

<b>Project Title</b>	<b>The experiences and needs of women with Gestational Diabetes Mellitus from identified ethnic groups in western healthcare settings: A systematic scoping review.</b>
<b>Supervisor</b>	<b>Prof Deborah Davis</b>
<b>Address</b>	<b>University of Canberra, 11 Kirinari St Bruce 2617</b>
<b>Telephone</b>	<b>0422224288</b>
<b>Email</b>	<b>Deborah.davis@canberra.edu.au</b>

**Lead discipline (please select one)**

**Midwifery**

**Allied Health**

**Medicine**

**Pre-clinical**

**Health Economics**

**Biostatistics**

**Value-based Healthcare**

**Epidemiology**

**Public health**

**Outline of the project**

Gestational Diabetes Mellitus (GDM) is the fastest growing type of diabetes in Australia complicating 15% of all pregnancies and affecting almost 41,000 women each year. Certain ethnic groups are at increased risk of GDM including Asian, Indian subcontinent, Aboriginal, Torres Strait Islander, Pacific Islander, Maori, Middle Eastern, and non-white African.

Nutrition and lifestyle changes represent the mainstay of management for women with GDM. Clinical outcomes for both mother and baby, can be improved with diet and lifestyle changes and if these can be sustained, the risk of developing type 2 diabetes may be avoided or delayed. To fully engage women in making and sustaining these changes, woman centred models of care that address their clinical, cultural, psychosocial, and emotional needs, are required. Current services for women with GDM have been criticised for their Euro-centricity. Models of care that address the needs of women from a variety of ethnic groups are needed, however we have little understanding of the experiences and needs of women from these higher risk ethnic groups.

This systematic review represents an important first step in designing services that are culturally responsive, by systematically reviewing the literature on the experiences of women from these higher risk ethnic groups with a focus on their experiences and needs in relation to healthcare for a diagnosis of GDM. This will inform a future planned project

focusing on co-designing a model of care for women from culturally and linguistically diverse groups.

#### **Proposed research methods**

A systematic scoping review uses a systematic process for identifying relevant research on a specified topic. The research evidence identified is then appraised and synthesised resulting in a work that presents the state of the art in relation to evidence on a particular topic. Scoping reviews are useful when the topic has not been researched comprehensively and also help to identify gaps in the literature, clarify working definitions and conceptual boundaries relating to a topic. This scoping review will follow the methods detailed by the Joanna Briggs Institute  
<https://wiki.joannabriggs.org/display/MANUAL/Chapter+11%3A+Scoping+reviews>

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

Midwifery, Public Health, Nutrition and Dietetics,

#### **Potential benefits to the student and to the department**

The student will gain invaluable experience in conducting a systematic review of the literature including designing the search architecture, locating, appraising literature and synthesising research findings. In so doing the student will also gain in depth knowledge of the literature relating to the experiences and needs of women from these high-risk ethnic groups of GDM. Finally, in preparing a manuscript for publication the student will gain important skills in publication.

#### **Alignment with Government Research Priorities 100w max**

This project aligns with the government research priorities: diabetes, women and children's health and health of vulnerable populations. In addition, it supports the ***Best Start for Canberra's Children: the First Thousand Days Framework***. The first 1000 days includes maternal health which is recognised as significant in the development of healthy children. The framework in the ACT focuses on three key domains including maternal nutrition.

#### **Department within ACT Health Directorate / Canberra Health Services where the student will be based**

SYNERGY: Nursing & Midwifery Research Centre  
University of Canberra and ACT Health

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