

Ben Harrap

Qualifications

2018 - Master of Biostatistics, University of Melbourne

2015 - Bachelor of Arts (Honours), University of Western Australia

2014 - Bachelor of Arts, University of Western Australia

Employment

Sep 2021 - Present, Biostatistician, Ballarat Health Services

At BHS I provide statistical and research support to clinicians engaged in research. This ranges from helping develop research questions and writing protocols to performing statistical analysis and interpreting results. I have also developed educational materials and delivered presentations for clinicians on the topic of good research practices.

Mar 2020 - Present, PhD Candidate, Indigenous Health and Epidemiology Group, University of Melbourne

My PhD project focuses on the health of Western Australian Aboriginal children and how their health intersects with the child protection system. The data comes from a data linkage of several administrative sources, including hospitalisations and child protection data. My current plan is to examine contemporary trends in the child protection and health data and perform a case-control analysis of children who ever vs. never appear in the child protection data. I believe it's vitally important to include Aboriginal perspectives when doing research which affects Aboriginal people, so I'm grateful to have Aboriginal people in supervisory roles and in the community reference group. They help to guide my research and ensure it's relevant to their needs and interests.

Sep 2019 - Present, Research Assistant, Peter Doherty Institute for Infection and Immunity

As part of the International and Immigrant Health Group I provide statistical advice and analyses to the research team and contribute to the writing and submission of academic papers. While here I have also provided statistical education to my collaborators on the use of statistical tools such as p -values and confidence intervals. During my time here I also completed Cochrane systematic review training and led a systematic review of Type 2 Diabetes in resettled refugee and asylum seeker populations.

Apr 2018 - Present, Research Assistant, Centre for Health Policy, University of Melbourne

My role supports Emeritus Professor Lesleyanne Hawthorne in the examination of skilled migration to Australia. Much of my work revolves around sourcing data, understanding its complexities, and summarising it to capture quantitative trends in skilled migration to Australia. Several ABS data products, including the census, have been used, as well as administrative data from the Department of Home Affairs, the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency, and the Occupational English Test. We also collaborated with Canadian colleagues to produce a comparison between Australia and Canada's migration programmes.

May 2019 - Feb 2020, Research Assistant, Melbourne Institute, University of Melbourne

In this short-term role my primary responsibility was preparing the final wave of the Medicine in Australia: Balancing Employment and Life survey for release. This involved data cleaning, consistency checking, and updating the user manual to reflect changes to the survey. I also worked as a data custodian, managing the secure transfer of data for research purposes. This role was challenging but rewarding as I inherited a great deal of code with minimal documentation, however I spent the time to understand how it worked, added the necessary updates, and wrote my own documentation for future reference.

Nov 2017 - May 2019, Biostatistician, Melbourne EpiCentre, Royal Melbourne Hospital

I worked as a statistical consultant providing support to clinicians engaged in medical research. The consulting process began with meetings to identify the clinicians' specific research questions and how they could

be answered with data and statistical techniques, and concluded with the analysis and writing up of results suitable for publication. During my time here I also set up a REDCap database for the IMPETUS-D multi-centre randomised clinical trial and managed the integration of existing administrative data into the database.

Awards

Statistical Society of Australia t-shirt design competition

My winning design is the official t-shirt for the Statistical Society of Australia.

Publications

Journal articles

Darvall, JN, Wang, A, Nazeem, MN, Harrison, CL, Clarke, L, Mendoza, C, Parker, A, Harrap, B, Teale, G, Story, D, & Hessian, E 2020, 'A pedometer-guided physical activity intervention for obese pregnant women (the fit MUM study): Randomized feasibility study' *JMIR mHealth and uHealth*, vol. 8, no. 5, p. e15112, doi: 10.2196/15112.

Eaton, S, Harrap, B, Downey, L, Thien, K, Bowtell, M, Bardell-Williams, M, Ratheesh, A, McGorry, P, & O'Donoghue, B 2019, 'Incidence of treated first episode psychosis from an Australian early intervention service and its association with neighbourhood characteristics' *Schizophrenia Research*, vol. 209, pp. 206–211, doi: 10.1016/j.schres.2019.04.017.

Harrap, B, Hawthorne, L, Holland, M, McDonald, JT, & Scott, A 2021, 'Australia's superior skilled migration outcomes compared with Canada's' *International Migration*, doi: 10.1111/imig.12940.

