



MONASH University

Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences

Research Capacity Building: A 5 year case study

Dr Eleanor Mitchell, Dr Angelo D'Amore, A/Prof David Campbell
School of Rural Health, Monash University

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Setting the Scene

Where:

- Far east Victoria
- Situated on Bairnsdale Hospital grounds at the Monash RCTS site
- Catchment area 21,000 sq. kms, serves 40,000 community members
- ASGC-RA3



Researcher Expertise

- Similar to health professionals – the more remote and isolated = jack of all trade!
- Unusual to research academics
 - Cover all major methodologies
 - Cover entire research process
 - Limited time for own research interest
 - Often will lead or play major role in research projects but not lead author
 - Have to juggle numerous projects in various fields
 - Embedded in community/region
 - Supervision of external PhD students



Model of Research Capacity Building

- Research ownership kept within organisations
- Try not to simply do research for an organisation but alongside staff within that organisations
- Include training as part of project
- Extend proposed internal evaluations into small research projects to build research evidence

Research Training Sessions

- Short Courses which start from the basics
 - Designing research questions and process
 - Literature searching
 - Critiquing literature
 - Research methodologies (both Qualitative and Quantitative)
 - Data Analysis and Presentation of data
 - Evaluations, survey designs and online surveys
 - Research ethics
- Now running them online via Zoom (videoconferencing)



Types of Research

- Areas
 - Primary Health Care
 - Health Education
 - Clinical Research
 - Health Promotion and Public Health
 - Health workforce

- Organisations interested in research
 - Rural Hospitals
 - Community Health Organisations
 - GP Clinics and Allied Health Private Practitioners
 - Local community groups
 - Local Councils

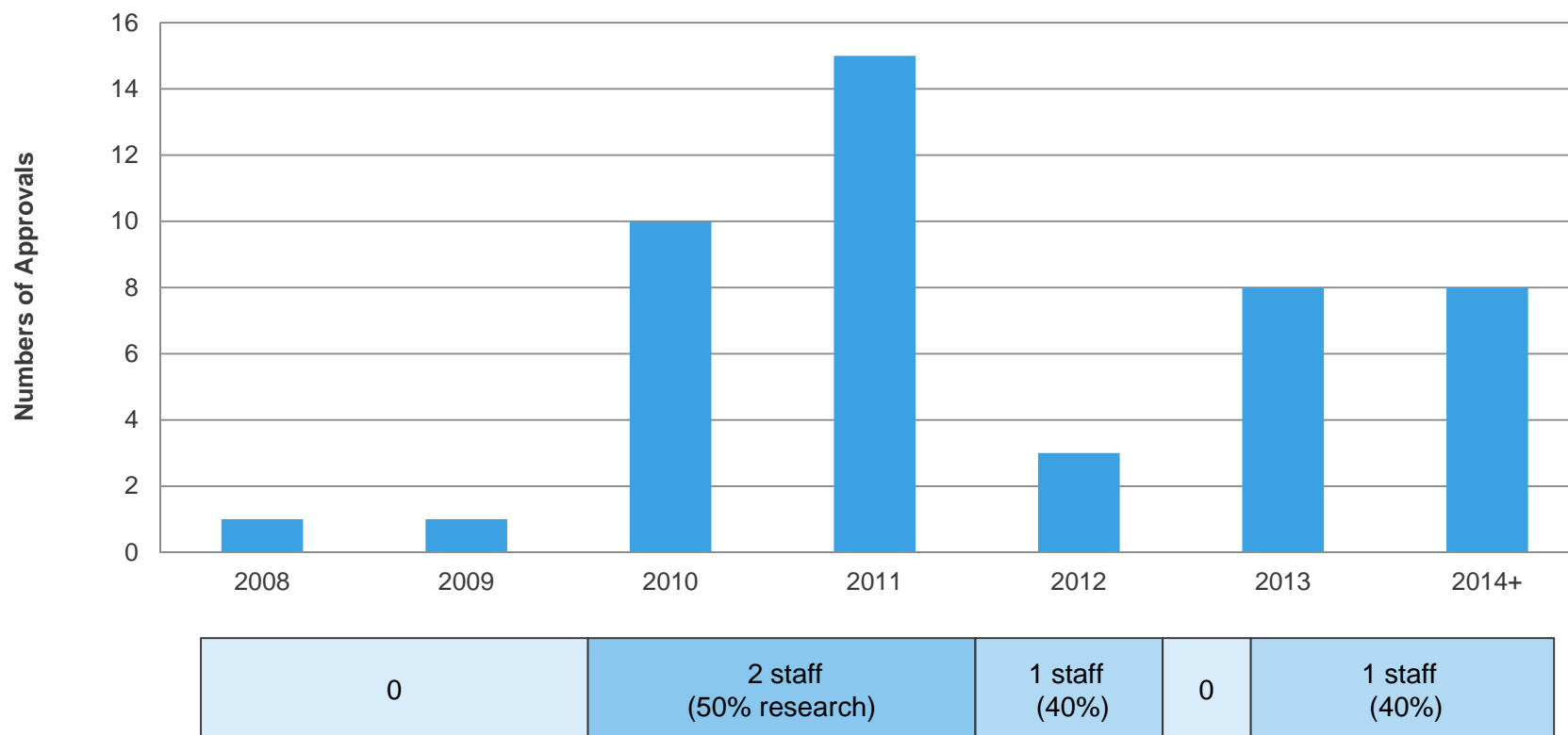
Research Outputs (2010 onwards)

