

The first year of education for paramedic students was not associated with changes in stigma or empathy towards people who use drugs

Student paramedic stigma towards people who use drugs: first-year results

INTRO

- Previous studies suggest paramedics hold stigmatising attitudes towards people who use drugs ^{1, 2}
- This poster presents the first-year results of a three-year longitudinal study of Australian paramedic students

METHODS

- Participants complete the Jefferson Scale of Empathy (Scores 20-140) & Medical Condition Regard Scale (Scores 11-66) four times over their degree
- Higher JSE scores reflect higher empathy, higher MCRS scores indicate lower stigma

RESULTS

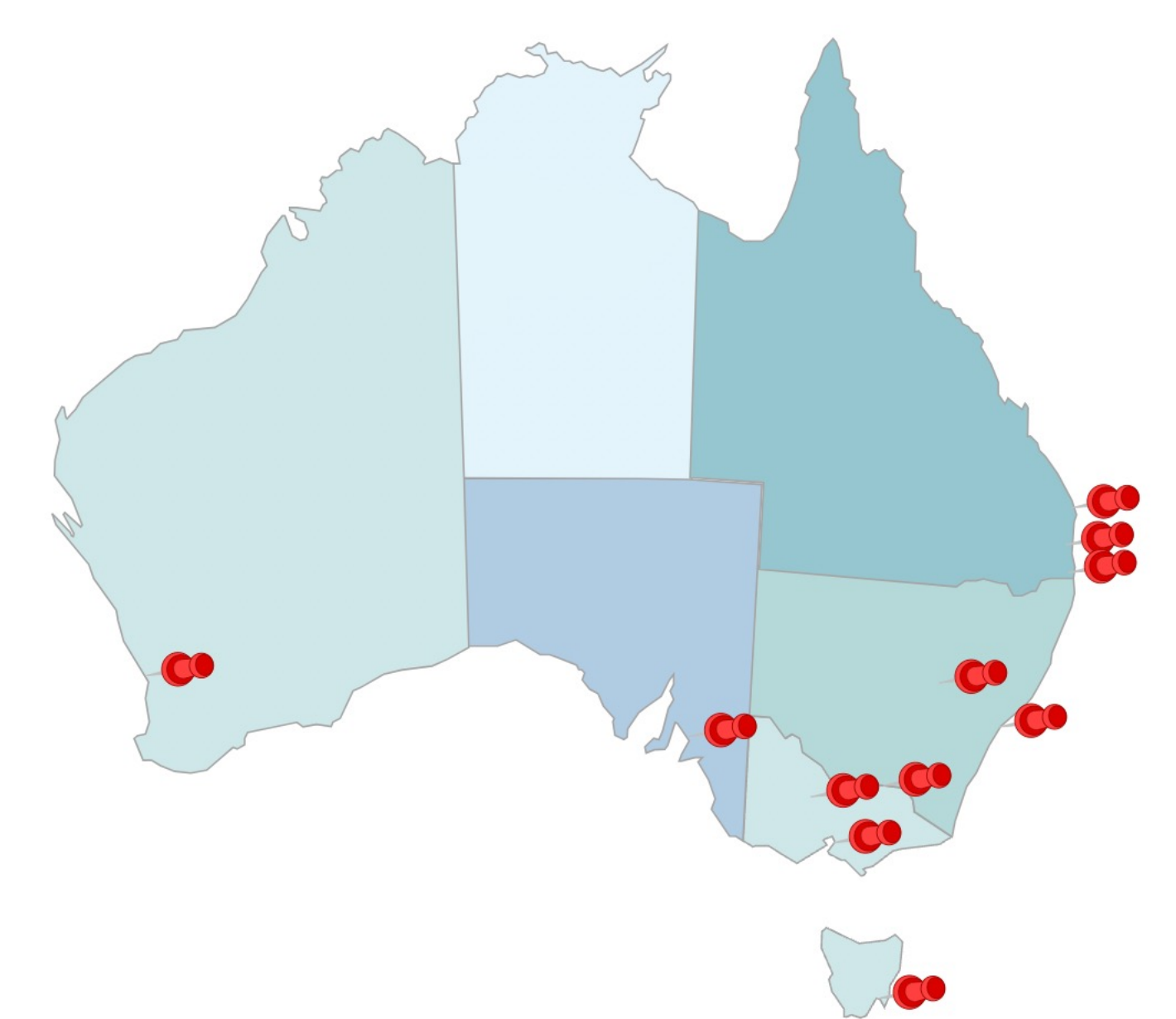
- 130 participants across 10 institutions, 80 completed follow-up survey

	Baseline	Year 1
JSE (Mean, SD)	104.8 (8.6)	107.6 (8.5)
MCRS (Mean, SD)	47.1 (6.6)	47.3 (7.9)

- Gender, previous education, experience with people who use drugs, professional placement, number of cases involving drugs on placement not associated with changes in JSE or MCRS

DISCUSSION

- No change in either JSE or MCRS
- Initial JSE was lower than historical controls in 2008 ³, but similar following first year of studies
- Initial MCRS higher than historical controls in 2009 ⁴



PARTICIPATING INSTITUTIONS

- Australian Catholic University
- Charles Sturt University
- Edith Cowan University
- Flinders University
- Griffith University
- Latrobe University
- Monash University
- University of the Sunshine Coast
- University of Southern Queensland
- University of Tasmania
- Victoria University
- Western Sydney University

Richard Armour, Suzanne Nielsen, Jane Buxton, Bosco Rowland, Linda Ross



MONASH
University



References &
Acknowledgements

