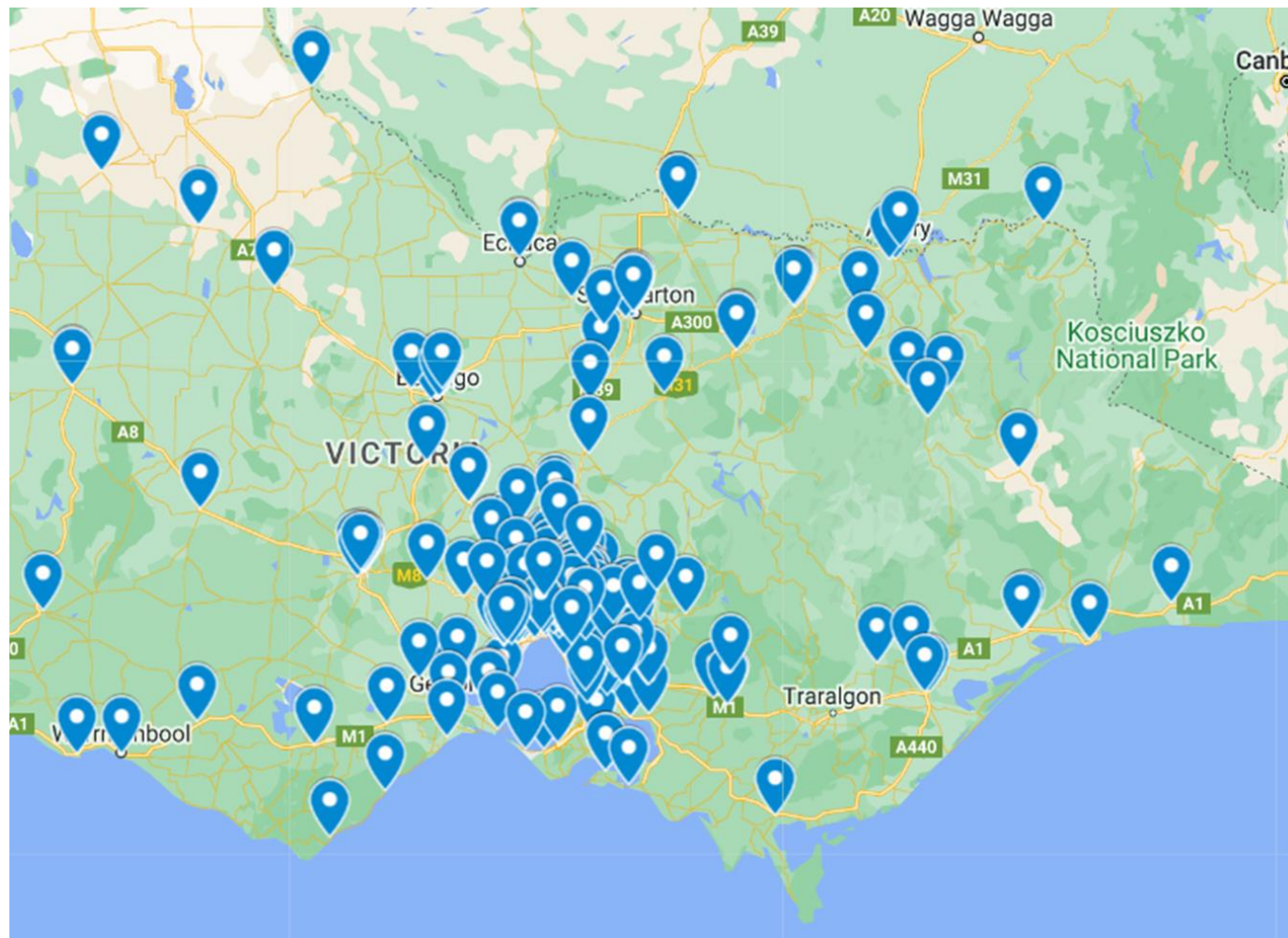


# Student Placements 2022

In **2022**, we placed:

**679** MD students with **323** GP supervisors in **216** general practices for **9497** placement days.

**22%** of these placements were in rural locations.







# Honours Program

The Honours program is a specialised year of study following completion of the Bachelor of Biomedicine or Bachelor of Science.

