



Faculty of medicine,
Dentistry and Health
Sciences



THE UNIVERSITY OF
MELBOURNE

Department
of General
Practice
and Primary
Care

Advancing General
Practice through
Research and
Education

The University of Melbourne acknowledges the Traditional Owners of the unceded land on which we work, learn and live: the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung and Bunurong peoples (Burnley, Fishermans Bend, Parkville, Southbank and Werribee campuses), the Yorta Yorta Nation (Dookie and Shepparton campuses), and the Dja Dja Wurrung people (Creswick campus).

The University also acknowledges and is grateful to the Traditional Owners, Elders and Knowledge Holders of all Indigenous nations and clans who have been instrumental in our reconciliation journey.

We recognise the unique place held by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the original owners and custodians of the lands and waterways across the Australian continent, with histories of continuous connection dating back more than 60,000 years. We also acknowledge their enduring cultural practices of caring for Country.

We pay respect to Elders past, present and future, and acknowledge the importance of Indigenous knowledge in the Academy. As a community of researchers, teachers, professional staff and students we are privileged to work and learn every day with Indigenous colleagues and partners.



Our Values



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Department
of General
Practice
and Primary
Care

Integrity

Excellence

Innovation

Respect



Our Vision



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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 numbers



Department of
General Practice
and Primary
Care

Annual Snapshot

Research Impacts:

We are the leaders in academic primary care research in Australia. In 2023, our research provided valuable information for:

- Guidelines for cancer testing
- GP training for domestic and family violence
- RACGP Preventive Guidelines on screening for abuse and violence
- Health promotion materials for miscarriage awareness
- Clinical decision support for GPs through the Future Health Today Program