Other

Szawlowski S, Harrap B, Leahy A, Scott A. 2019. 'MABEL User Manual: Wave 11 Release', *Melbourne Institute of Applied Economic and Social Research, The University of Melbourne, Melbourne*

Presentations

Conferences

Harrap, B. 2021. What I didn't learn at university. In Early Career & Student Statisticians Conference Proceedings 2021. *7th Conference of the Early Career & Student Statisticians Network (Australia)*, (pp. 26). Statistical Society of Australia. URL: <https://statsoc.org.au/ECSSC>

Hawthorne, L., Harrap, B. 2019. Health Workforce Migration to Australia - Trends and Issues 2008-2019, *International Metropolis Conference 2019*

Hawthorne, L., Short, S., Sampford, C., Breakey, H., Diocera, D., Marcus, K., Ransome, W., Harrap, B. 2018. Australia compared to Canada's level of reliance on skilled health worker migration - the latest policy developments, *International Metropolis Conference 2018*

Seminars

Harrap, B. 2021. Research from a statistician's perspective. *BHS Symposium: Research 'On the Run' 2021*. Ballarat Health Services

Meetings

Harrap, B. 2021, ‘The health of Aboriginal children in Western Australia and its intersection with the child protection system’, *LifeCourse Data Linkage Interest Group*

Professional Development

Workshops

Nov 2021 - A Crash Course in SQL

Jul 2021 - AMSI Winter School for Statistical Data Science

Dec 2020 - Data wrangling with R

Nov 2020 - Data visualisation with R

Oct 2020 - Semiparametric regression in R

Oct 2019 - Gaining skills in biostatistical consultancy

Conferences

Dec 2021 - 9th SNAICC Annual Conference

Jul 2021 - The Early Career and Student Statisticians Conference

Nov 2020 - International Population Data Linkage Network Conference

Oct 2018 - International Metropolis Conference

Aug 2018 - Joint International Society for Clinical Biostatistics and Australian Statistical Conference

Jul 2018 - useR! Conference

Research supervision

Jul 2021 - Nov 2021

Co-supervision with Dr Lina Gubhaju for a medical student one-semester research project: Haussegger, Z. *Sleep and Mental Health in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Young People: A retrospective data analysis.*

Jul 2021 - Nov 2021

Co-supervision with Dr Lina Gubhaju for a medical student one-semester research project: Moffroid, H. ‘*Next Generation Youth Well-being Study:*’ *The importance of cultural connectedness for Aboriginal adolescent health and wellbeing.*

Volunteering

Jan 2022 - Present, Buddy, Melbourne School of Population and Global Health PhD Buddy program

The MSPGH Buddy program pairs up new PhD students with a more experienced PhD student (me) to help them navigate through the first year of their PhD. As a Buddy in this program I have been

Apr 2021 - Present, Founder, Ballarat Data, Statistics, and Research Interest Group

I created this interest group to make a space for people who work with data and are interested in the application of statistics and data science. Each month I host an event where we listen to a talk on put on by the Statistical Society of Australia, with networking and discussion afterwards. Through creating this group I have met a wide range of people in the Ballarat area, from ecologists to medical researchers, data scientists to business intelligence. It has been a great experience in building relationships and a community.

Dec 2018 - Present, Various Roles, Statistical Society of Australia

I have worn many different hats in my time volunteering for the SSA. Primarily I have acted as the Secretary for the Victorian branch, which mainly includes organising meetings, taking minutes, and distributing action items. I've also taken on a role with the organising committee of the Early Career and Student Statistician Conference 2021, contributing to the website design, publication of the new Inferential Interests magazine, and regular secretarial duties. My most recent contribution has been part of the Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion committee, where I wrote a series of recommendations for actions that can be taken to make the society a more welcoming and inclusive place.

Feb 2018 - Mar 2019, Data Volunteer, Asylum Seeker Resource Centre

I provided administrative support for users of the CRM software, wrote documentation and statistical reports, and was part of a working group identifying the ASRC's data requirements and developing a roadmap for the next few years.

Memberships and Accreditations

2020 - Present, Member, International Population Data Linkage Network

2018 - 2026, Accredited Graduate Statistician, Statistical Society of Australia

2017 - Present, Member, Statistical Society of Australia