

The Quality of Life Office Team



Professor Madeleine King, Cancer Australia Chair in Quality of Life

Professor King has been the Cancer Australia Chair in Quality of Life since its establishment in 2008. She is a clinical research methodologist with experience across biostatistics, epidemiology, psychometrics, and health economics – all key aspects of QOL research, which is a multi-disciplinary endeavour. Much of her research has been in cancer.

Over 25 years, she has specialised in patient-reported outcomes (PROs), including health-related quality of life (HRQOL), functioning, symptoms, patient preference and utility. Her expertise spans the research process: study design, measurement, analysis, interpretation and reporting of PROs. The breadth and depth of her expertise is unique in Australia and esteemed internationally. In 2018 she was awarded the John Ware and Alvin Tarlov Career Achievement Award in PRO Measures (jointly sponsored by the Health Assessment Lab and Medical Outcomes Trust). This award recognised the scope and impact of her contributions to setting standards for the adoption of PRO measures in clinical research, promoting the use of PRO measures among health care professionals, and educating clinicians and trialists in PRO principles and methods.

A major focus of her efforts in recent years has been improving standards of PRO/HRQoL research in clinical trials, from protocol development through to peer-review reporting. She co-led an international initiative to set best practice standards for protocol content of PROs and HRQoL in clinical trials (SPIRIT-PRO), and regularly conducts educational workshops on the topic nationally and internationally. She is increasingly involved in local, state and national initiatives to integrate PROs into routine clinical care and health service monitoring and quality improvement.

Doctor Claudia Rutherford

Dr Rutherford is a Senior Research Fellow and Deputy Director of the QOL Office, University of Sydney. She also holds an Honorary position at the Clinical Trials Research Unit, University of Leeds, UK, and is Chair of the Sydney Cancer Research Network Patient-Reported Outcome Special Interest Group.

She has been providing PRO advice to CTG members for the past five years, particularly regarding the design and conduct on PRO sub-studies, including the selection of appropriate PRO measures.

With under-graduate qualifications in psychology, she completed her PhD in 2012 in Health Outcome Measurement, and since then, has continued to specialise in patient-reported outcomes (PRO), including health-related quality of life (QOL) and symptom burden. She has experience undertaking mixed method systematic reviews, qualitative research, developing conceptual frameworks, and PRO measure development and evaluation. Claudia's research interests are within the field of Health Psychology, with a focus on methodological research to improve the quality of PRO assessment in clinical research. Specifically, her interests include improving the QOL of people affected by chronic health conditions, and developing valid PRO measures for use in research and clinical practice. More recently, her interests have extended to incorporating PRO evidence into clinical decision making through interventions such as nurse decision coaching, patient decision aids and training resources for health professionals.





Doctor Fabiola Mueller

Dr Mueller is a Health Psychologist specialised in research on the wellbeing of cancer patients. Her PhD research was dedicated to examining cancer patients' quality of life and cancer-related symptoms, particularly cancer-related fatigue. She received her PhD from the University of Groningen, the Netherlands, in 2018.

Dr Müller is skilled to critically evaluate the psychometric properties of PRO measures to assess cancer patients' symptoms and functioning and in assessing the wellbeing of carers (i.e. partners) of cancer patients. She has experience working with a diverse set of datasets, analytical methods, and statistical software. She received a travel grant from the Dutch René Vogels Stichting, allowing her to deepen her skills in analysing complex, nested datasets as a visiting researcher at the University of British Columbia, Canada. During her academic training, she taught statistics and research methodology, published in high impact journals and presented her research at several (inter-)national conferences.

Dr Müller is committed to applying her expertise both through advising/training as well as through conducting research to foster the inclusion and clinically meaningful interpretation of patient-reported outcome measures in clinical cancer trials.

Dr Rachel Campbell

Dr Campbell is a psychologist with expertise in both Clinical and Health Psychology. Her PhD research focused on examining the role of psychological factors in predicting sleep outcomes among healthy individuals as well as individuals with a range of chronic health conditions. She received her PhD in 2017 from the University of Ghent in Belgium.

Within her PhD research she used a variety of different research methodologies including cross-sectional, longitudinal, diary and experimental research designs. She has considerable experience in conducting quantitative analyses and is skilled at performing sophisticated statistical analyses on complex multilevel datasets. She has published her research in several high impact journals and has presented her work at a number of international conferences.

Dr Campbell is committed to supporting the QOL Technical Services by providing advice, education and training with a view to improving the quality of PRO assessment in clinical research.





Ms Margaret-Ann Tait

Ms Tait is the Senior Research and Administration Officer, and has been with the QOL Office since 2015. She has degrees in Psychology, B.A.S. (Hons) and MSc (Coaching Psychology), as well as certificates in small business management and bookkeeping.

With more than 20 years of experience in office management, two years working as a research assistant with the School of Psychology, and more than three years with the QOL Office, she has demonstrated ability to provide research administrative services and operational assistance to Prof King and the QOL Office staff to support the QOL services provided to the 13 Australian Cancer Clinical Trials Groups.