\$16 M

Research
Funding



57

Academic
Staff

34

Professional
Staff

2

Academic
Registrars

38

P/Grad & MD
Researchers

5

Honours
Students



681

GP student
placements

334

Teaching
Clinics

4

PhD
Completions

5

Honours
Completions

85%

Student
Satisfaction



85

Research
Projects

785

VicREN
Clinics

33

Patron
Projects

3,613,364

Patron Patient
Records



117

Refereed
Journals

292

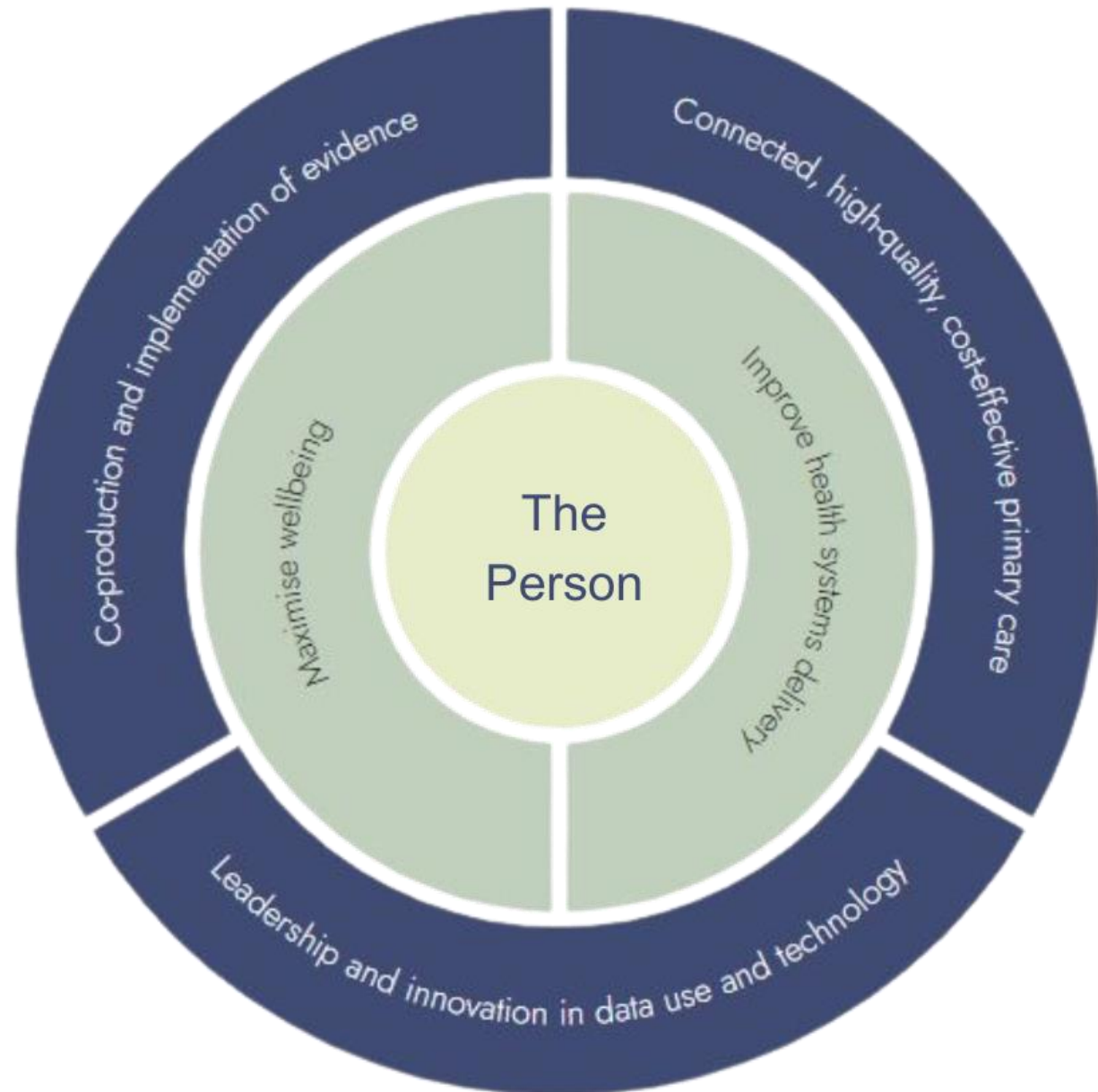
Other
Publications

409

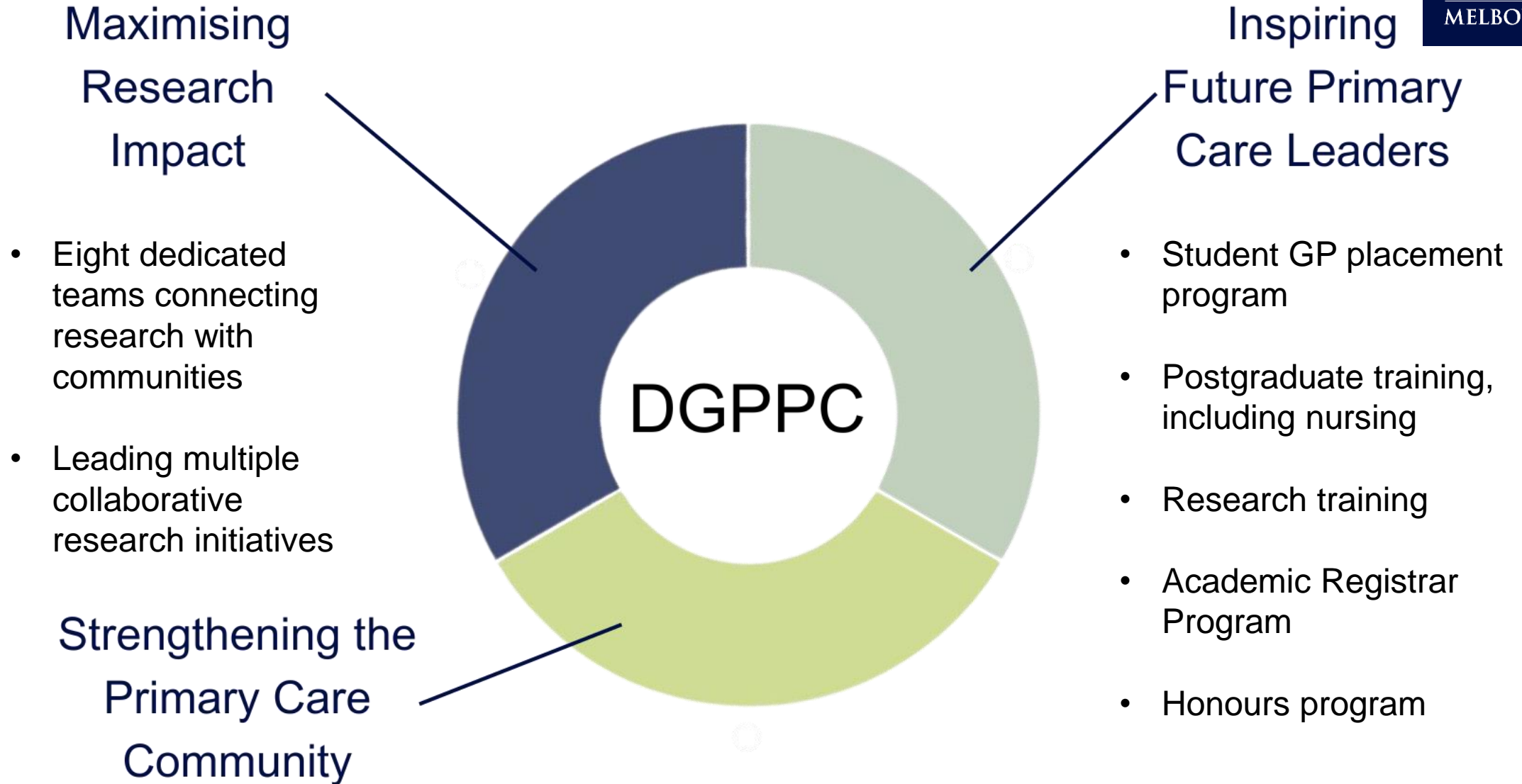
Total
Publications

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





Areas of Focus



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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 wide 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 R²