- 45 ethics approved projects
- Supervision of 14 research student/traineeship projects
- 10 successful funding applications
- 91 conference presentations
- 24 published journal publications or book chapters
 - an additional 14 articles currently accepted or under review
 - an additional 28 manuscripts progressing through drafting
- 3 government reports
- 32 media coverage of research projects

CURRENT AVERAGE OF 3 RESEARCH OUTPUTS PER PROJECT

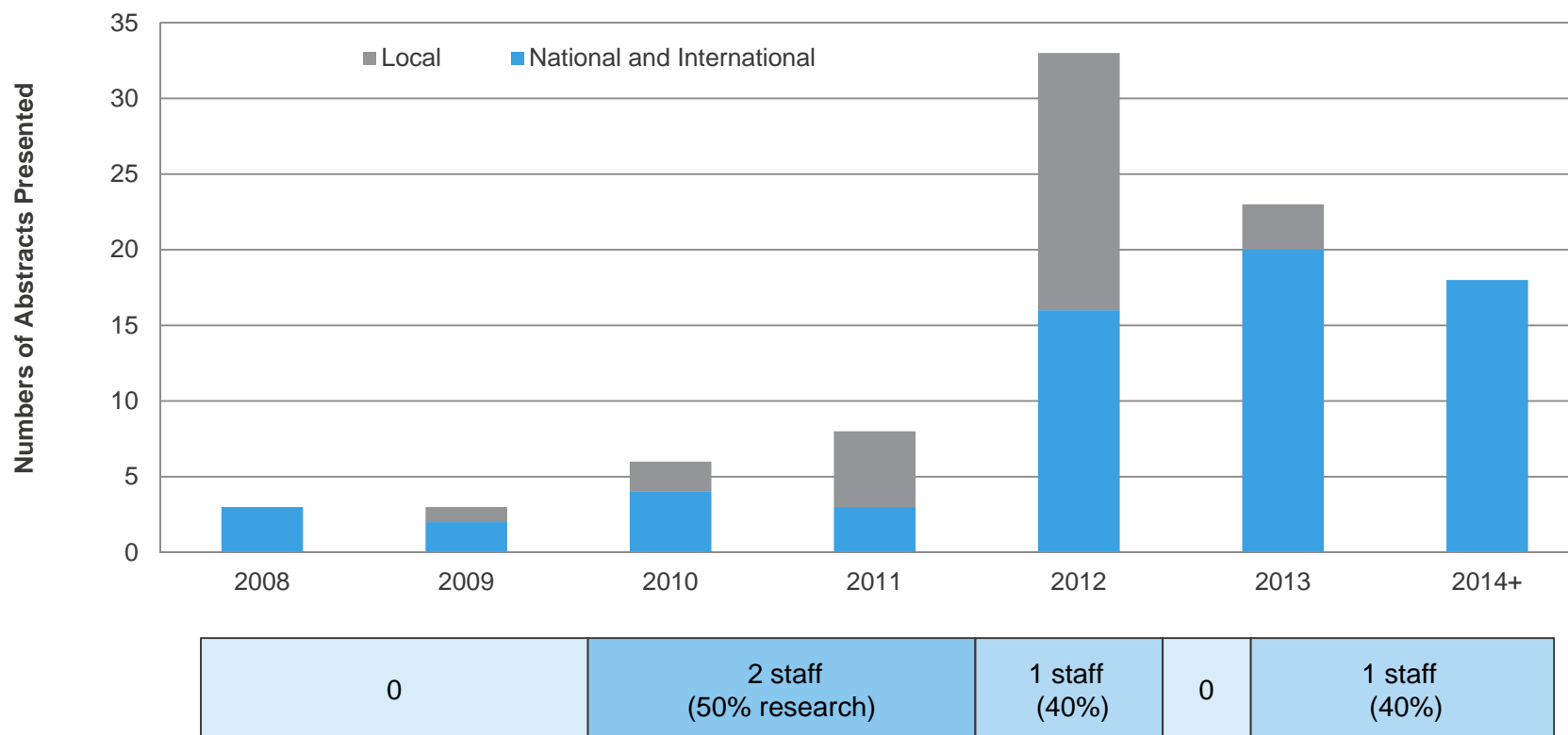
Research Outputs