The Honours year involves advanced coursework in primary care research coupled with a supervised research project. It is designed to advance students' aptitude for independent research and help develop communication skills critical for transition to future employment.





# Graduate and Research Training

The Department teaches into the following courses:

Graduate Certificate in Primary Care Nursing; Master of Primary Health Care; Master of Medicine; Master of Philosophy; and Doctor of Philosophy.

Each year, academic staff from the Department supervise an average of 25 higher degree students from a diverse range of backgrounds. Some have clinical experience in areas such as nursing, medicine or psychology, whereas others are from non-clinical backgrounds but have developed an interest in general practice research.







# Academic Registrar Program

The Department of General Practice and Primary Care's Academic Registrar Program has been running for over 20 years. The program supports general practice registrars to learn academic skills through individualised learning plans, supervised by senior primary care academic leaders.

Many of our university-based GP academics undertake research to improve and enhance the practice of primary care.

Year	Past Research Projects
2021	Project ECHO® Application of the ECHO model as a learning tool for primary care education in rural Victoria
2021	Preferences for a polygenic test to estimate cancer risk
2021	Identifying and responding to patients who have used domestic and family violence
2021	How are Victorian general practitioners managing chlamydia infection in young people?
2020	An educational intervention on lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex and queer health: Impact on knowledge, attitudes and perceptions in Australian medical students



# Strengthening the Primary Care Community

We are passionate about the role of primary care research in improving the health of our nation and work to promote primary care related research through the distribution and promotion in regular e-bulletins and notices to GPs, practice managers, practice nurses and broader primary care organisations.

Our practice-based research and education network provides us with a direct connection to 750 general practice clinics around Victoria who contribute to teaching and research at the Department through student placement programs and participating in research studies.



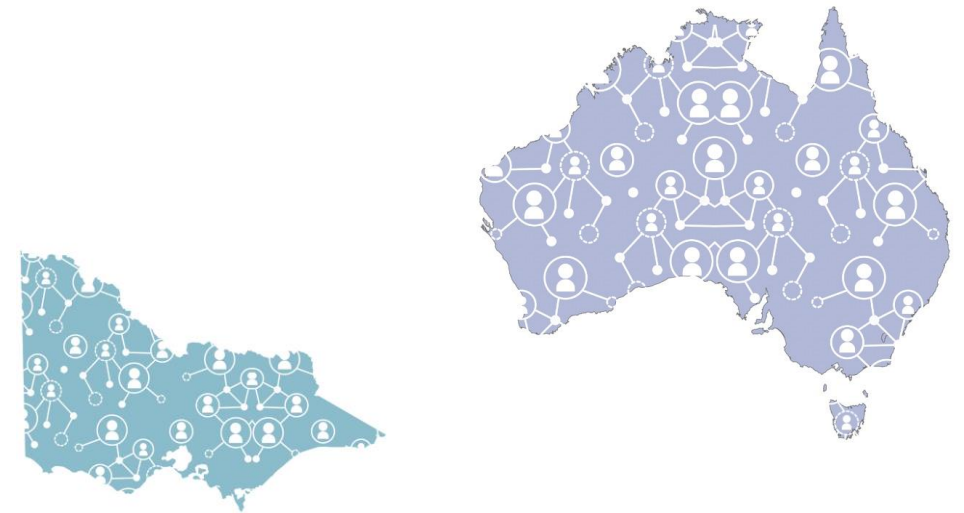




# Victorian Research and Education Network

VicREN promotes research and education that has been designed and undertaken in the primary care environment, thus ensuring feasibility and appropriateness for primary care. Through this network, the Department of General Practice can connect with thousands of primary care staff and patients to facilitate recruitment for large-scale primary care research programs.

In addition to our Victorian network of general practice clinics, we also maintain strong connections with other national practice-based research networks to enable larger and nationally inclusive collaborative trials.





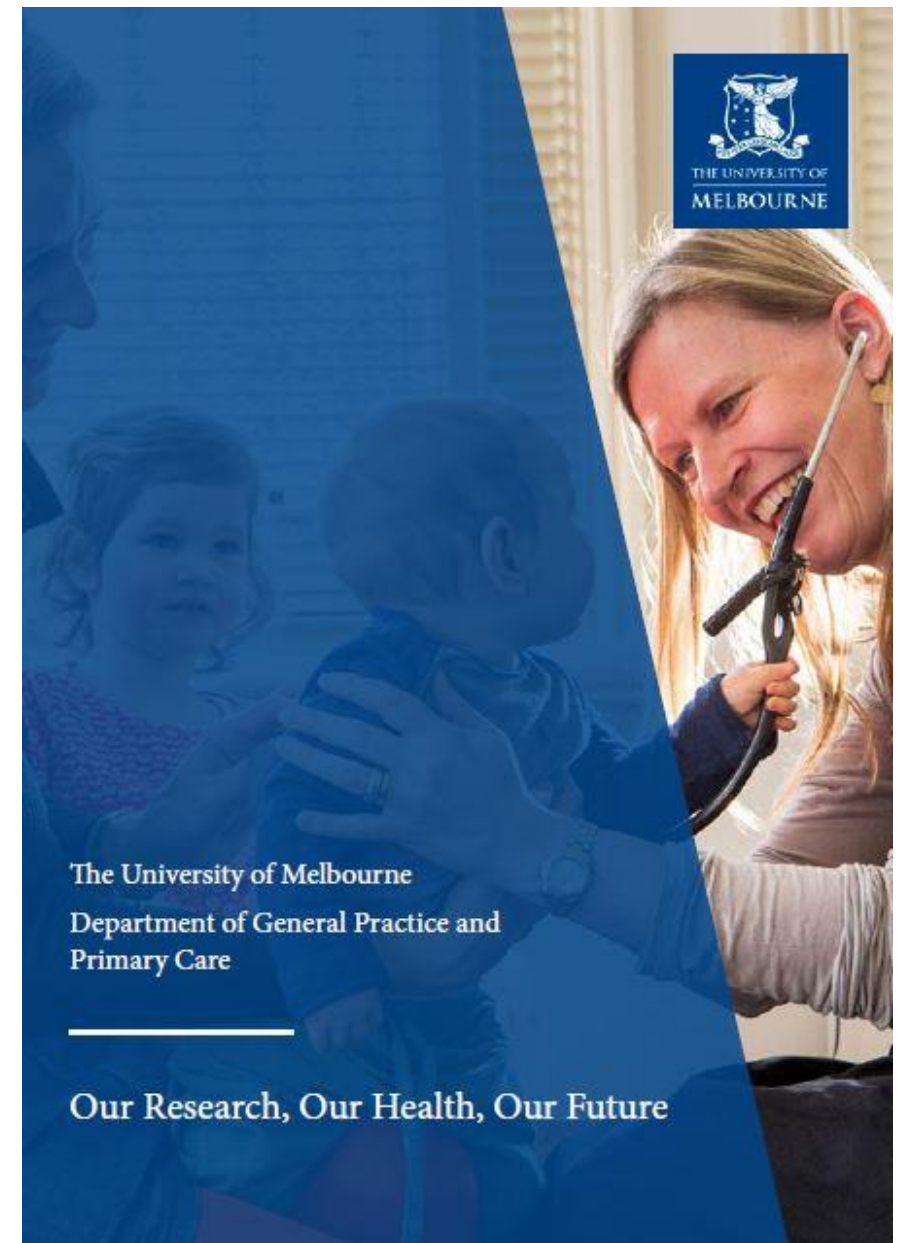
# Publications and Impact



# DGPPC Book

Want to know more about the research and education programs offered by the Department of General Practice and Primary Care?

Download or access our Department book online [here](#)

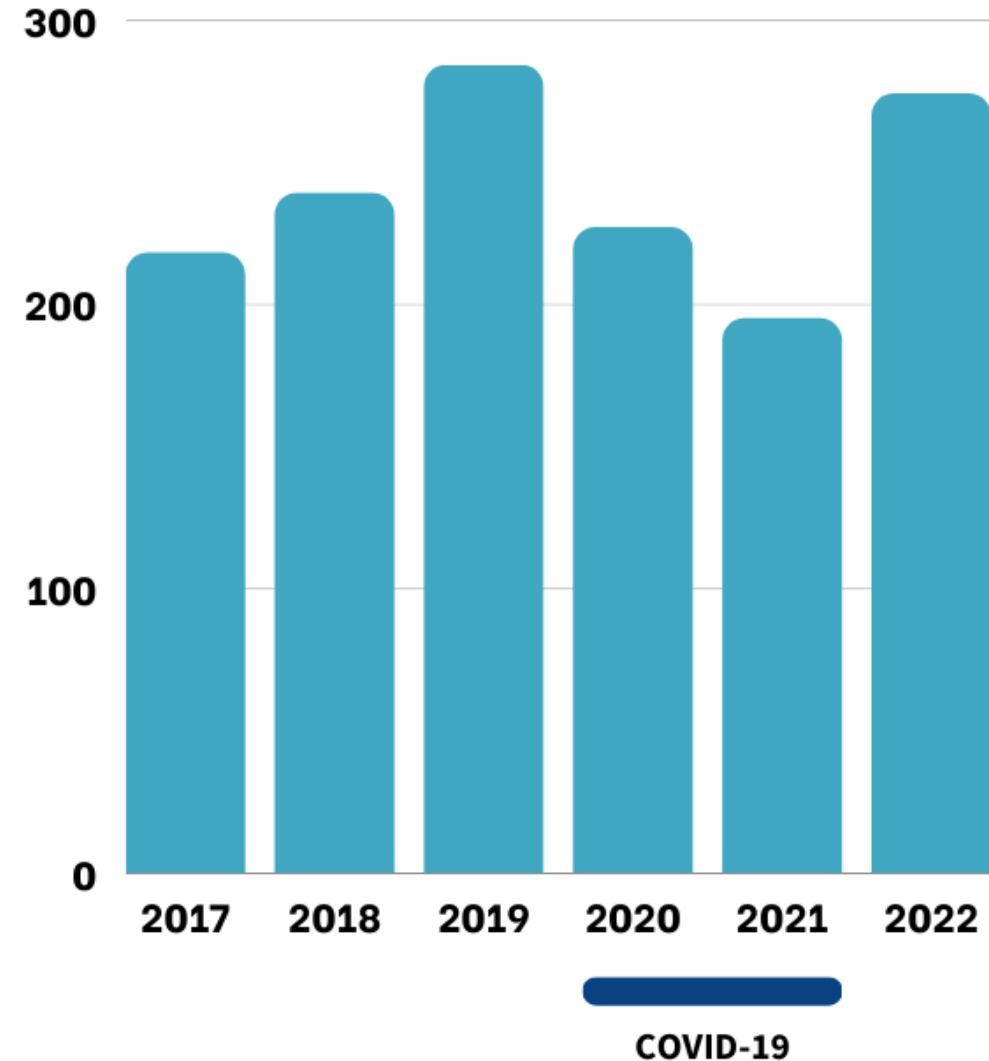






# DGPPC Publications

After a noticeable drop off in publications during the COVID-19 pandemic, the Department saw a return to pre-pandemic levels in 2022. This figure includes refereed journal articles, books and book chapters.





# DGPPC Research Impacts

HARMONY



iCHAMPS

SCRIPT

LINKMe

ACRE

COVIDCare

MAGPIE

IDecide

CORE

PRESIDE

GRHANITE™

SMARTscreen

SUSTAIN

Good4Mum

SC4RC

BETTERMAN

WiserAD



Doctors in  
Secondary Schools

RAdHealth







# DGPPC Student Data

\*\*In 2022, the Doctor of Medicine course introduced a new subject: *Foundation in Translational Clinical Medicine Discovery Program*'. This provided a new research opportunity for Year 1 students through Departmental placements. DGP hosted eight students.

DGP Student Numbers