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 violence against women and their children. 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.

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 lived-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 R²

HaBIC R2 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 implementation and evaluate effectiveness.



Inspiring Future Primary Care Leaders



The Department of General Practice and Primary Care conducts a 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 also 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.



GP Student 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.



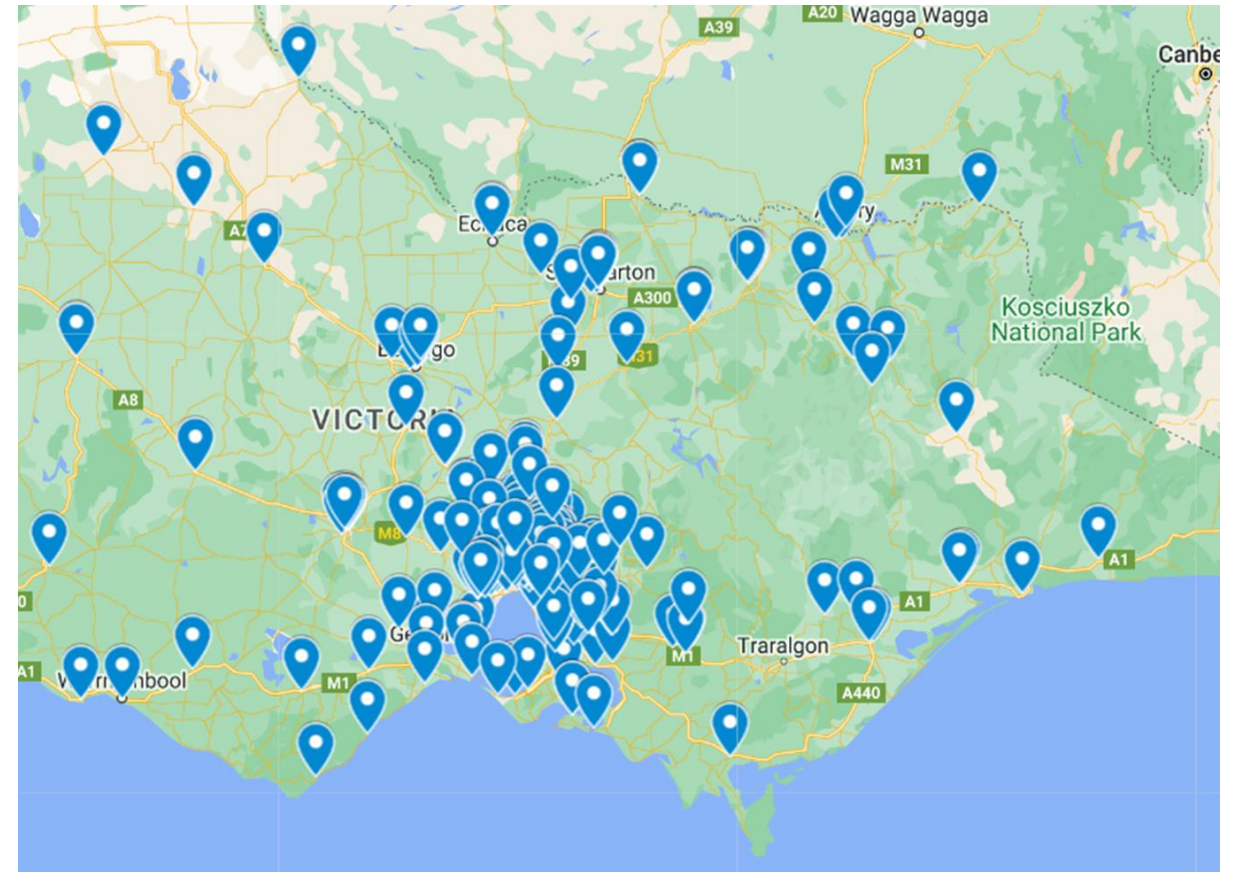
Student Placements 2023



In 2023, we placed:

- 681 MD students
- with 337 GP supervisors
- in 334 general practices
- for 9430 placement days.

