

## AuSCR Research Task Group approved projects

<b>Title</b>	<b>Reducing disability from stroke by improving access to best practice stroke care in Victoria – the STELAR Project (Shared Team Efforts Leading to Adherence Results)</b>
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<b>Submission date</b>	1 March 2019
<b>AuSCR role</b>	Recruitment
<b>Approved</b>	20 March 2019
<b>Status</b>	In progress
<b>Summary</b>	<p>In Australia, stroke is the second greatest cause of death and the largest cause of adult disability; with approximately 14,000 strokes occurring annually in Victoria. The quality of hospital care provided impacts directly on patient outcomes, yet there are wide variations in clinical practice and treatment received by patients.</p> <p>The Australian Stroke Clinical Registry (AuSCR) was established in 2009 to monitor the quality of acute stroke care and long-term (90-180 day) patient outcomes. The registry provides a platform to track clinical practice and compare performance across hospitals, however to date an 'active' approach of using these data to facilitate change and improve practice has not been used in Victoria.</p> <p>The aims of this project are to address observed gaps between current recommended clinical practices for acute stroke care within hospitals, relative to achievable benchmarks. Twelve Victorian hospitals will be recruited to participate in testing this new quality improvement program. Staff providing acute stroke care will be invited to complete a questionnaire and attend two externally facilitated workshops that will form the basis of the project. During these workshops staff will review their local data and identify important areas, in their management of patient with stroke, where their performance is below the benchmarks for quality improvement. Feasible strategies will be discussed and a plan of action developed that can be used to support change within the hospital setting. Additional support using follow-up calls and e-mails will be provided for a period of two months. Changes in practice are able to be monitored routinely through AuSCR.</p> <p>The desired outcome for the project is an increased number of patients receiving evidence-based care for acute stroke. It is expected that sustainable change will be achieved by upskilling staff to independently conduct quality improvement activities through: identification of areas of underperformance; self-evaluation; and development and implementation of action plans, using AuSCR live reports and data extracts.</p>