New Ethics Approvals



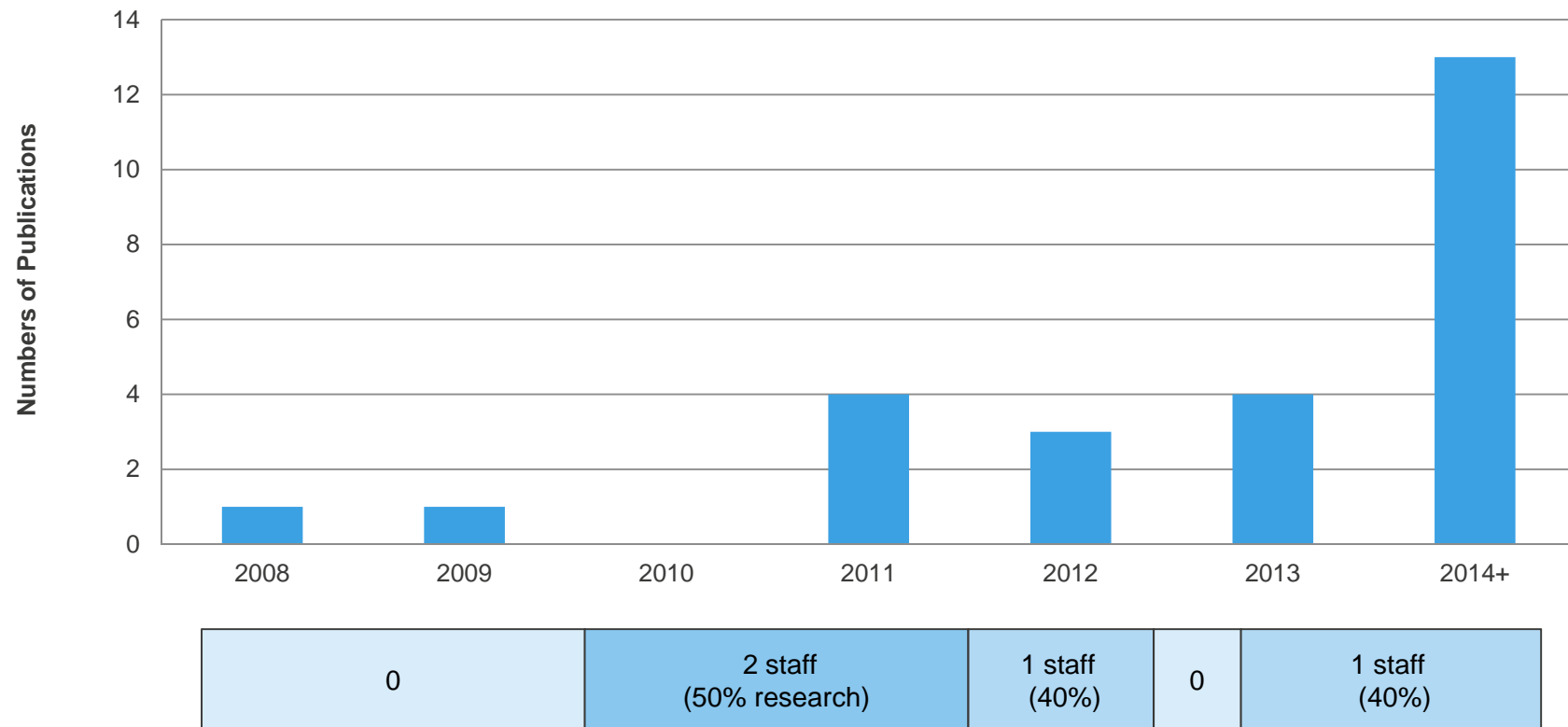
Research Outputs

Conference Presentations



Research Outputs

Publications



Sustainability

- UDRH funded
- Top-up funding to support position with lots of teaching
 - Research Methods Online Units (Health Masters Students)
- Some limited evaluation \$ and grant applications
- Based within a Monash University RCTS site
 - Good internet, phonedlines and collegial support



Challenges

- There isn't a critical mass of researchers
- