RESEARCH SUPPORT TEAM
SCHOOL OF PSYCHOLOGY
MELBOURNE
TEAM MEMBERS

• GILL TERRETT (TEAM LEADER)
• DAVID HAMILTON
• CECELIA WINKELMAN

ADVISOR/MENTOR: PROF. PETER RENDELL
ISSUE 1

Read the RST guidelines
The goal of each RST is to provide support and mentorship to individual RST members to:

• develop their research skills
• to publish journal articles, book chapters and books;
• to increase presentations at ACU and external conferences
• to confidently seek collaborations
• to professionally write and submit applications for grants; and to supervise HDR students effectively.
ISSUE 2

- Who should be in the team and what is that decision based on?

Our team was based on mutual interest in developmental psychology, although from diverse areas within that field.
COMMON BACKGROUND IN DEVELOPMENTAL PSYCHOLOGY

• Gill Terrett- social and emotional development in children and adolescents

• David Hamilton - atypical development (intellectual disability, autism)
• Cecelia Winkelman – childhood disorders

• *Peter Rendell – cognitive development across the lifespan.

*Choice of mentor is important. Decide what role you want/need your mentor to play then approach the appropriate person.
TEAM RESEARCH FOCUS

SOCIAL, EMOTIONAL AND COGNITIVE DEVELOPMENT
ISSUE 3

Decide what each team member feels they need and the type of support that would lead to **tangible** advances in research skills and output.
We asked ourselves the question – what are the barriers to us being able to publish more?
What it wasn’t

Lack of desire or motivation, or lack of contact with research (lots of research supervision goes on in psychology at honours and Masters levels particularly)
What it was

• Lack of time (not just to write but to plan cutting edge research)
• Some skills deficits in sophisticated statistical procedures required these days in quality psychological journals
• Sense of isolation in research activity supervising our own students.

• Research topics of students accommodating their diverse research interests that may not match our own. A little too accommodating?
• **AIM 1:** Increase Publications

• **AIM 2:** Develop coherent research program for ourselves and our post-graduate research students consistent with the focus of the team
How to achieve those aims?

We decided we needed to spell out exactly what this translated to in terms of specifics.
AIM 1: Write-up existing data sets for submission and publication and submit abstracts for international conferences.

We were very specific about the journals we would target and the conferences we wanted to present at.
AIM 2: - Develop coherent research program

• Increase quality of research done by our students. Design projects that address gaps in the current literature

• Increase chances of acceptance to present at conferences and to publish in quality journals (ties in with aim of team to increase publications)

• Attract more HDR students
What goes in the BUDGET?

• What aspects/parts of your aims would money help you achieve? Spell out how the budget helps you achieve your aims.
EXAMPLE 1

• Associated with the aim of increasing publications was our awareness of the need for advances statistical help.

So we budgeted for Statistical Consultation Services at Melbourne University.
EXAMPLE 2

• We were also aware of the value of offering participant reimbursement to increase recruitment in our experimental studies so we budgeted a modest amount to cover travel and inconvenience.
EXAMPLE 3

• To get our work out there and to connect with the international research community we wanted to present at international conferences so we budgeted a little for conference support for each team member.
• Finally, be aware that you will have to provide a progress report every 6 months that asks you about the extent to which aims have been met, barriers to progress and research output so be realistic in what you promise!!

GOOD LUCK!