

UQ Summer Research Project Description - 2026

Project title:	Key factors for successful implementation of immediate smoking cessation support in lung cancer care: A mixed-methods evaluation and realist review
Hours of engagement & delivery mode	Timeframe: 6 weeks (From 12 Jan 2026 to 20 Feb 2026) Hours of engagement: 30 hours per week Delivery Mode: Hybrid, remote and on-site (Centre for Online Health, Building 33, PAH Hospital)
Description:	<i>Lung cancer remains the leading cause of cancer-related deaths globally, and smoking cessation after diagnosis significantly improves survival and treatment outcomes. However, implementing timely cessation support in clinical practice is a significant challenge. The Australian Health system has dedicated efforts to improve lung cancer outcomes. Thus, smoking cessation remains an opportunity to maximise them and translate them to clinical practice. As such, this project aims to identify the key factors that enable the successful implementation of immediate smoking cessation support for patients diagnosed with lung cancer. Using a combination of quantitative and qualitative methods embedded in a realist review approach, the projects aim to synthesise evidence to understand what works, for whom, in what contexts, and why. The review will explore mechanisms and contextual conditions that influence the uptake, delivery, and sustainability of rapid-access smoking cessation interventions within lung care pathways. Findings will inform practical recommendations for integrating evidence-based cessation support into routine lung cancer care, ultimately improving patient outcomes and health system efficiency. This project addresses a real-world problem with direct clinical and policy relevance, providing an opportunity to shape future models of care and inform national guidelines.</i>
Expected learning outcomes and deliverables:	What You Will Gain As a scholar on this project, you will develop expertise in formulating research questions for complex clinical problems, designing and executing comprehensive search strategies, and conducting data extraction and synthesis using Realist methodology. You may also gain experience in critical appraisal, implementation science frameworks, and knowledge translation for both clinical and policy audiences. You will work closely with experienced researchers, participate in team meetings, and have opportunities to build collaborative networks across leading research centres. This project offers strong career development prospects, including the chance to co-author a publication in a high-impact journal and/or present findings at an international conference. Your Role You will be expected to: • Develop and refine the research question and review protocol. • Conduct systematic literature searches and screen studies. • Extract and synthesise data using Realist review principles. • Contribute to writing the final report and dissemination outputs.

	Skills You Will Learn • Evidence Synthesis & Realist Methodology – Advanced systematic review techniques and theory-driven analysis. • Implementation Science Expertise – Understanding how context and mechanisms shape intervention success. • Critical Appraisal & Data Interpretation – Evaluating diverse evidence sources and synthesising findings. • Knowledge Translation – Producing outputs for clinicians, policymakers, and researchers. Impact You Will generate Your work will generate actionable insights to optimise smoking cessation support for lung cancer patients, influencing clinical practice, service redesign, and policy development nationally and internationally. Scholars in this project will gain expertise in designing a research question for a specific clinical problem, developing a comprehensive search strategy, and collecting data. <u>About the Centres:</u> This project is a collaboration between the Thoracic Research Centre, the Centre for Online Health, and the Centre for Health Services Research, all part of the Faculty of Health, Medicine and Behavioural Sciences. The Centre for Online Health (COH) – Centre for Health Service Research is an award-winning research centre with 25 years of experience in teaching and mentoring students. Their research has contributed to the development, implementation, and evaluation of telehealth and virtual care services both nationally and internationally. The COH is based at the Princess Alexandra Hospital. The Thoracic Research Centre (UQTRC) is a 20-year research centre dedicated to conducting clinical, translational, and scientific research aimed at improving lung health, particularly in relation to lung cancer, mesothelioma, and chronic airway disease. This is based at the Prince Charles Hospital.
Suitable for:	Ideally, this project is targeted at postgraduate students with a background in medicine, public health or digital health. Other health-related sciences and academic backgrounds within the scope of the research can contact the primary supervisor for further information.
Primary Supervisor:	Dr Victor Gallegos-Rejas Centre for Online Health, UQ Princess Alexandra Hospital. Centre for Health Service Research, UQ Princess Alexandra Hospital. Thoracic Research Centre, UQ PCH North Clinic Unit.
Further info:	If you are interested, please get in touch with Dr Victor Gallegos-Rejas. Anytime: v.gallegosrejas@uq.edu.au Monday and Thursdays: 07 3443 3530