

## From Qualified Paramedic to Community Paramedic: A qualitative study of the process of transition to a low-acuity role

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## Research outcomes

- Education
- Recruitment
- Operationalization



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## What's in a name?

### Qualified Paramedic (Advanced Care Paramedic)

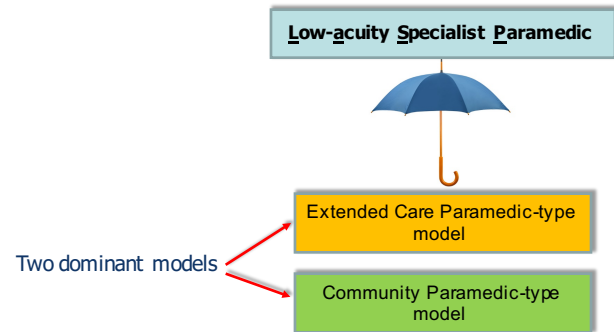
"...a health professional that provides rapid response, emergency medical assessment, treatment and care in the out-of-hospital environment." (Paramedics Australasia, 2009, p. 3).



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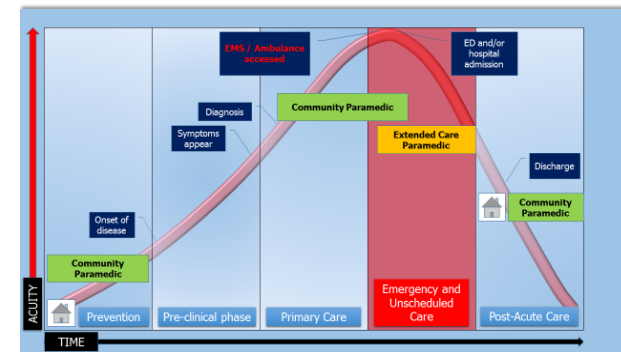


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## Models of low-acuity service delivery

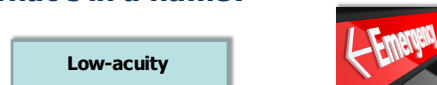


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## What's in a name?



- Australasian Triage Score (ATS) guidelines (Australasian College for Emergency Medicine, 2013).
- Potentially avoidable GP-type presentations include category 4 or 5 (Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, 2010)
- GP-type presentation (ie. suitable for LASP) = ATS Category 4 or 5

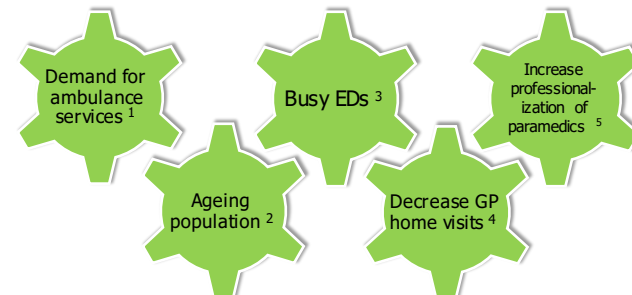


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## Drivers of change



1. O'Meara, Tourle, Stirling, Waker and Pedler (2012)
2. Raven, Tippett, Ferguson, & Smith (2006)
3. O'Meara, Tourle, Stirling, Waker and Pedler (2012)
4. O'Meara, Tourle, Stirling, Waker and Pedler (2012)
5. Joyce, Wainer, Piterman, Wyatt, and Archer (2008)



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## Transition in paramedicine



*However...*

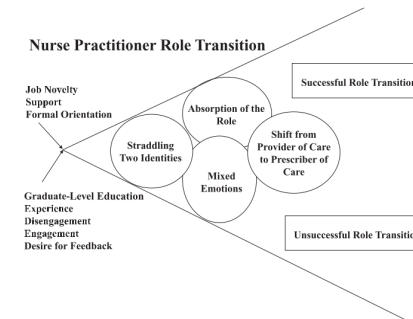
...Mason, et al. (2009) used job design theory as a theoretical framework to examine attitudes, perceptions and integration with other health professionals.



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## Concept analysis of Nurse Practitioner Role Transition



From "Nurse Practitioner Role Transition: A Concept Analysis" by H. Barnes, 2014, Nursing Forum, p. 1.



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## The Research Question

*"How do Advanced Care Paramedics transition to a specialist 'low-acuity' role and what are the influencing factors of that transition?"*



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## Methodological Approach

- Constructivist Grounded Theory (Charmaz, 2014)
  - Inductive, flexible, iterative
  - Emphasis on theory construction
  - Transferability vs generalisability
  - Reality is a construction



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## Research sites

- South Australia Ambulance Service
  - Established 2008. 38 ECPs.
  - Training 10 weeks
- NSW Ambulance
  - Established 2007. 112 ECPs.
  - Training 10 weeks
- Alberta Health Services, Canada
  - Establish 2013. 18 CPs.
  - Training 4 weeks.



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## Sample

- Until further data gathering and analysis adds little to the conceptualization of categories (Corbin and Strauss, 2008)
- 10 – 12 per agency
- Currently in recruitment phase



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## Data collection strategies

- Semi-structured interviews, voice recorded. Open ended questions with interview guide.
- Sample questions:
  - Can you tell me about your education and work experience prior to ECP/CP induction?
  - How is it that you came about to apply for ECP/CP? What motivated you?
  - As you look back, are there any events that stand out in your mind?



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## Conclusion

- ✓ Little is known about why paramedics seek to specialize in a low-acuity role.
- ✓ Creation of evidence informed decision making in both policy and practice.
- ✓ Advancement of paramedics as a professional group.



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Please contact Principal Investigator  
David Long for recruitment and participant  
information

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*Thank you*



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## Image credits

### Slide 2

Personal image.

### Slide 3

<https://www.google.com.au/search?q=extended+care+paramedics&sm=93&source=inn&skbm=ish&sa=X&ved=0CAQAUoAIwChMh7JguHwVQmCh18ig1t>  
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<https://www.google.com.au/search?q=south+australia+extended+care+paramedic&sm=93&source=inn&skbm=ish&sa=X&ved=0CAQAUoAoVChM6OCX6--HwVQmCh18ig1t>

### Slide 4

<http://www.adelaidenow.com.au/news/south-australia/uniform-bring-uniformity-to-the-workplace/story/e6f6a8b-1259967383>

### Slide 5

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### Slide 9

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<https://www.google.com.au/search?q=south+australia+ambulance&sm=93&source=inn&skbm=ish&sa=X&ved=0CAQAUoAoVChM6OCX6--HwVQmCh18ig1t>  
<https://www.google.com.au/search?q=south+australia+ambulance&sm=93&source=inn&skbm=ish&sa=X&ved=0CAQAUoAoVChM6OCX6--HwVQmCh18ig1t>



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