Aged Care Services Redesign

- Extended roles for allied health professionals: An updated systematic review of the evidence
  
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Aim:

• To review the level of evidence around extended roles for allied health professionals.
Context:

• Internationally healthcare services have finite resources
• Ageing population + technology = increased pressure
• Extended scope roles for allied health professionals is one strategy
Method:

- Search strategy -> Patients Intervention Controls Outcomes
- Professions: Physiotherapists, Occupational therapists, Speech Pathologists, Paramedics, Radiographers
- Modifications
  - Tightened professionals due to interdisciplinary & transdisciplinary grouping
Results:

Initial Search
1000

Potential relevance
254

Not relevant
746

Relevant
(Full text)
60

Data extraction
21

Not relevant
193

Literature reviews,
Contextual or not Relevant
39

Contextual
(indirectly)
9
Key Findings:

• AHP are adequately skilled to acquire new tasks
• Patient access to care is improving
• Patients appear to be satisfied with the care provided
• Healthcare decision makers are continuing to invest
Future Directions:

• Level of evidence remains low, varying designs
  – No RCTs, Case studies, small cohort, descriptive

• Emerging clarity around what specific tasks constitute Extended Scope Practice for professions
  – Varies by country due to legislation
Future Directions:

• Challenge the “status quo”
• Inclusion of patient outcome measures
• Robust economic evaluation
• Impact to junior clinicians
• Emerging descriptions of training frameworks, competency development