

Dr Meryl Lovarini

Occupational Therapist
PhD. MHSoc. BSc. Grad Dip OT. Grad Dip Safety Sc.

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Brief Curriculum Vitae

Qualifications

- 2012 *Doctor of Philosophy*, Discipline of Occupational Therapy, The University of Sydney
2004 *Master of Health Science* (Health Informatics), The University of Sydney
2000 *Certificate IV in Assessment and Workplace Training*, Parramatta College
1991 *Graduate Diploma in Safety Science*, The University of New South Wales
1982 *Graduate Diploma in Occupational Therapy*, The University of Sydney (Formerly Cumberland College of Health Sciences)
1981 *Bachelor of Science*, The University of New South Wales

Professional Registration and Memberships

Registered occupational therapist with the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency and member of Occupational Therapy Australia.

Recent Professional Experience

- 2011 – *Lecturer*: Discipline of Occupational Therapy, University of Sydney
2010 – 2011 *Research Project Co-ordinator*: Implementation of evidence project, Discipline of Occupational Therapy, The University of Sydney.
2010 *Casual Lecturer*: Discipline of Occupational Therapy, The University of Sydney
2003 – 2010 *Research Assistant*: OTseeker Database Project, The University of Sydney, University of Western Sydney.
2002 – 2007 *Self-employed Occupational Therapist*: Delivery of consultancy projects and educational workshops relevant to evidence-based practice.
2004 – 2006 *Casual Lecturer*: School of Biomedical & Health Sciences, University of Western Sydney.
2004 – 2005 *Research Assistant*: Increasing the use of outcome measures by occupational therapists project, University of Western Sydney.
2001 – 2003 *Research Project Manager*: Increasing the use of research evidence by occupational therapists in NSW project, University of Western Sydney.

Principal Teaching & Supervision Responsibilities

Undergraduate teaching: Occupational Performance and Ageing, Research skills for OT Honours Students.
Postgraduate teaching: Assessing Evidence for OT Practice.
Supervision: Co-supervision of PhD and Masters students, supervision of Honours students.

Research Grants & Awards

- 2014 *Establishing pathways to implement and sustain evidence based fall prevention in primary care: The iSOLVE project*. Clemson, L., Sherrington, C., Roberts, C., Peiris, D., Willis, K., Mackenzie, L., Pit, S., Poulos, R., Lam, M., Lovarini, M. National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) Partnership Project Grant.
2013 *Participation, Safety and Active Ageing*. Lovarini, M., Clemson, L & Du Toit, S. International Program Development Fund (IPDF) Grant. The University of Sydney.
2008 *PhD University Postgraduate Award*. The University of Sydney.
2007 *PhD Postgraduate Research Scholarship*. The Australian Department of Health & Ageing.

Selected Publications

- Lovarini, M., Clemson, L. & Dean, C. [in preparation]. Achieving program sustainability in fall prevention: The Conditions for Sustainability Theory.
- Lovarini, M., Clemson, L. & Dean, C. (2013). Sustainability of community-based fall prevention programs: A systematic review. *Journal of Safety Research*, 47, 9-17.
- Lovarini, M., Wallen, M. & Imms, C. (2006). Searching for evidence in paediatric occupational therapy using free versus subscription databases. A comparison of outcomes. *Physical and Occupational Therapy in Pediatrics*, 26(3), 19-38.
- McCluskey, A., Lovarini, M., Bennett, S., McKenna, K., Tooth, L & Hoffmann, T. (2006). How and why do occupational therapists use the OTseeker evidence database? *Australian Occupational Therapy Journal*, 53(3) 188 – 195.
- McCluskey, A. & Lovarini, M. (2005). Providing education on evidence-based practice improved knowledge but did not change behaviour: A before and after study. *BMC Medical Education*, 5, 40.
- Tooth, L., Bennett, S., Hoffmann, T., McCluskey, A., McKenna, K. & Lovarini, M. (2005). Appraising the quality of randomised controlled trials: Inter-rater reliability for the OTseeker evidence database *Journal of Evaluation in Clinical Practice*, 11(6), 547-555.
- McCluskey, A., Lovarini, M., Bennett, S., McKenna, K., Tooth, L. & Hoffmann, T. (2005). The extent and quality of evidence on the effectiveness of injury prevention and management: An analysis of the OTseeker database. *British Journal of Occupational Therapy*, 68(10), 1-10.

Selected Research Reports

- Lovarini, M. (2012). *Sustainability of a community-based falls prevention program: A grounded theory*. [PhD thesis]. Discipline of Occupational Therapy. The University of Sydney, Lidcombe, Australia. Available at: <http://ses.library.usyd.edu.au/handle/2123/8044>
- Hill, K., Vrantsidis, F., Clemson, L., Lovarini, M., Russell, M. & Day, L. (2011). *Community falls prevention program sustainability resource package*. La Trobe University, Melbourne, Australia. Available at: <http://www.monash.edu.au/miri/research/research-areas/home-sport-and-leisure-safety/fpru>
- Clemson, L., Mathews, M., Dean, C., Lovarini, M. & Alam, M. (2008). *Translating research into practice: Sustainability of a community-based falls prevention program in minority communities*. [Final report]. The University of Sydney, Lidcombe, Australia.

Current Research Projects

- Establishing pathways to implement and sustain evidence based fall prevention in primary care: The iSOLVE project*, with L. Clemson, C. Sherrington, C. Roberts, D. Peiris, K. Willis, L. Mackenzie, S. Pit, R. Poulos & M.Lam.
- Participation, Safety and Active Ageing International Research Collaborations*, with L. Clemson, S. Du Toit, L. Mackenzie (The University of Sydney, Australia) & A. Patomella, L. Borell, A. Kottorp, L.Nygard (Karolinska Institutet, Sweden).
- Falls prevention in Malaysia*, with M. Romli (PhD student), L. Mackenzie, L. Clemson & M.P. Tan.
- Falls prevention attitudes, knowledge and practice of general practitioners: A cross-sectional survey study*, with K. Kielich (Honours student), L. Mackenzie, L. Clemson & D. Sfiligoi.
- The experiences and perceptions of older people from culturally and linguistically diverse groups regarding participation in community-based falls prevention interventions: A systematic review of qualitative studies*, with H. Jang, L. Clemson, K. Willis, S. Lord & C. Sherrington.

Research Interests

- Preventing falls in older people.
- Use of information and communication technologies for improving health outcomes in older people.
- Active ageing and participation.
- Knowledge translation and evidence-based practice.