



Determining the quantity and focus of homeopathy research activity in Australia: A systematic literature review

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Background

- Homeopathy publications in Australia have increased in the last years, despite the 2015 NHMRC report.¹
- However, the nature and extent of this literature is unknown.
- The Australian Research Priorities 2018 report identified the need to summarise these homeopathy publications.²
- Therefore, a comprehensive systematic scoping review was conducted (PROSPERO registration: CRD42020207040).

Aims

- To determine the quantity, categorisation and focus of peer-reviewed research papers on homeopathy in Australia.
- To gain a deeper understanding of research conducted about homeopathy in Australia.

Ratings Tools

Tools³ were used to assess papers:

- RCT: Standard Quality Assessment Criteria for Evaluating Primary Research Papers from a Variety of Fields.
- Non RCT: Methodological index for non-randomised studies (MINORS).
- Proving: Critical Appraisal Skills Program (CASP) Qualitative studies checklist.
- Case series reports: JBI Critical Appraisal Checklist for Case Series.
- Case reports with one subject: JBI Critical Appraisal Checklist for Case Reports.
- A rating tool was also developed by the study authors to assess materia medica, philosophy, history and discussion and narrative papers.

Method

Search Strategy

- Online databases were searched (OVID Medline, Embase, PsycINFO, PsycArticles, CINAHL, Web of Science, Pubmed and Cochrane Library) between 1990 until December 2022.
- Furthermore, in a Hand Search, eligible papers from Similia Journal were screened between 2005 until December 2022.

Search Terms

- 1) homeop* or homoeop* or homœop* AND 2) Austral* or Australian Capital Territory or New South Wales or Northern Territory or Queensland or South Australia or Tasmania or Victoria or Western Australia.

Eligibility of Papers

- Inclusion Criteria: peer-reviewed research studies in homeopathy conducted in Australia and published in English since 1990.
- Exclusion Criteria: not about homeopathy, not written or conducted in Australia, and any editorials, book reviews, opinions or conference reviews.

Screening Process

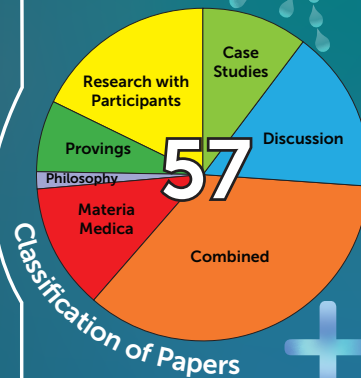
- Two reviewers independently undertook screening, data extraction and quality assessment with disagreements resolved through discussion with the third reviewer.

Guidelines Followed

- Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses (PRISMA).⁴

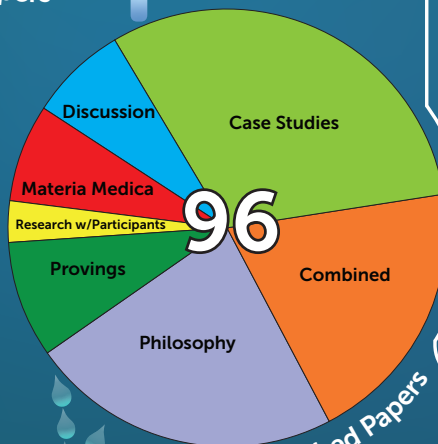
1431

Found Papers



96

Hand Searched Papers



13

Narrative Papers

Results

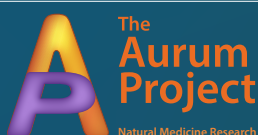
- After removing duplicates, 1431 papers were screened of which 57 papers were classified in these categories: Case studies=6, Discussion=9, Materia Medica=7, Proving=4, Research with Participants=10, Philosophy=1, Combined=20 (History=1, Lab=1, Practice Development=1, Homeoprophylaxis=17).

Hand Searched Papers

- The peer-reviewed Australian Journal Similia, rarely came up in the search results (3 instances in 57). Therefore, a hand search of Similia was conducted, which found 96 papers in these categories: Case studies =30, Discussion=7, Materia Medica=7, Proving=8, Research with Participants=3, Philosophy=22, Combined=19 (History=9, Practice Development=9, Review=1).

Conclusion & Future Work

This review highlighted the relatively high number of papers, including diverse provings unique to Australia with a richness of the narrative writing style which is exclusive to homeopathy. Publications of Australian homeopathy research literature are growing. Next steps involve a quality appraisal of the included articles.



The Aurum Project is the peak body for Homeopathic Research in Australia.
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 Graphic design: Michael Cowdroy AP IT Manager



Acknowledgements
 Financial support from Biopractica

Research grant from the Australian Homeopathic Association NSW Branch

References

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2. Research Priorities Working Group. Australian Research Priorities in Homeopathy, 2019. The Aurum Project, Brookvale NSW, 2100.
3. UNISA: Critical Appraisal Tools. Available from: <https://unisa.edu.au/research/allied-health-evidence/resources/cat/>
4. Page et al. The PRISMA 2020 statement: an updated guideline for reporting systematic reviews. BMJ 2021; 372.