

# Implementing an evidence-based model for cognitive assessment in acute occupational therapy practice

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Occupational Therapists (OT) play an essential role in assessment and management of cognitive impairment.

Within a metropolitan hospital, there was an absence of stream-lined pathways and resources to support staff in the selection and conduct of cognitive assessments. An evidence-based approach to assessment is critical to standardise practice and ensure continuity and optimisation of care for patients.



## Primary aim:

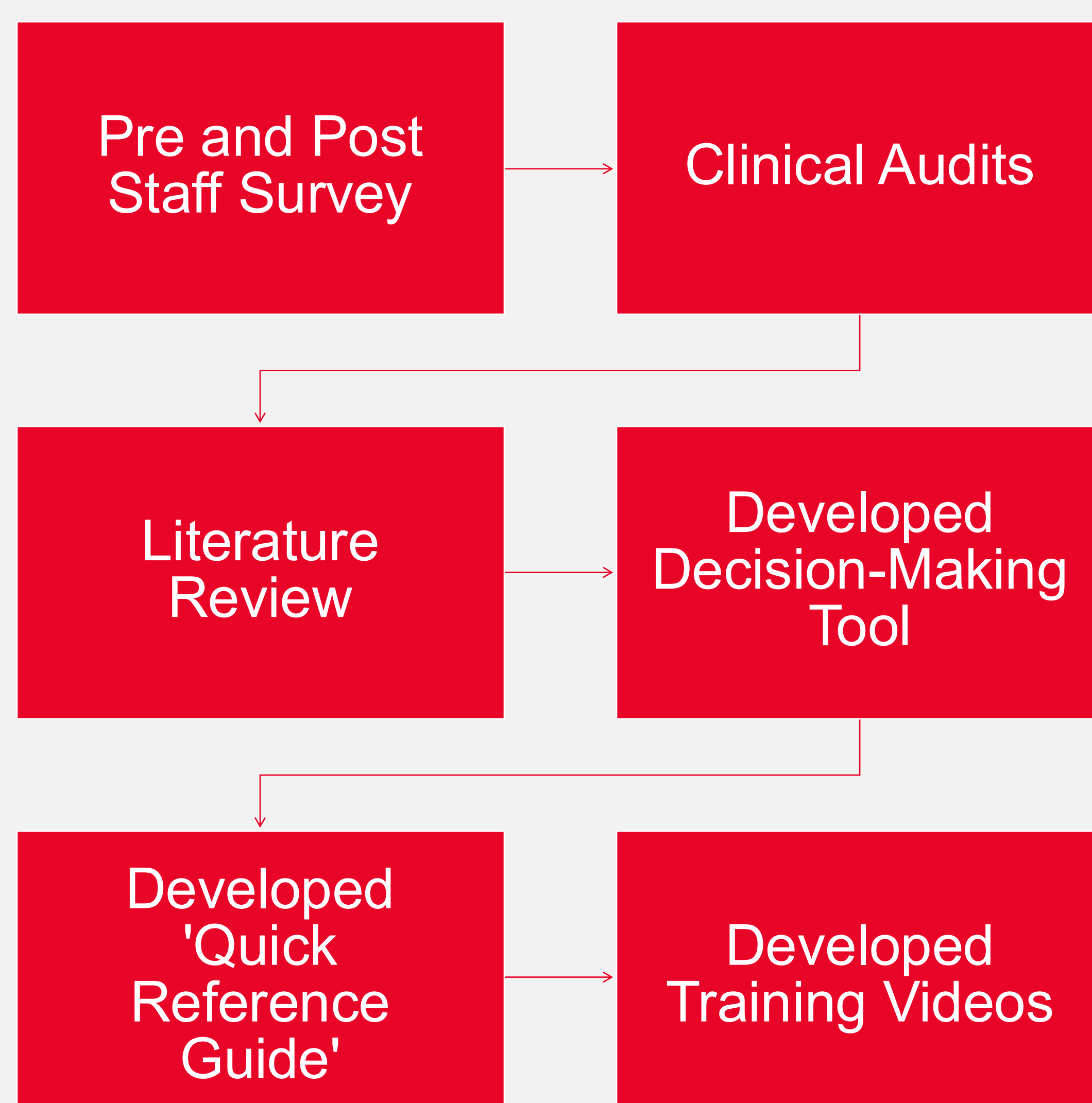
To develop an evidence-based approach to cognitive assessment within the acute setting of the Royal Melbourne Hospital (RMH) Occupational Therapy department.

## Secondary aim:

To provide education to all acute Occupational Therapy staff to upskill on cognitive assessments, including development of resources, and consistent orientation provided to new staff.

## Implementation Approach

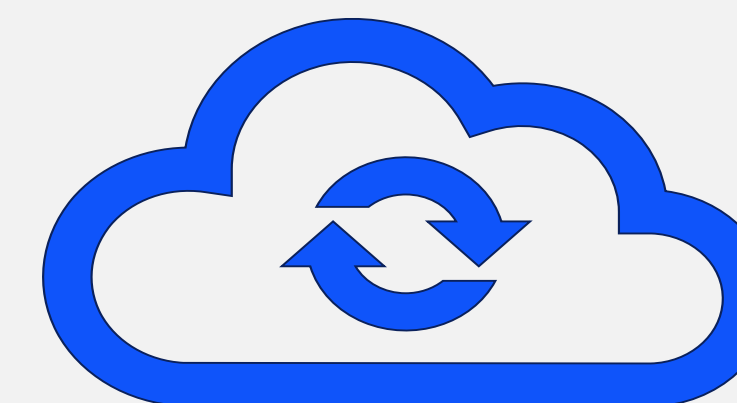
Establishing a best practice model for cognitive assessment requires a multimodal approach to education and practice change.



Pre-staff survey respondents: 26 responses  
 Post-staff survey respondents: 15 responses  
 Pre-documentation audit: 92 patients  
 Post-documentation audit: Data collection in progress



- 19% improvement in staff confidence regarding **when** to complete a cognitive assessment.
- 9% improvement in identifying **which** cognitive assessment to choose
- 12% increase in confidence **administrating** cognitive assessments



Resources developed by the working party are being utilised by the acute Occupational Therapy team with 67% of post survey respondents reporting regularly using resources within their practice

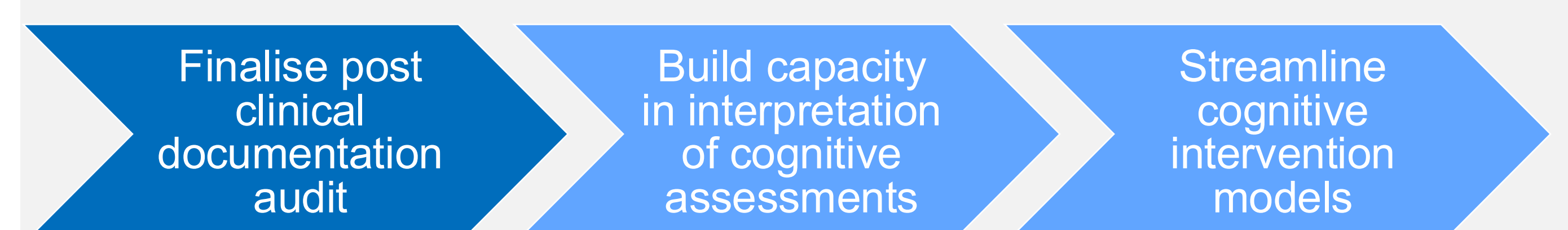
Cognitive Assessment  
'Quick Reference Guide'



Decision Making Tool

Example Training Video

## Next Steps/Future Directions



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