

Fellows of the Occupational Therapy Australia Research Academy 2023

Professor Stacey George

Professor Stacey George is one of the leading occupational therapy clinical researchers nationally, as well as Professor of Occupational Therapy and Allied Health Research Chair, Caring Futures Institute, at Flinders University. Her research expertise is both the development and translation of evidence, leading to practical changes to improve participation for people with neurological conditions, maximising health and quality of life outcomes. She completed her PhD in 2008, from which one study led to development and validation of the Adelaide Driving Self-Efficacy Scale, which has been translated into multiple languages and incorporated as an outcome measure in international research projects. Her work has been cited in international stroke guidelines, and has informed the National Assessing Fitness to Drive medical standards publication by Austroads and NDIS policies on funding vehicle modifications. She has been awarded over \$8 million in competitive grants from the Hospital Research Foundation, Stroke Foundation, and Lifetime Support Authority. She is also an experienced occupational therapy clinician (over 30 years) in acute, rehabilitation, and primary care, and as been in clinical research appointments for the past 14 years.

Associate Professor Jacki Liddle

A/Prof Liddle is an occupational therapist and researcher with a focus on quality of life and participation, working with older people, people with neurological conditions, people living with dementia, and families. She is motivated by developing understandings and approaches that make meaningful differences in practice and in everyday lives. She promotes inclusive approaches to research, and has a particular interest in researching in partnership with areas of community mobility and participation; life transitions; and technology codesign. Her research began by wanting to improve outcomes for people who struggled with stopping driving – leading to the development of a clinical intervention and training package, 'CarFreeMe', which has been adopted internationally and adapted for different populations. She researches with interdisciplinary teams including lived experience experts, clinicians, health, and technology researchers at the University of Queensland and The Princess Alexandra Hospital. She is excited about the future of occupational therapy research.



Professor Kate Laver

Kate's research develops, tests, and implements interventions which aim to support older people to remain healthy, happy, and in their own homes for longer. She uses a variety of methods to achieve this, including conducting clinical trials, synthesising existing evidence, and applied translational research studies. Her work included working in partnership with older people to ensure age-friendly housing and implementing new technologies, such as telehealth, which promote good health and social connection, and reduce the need for hospitalization. She has expertise in post diagnostic care and rehabilitative approaches for people with dementia and support programs for families, and has co-edited a book on this topic. She has received highly competitive research fellowships through NHMRC and ARC, was the founding co-chair of the FHMRI Consumer Advisory Board, and is Professor of Allied Health and Active Ageing at Flinders University.



Professor Rachael McDonald

Professor Rachael McDonald is a clinical, research, and teaching occupational therapist with an interest in enabling people with lifelong disabilities to participate in life situations. She is the Director of the MedTechVic Hub, the inaugural occupational therapist to achieve this role. The MedTechVic Hub is a multidisciplinary research hub which creates enabling technology, products, and services, to enhance lives for people with disability, their families, and the people who support them. Professor McDonald has been well-recognised outside of the occupational therapy field for her research and resultant technology, which enables Australians with disability to achieve the goals and life-participation they wish. This has led to her research playing a key roles in establishing the National Disability Insurance Scheme, including being involved in early consultation meetings for OT Australia. She has consistently demonstrated exceptional research outputs alongside an unwavering dedication, making an enduring impact to the profession of occupational therapy. Her sustained efforts over more than 30 years have yielded impressive results, inspiring others and driving meaningful change in our field.



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