26% 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 nursing, medicine or psychology, while 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.

Past Research Projects

Project ECHO® Application of the ECHO model as a learning tool for primary care education in rural Victoria

Preferences for a polygenic test to estimate cancer risk

Identifying and responding to patients who have used domestic and family violence

How are Victorian general practitioners managing chlamydia infection in young people?

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.



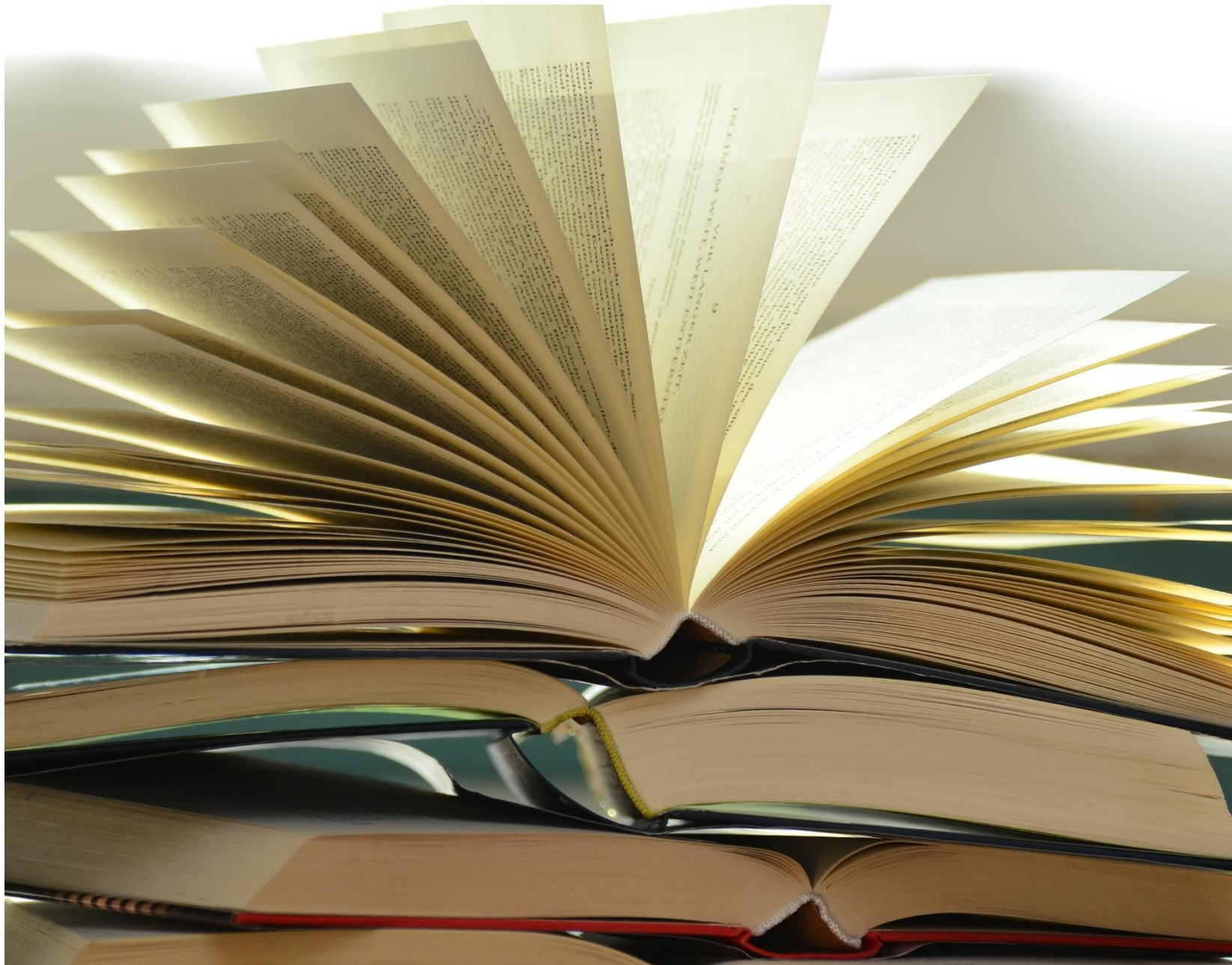
Victorian Research and Education Network



