



THE JOANNA BRIGGS INSTITUTE
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GRADE



2017 Report

JBI ADELAIDE

GRADE

CENTER

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Introduction

The JBI Adelaide GRADE Center, established in 2016, was the first GRADE center in Australia and New Zealand and has acted as a central hub of GRADE related research and teaching in the region. In addition, it was the first GRADE Center to be established within the Joanna Briggs Collaboration, and as such supports and promotes the use of GRADE amongst this group. The center offers training in GRADE methods and contributes to the scientific development of GRADE methods, focusing on promoting the use of GRADE for systematic reviews and guideline development. For more information, visit <http://grade.joannabriggs.org/>

This report briefly outlines the activities of the Center since its [launch](#) in November 2016.

Teaching Report

In Australia and New Zealand, JBI Adelaide GRADE Members run workshops on GRADE using the JBI Adelaide GRADE teaching materials which have been developed and reviewed by GRADE Center staff. These teaching and training activities serve as a way to promote the use of GRADE across Australia and New Zealand. These materials have been shared with the leads of the GRADE Training and Credentialing working group although no feedback has been received. These materials are regularly reviewed and updated by center members.

A brief summary of our training activities, including the number of participants registered, is included below. These are correct as at the 5th of December 2017.

Adelaide training

- Four external 1-day workshops (56 participants)
- 2 Internal workshops for JBI/University of Adelaide Students (42 participants)

Total = 98 participants

Other GRADE workshops/ training

- Singapore 1-day workshop for National University Health System staff (75 registrations)
- Melbourne 1-day Workshop for Melbourne University/ Centre for Evidence Implementation staff (13 participants)
- Perth 1-day workshop for Curtin University (31 participants)
- HSRAANZ 1 hour [webinar](#) (161 registrations)
- NHMRC Melbourne workshop led by Nancy Santesso (23 registrations)

Total = 303 participants

Systematic Review Training (including GRADE)

In addition to the dedicated GRADE training mentioned above, a GRADE module has been incorporated into the JBI global Comprehensive Systematic Review Training Program. As of the 1st of December, 82 of our courses were held across the globe with 1276 participants, all who were introduced to GRADE methods.

Methodological and Research Project Work

The JBI Adelaide GRADE Center are involved in a number of methodological and scholarly projects related to GRADE. This includes methodological development work as part of the GRADE Project groups and also in other projects relating to JBI related implementation and use of GRADE. Members work on projects relating to the development of GRADE methods, evaluation of GRADE, experiences of using GRADE and any other GRADE related scholarly work. Members also generate their own projects for scholarly consideration and these are discussed within the GRADE center and where appropriate the broader GRADE working group.

JBI Adelaide GRADE Centre staff contribute to or are members of the following GRADE Working Groups: Overviews, CERQual, Training and Credentialing, Prognosis, Stakeholders, Wording of recommendations, Rapid guidelines, Implementation, Technology, Evidence to decisions, Certainty in evidence and Philosophy of GRADE.

Organisation and logistics

The Centre has in-kind support from the Joanna Briggs Institute, but as we continue to expand we have invested in ensuring we have the relevant structure and frameworks in place to support our growth. As such, we have developed or are developing the following:

- An engagement [framework](#) for the JBI Adelaide Centre
- Investigating and maintaining a social media presence
- Secretariat support for the center
- Maintaining center member lists with the expanding membership (21 members of the Center currently)
- Maintaining a registry of GRADE expertise across Australia
- Website for the center
- Development of promotional materials
- Determining the current use of GRADE methods across Australia
- Hosting of four meetings per year for the center including agenda and minutes development
- Establishing a separate budget line for GRADE Center work within the JBI budget to ensure sustainability and enable growth

Using GRADE in guidelines, systematic reviews and health technology assessments

GRADE Center members are actively using GRADE methods in guidelines and systematic reviews. We are undertaking guideline development projects with bodies such as the National Heart Foundation to facilitate and support them to use the GRADE approach.

Promotion and supporting the use of GRADE within Australia and the JBC

The JBI Adelaide GRADE Center aim to promote and support the use of GRADE throughout Australia and New Zealand and the Joanna Briggs Collaboration. Since our launch, we have received numerous inquiries regarding GRADE work via email, phone and in person. Meetings and teleconferences have been held with various guideline developers and professional societies to introduce them to GRADE and to highlight the benefits of this approach. In addition, a formal letter introducing the centre and GRADE approach was sent to every organisation that submitted a guideline to the NHMRC for approval. We have also seen increased interest in GRADE from across JBI's 80 collaborating entities across the globe, with additional requests from them to join the working group and even establish their own GRADE centers, such as our entity in Thailand.

Summary of Findings Tables in JBI Reviews

Previously, systematic reviewers submitting to the Joanna Briggs Institute Database of Systematic Reviews and Implementation Reports were strongly encouraged to include a GRADE Summary of Findings (SoF) table. This was made compulsory in 2017 so that all JBI reviews of effects include a GRADE SoF table in the future. Although not every review has an SoF table yet, with a recent update to the author guidelines and the JBI Reviewer's Manual for the journal to ensure GRADE SoF are included, we expect increased numbers in 2018.

Year	2017 (up to Issue 9)	SoF Grade	%
Total SRs	40	9	
Comprehensive	1	1	100%
Mixed	0	0	
Prevalence	1	0	
Qual	12	0	0%
Quan	23	8	35%
Scoping	2	0	
Umbrella	1	0	

Year	Total SRs Published	SoF Grade
2015	45	2
2016	46	8
2017 (up to Iss. 9)	40	9

Conclusion

We believe a significant amount of work has occurred during the first year of the JBI Adelaide GRADE Center, particularly in relation to establishing the center and teaching activities. In following years we aim to improve our contribution in terms of GRADE methodological work, in ensuring we provide a hub of expertise in GRADE across Australia, and to collaborate with the newly announced Melbourne GRADE Center.