



## PROJECT SUMMARY FORM

Project Title	Impact of the Sixth and Seventh waves of COVID-19
Supervisor name	Prof Drew Richardson
CHS/ACTHD position	Senior Specialist in Emergency Medicine
Address	Emergency Department Canberra Hospital
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## Lead discipline (please select one)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Nursing and Midwifery | <input type="checkbox"/> Health Economics |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Allied Health         | <input type="checkbox"/> Biostatistics    |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Medicine   | <input type="checkbox"/> Epidemiology     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-clinical          | <input type="checkbox"/> Health Policy    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other                 |   |

## Does this project involve research led by, or relating to Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islanders?

- |                              |  |
|------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No |
|------------------------------|--|

## Outline of the project (250 words max)

Background: The COVID-19 pandemic has impacted all aspects of Health Care in the ACT, with significant effects on workload and staffing in Emergency Medicine. This study follows on from the 2022 Vacation Scholar's work on the Omicron Waves wave which has so far resulted in four published abstracts.

Aim: To describe the impact of the two waves in 2023 on the tertiary Emergency Department at Canberra Hospital

Methods: Retrospective Chart review of all patients known to be COVID positive or diagnosed as such after arrival in ED. Cases will be classified by source of infection, symptomatology and ED outcomes. Data will be analysed in association with known inpatient workload, strain predominant in ACT at the time at the time and publicly available data on demographics of the disease and immunisation levels.

Results: Accurate description of the workload implications of the pandemic is vital to understanding and preparing for future infectious events and anticipating the likely outcomes for the health system when immunity wanes or future variants appear.

## Proposed research methods

Retrospective Chart Review

**Preferred study discipline being undertaken by the student**

Medicine

**Benefits to the student and to the department**

Research Experience and gains of published abstracts for the student.  
Better understanding of the workload caused by the COVID-19 Omicron wave and thus ability to prepare for future waves for the Department.

**How does this project align with any or all of the three strategic objectives of *Better Together: A strategic plan for research in the ACT health system* (100w max)****[Better together - A strategic plan for research in the ACT health system 2022–2030](#)**

1. The ACT health system becomes a learning health system – The aim is that the health system learns about the effects of COVID-19 prior to any future similar events. Accurate information will be used in planning the responses of EDs both inside and outside the ACT.
2. ACT people have capacity to undertake high value research in the health system – Involving a medical student as a Vacation Scholar builds the capacity of researchers early in their career.
3. ACT research infrastructure supports high value research – this is high value research with a plan for publication and ongoing studies.

**ACTHD/CHS Department where the student will be based**

Emergency Department Canberra Hospital

**Will the student be in a patient facing role at any time during the project?**

No

**Will the student require access to CHS and/or ACTHD network / DHR / applications / database? If yes, please identify**

Yes, DHR and network applications.

**Will the student require CHS / ACT Health building access? If yes, please identify**

Desirable for face-to-face meetings but not mandatory.

**Supervisor availability across key dates**

Friday 10 Nov – Preplacement presentation session, Canberra Hospital Auditorium <i>Approximate duration 9am-12pm – supervisors are not required for full session. Possible Webex option.</i>	Yes
Placement period 10 Nov – 9 Feb Please indicate availability across this time. <i>E.g. leave over Christmas/New Year</i>	<i>On leave Christmas to New Year and for 1 week from 13 Jan, available online in that time</i>
At least two face-to-face sessions with the student each week during their 6-week placement.	Yes
Friday 9 Feb – Final presentation session, Canberra Hospital Auditorium <i>Approximate duration 9am-1pm – supervisors are not required for full session. Possible Webex option.</i>	Yes

X I have read and I agree to the [ACT Health privacy policy](#) which includes statements on how the ACT Health Directorate acts lawfully to collect and use data to report on activities and to plan for future events and initiatives; including that we may use your details to contact you if required for program delivery and/or evaluation and to inform you of future similar opportunities.

Please submit form to [health.research@act.gov.au](mailto:health.research@act.gov.au)