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, we 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



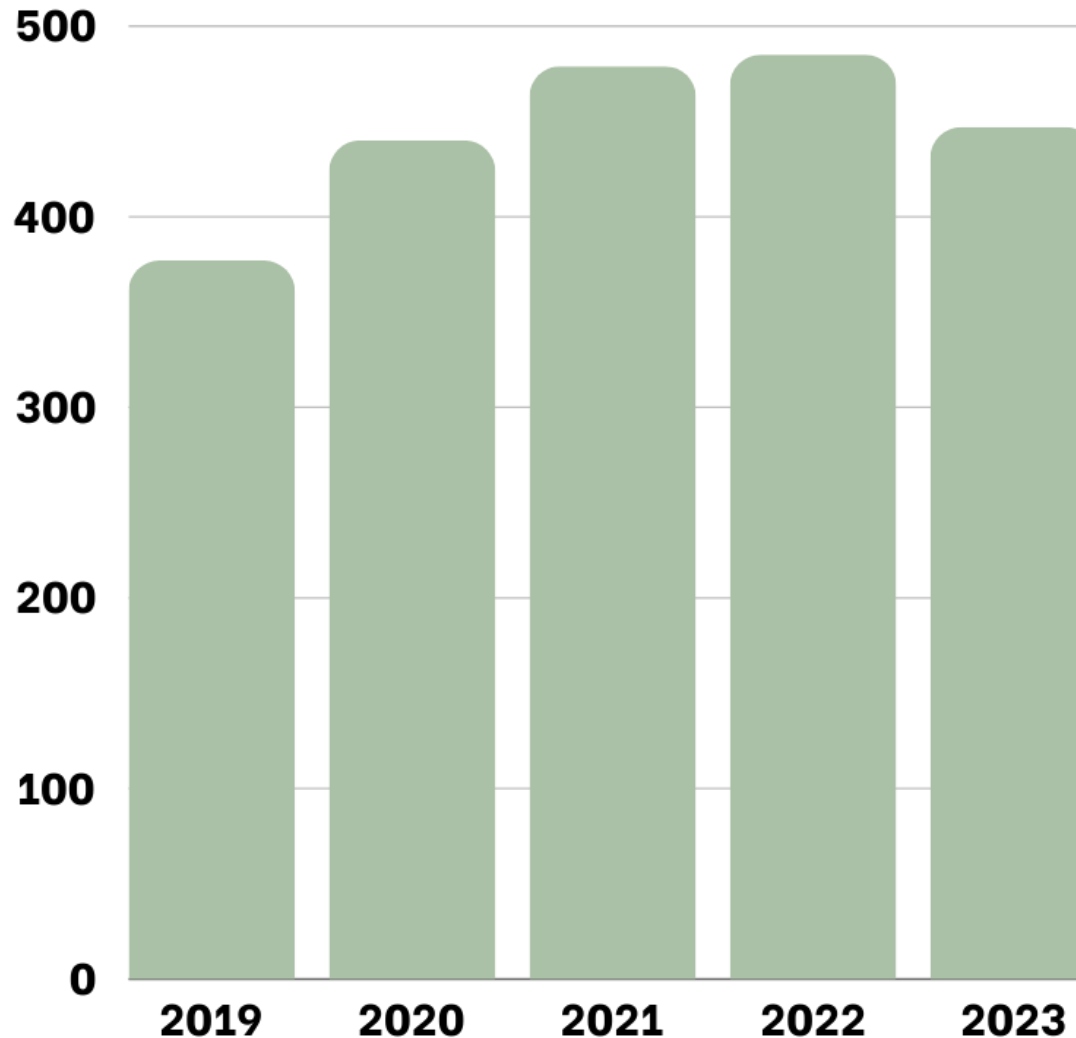
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Publications



In 2023, our academics contributed to 447 published articles.

This figure includes refereed journal articles, books and book chapters.



Research Impact



GRHANITE®

A tool enabling de-identified data transfer and linkage

Future Health Today



A proactive digital health intervention that analyses patient information to assess chronic disease risk

Primary Care Trials Unit

Increasing access to trials in primary care



Increasing clinical trial participation opportunities for rural Australians

Thank you

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