The lack of Australian studies about patients’ knowledge and perceptions of healthcare-acquired infections provided the impetus for a pilot study in healthcare facilities in Far North Queensland.

**LITERATURE SEARCH**
- Must be done
- Can you get help: librarian/honours student?
- Don’t reinvent the wheel

**GRANTS & ETHICS APPLICATIONS**
- Research needs funding & ethics
- Apply early and often for funding
- Having an experienced researcher helps both
- Keep ethics current

**BARRIERS/PROBLEMS**
- Changes in health service management
- Attaining ethics approvals and site authorisations across multiple settings
- 7 sites became 2
- Remote site participant recruitment (surgical lists)

**SURVEYS**

**PAPERS SUBMITTED**
- Dissemination of results
- Journals are great but difficult
- Conferences/social media are options
- What about your health service?

**PARTICIPANTS**
- Surgical patients at 2 sites
- 29 male
- 22 female

**BARRIERS/PROBLEMS**
- Changes in health service management
- Attaining ethics approvals and site authorisations across multiple settings
- 7 sites became 2
- Remote site participant recruitment (surgical lists)

**AN INTERESTING IDEA**
- Nurse-driven
  - 7 Far north Queensland sites
  - 1 University
  - 4 Health services
  - 1 Professor
  - 2 PhDs
  - 5 Infection control practitioners

**COMUNICATION**
- Diverse and distant sites
- Need to maintain contact
- Use of email/teleconference
- Skype
- Should consider file sharing apps

**PATIENTS ACQUIRE THEIR INFORMATION FROM**
- Doctors
- Hospital
- Television
- But media not always accurate

**SUGGESTIONS FOR PREVENTION**
- Alcohol-based handrub for staff & patients
- Involve patients in their care

**AWARENESS & UNDERSTANDING**
- 42 aware of HCAI risk
- 36 adequate information
- 41 adequate understanding
- Specific micro understanding poor

**TELECONFERENCES**

**EMAILS**

**A RESEARCH JOURNEY**

Undertaking a pilot study of patients’ perceptions of healthcare-acquired infections

**Authors**
- Matt Mason, Lecturer, University of the Sunshine Coast
- Dr Wendy Smyth, Nurse Manager - Research, Tropical Health Research Unit for Nursing and Midwifery Practice (THRU), Townsville Hospital and Health Service and James Cook University
- Gail Abanethy, Research Assistant, THRU, Townsville Hospital and Health Service and James Cook University
- Janine Corcoran, Nursing Director – Infection Prevention & Control, Townsville Hospital and Health Service
- Megan Hayes, BSc Student, Centre for Nursing and Midwifery Research, James Cook University, Townsville
- Dr Linda Stellas, Professor of Nursing – Tropical Health, THRU, College of Healthcare Sciences, James Cook University and Townsville Hospital and Health Service, Townsville, and Honorary Professor, School of Medicine, The University of Queensland

**References**
- Poster Preparation: Anita Jones, Digital Learning Resource Developer, Centre for Support and Advancement of Learning & Teaching, University of the Sunshine Coast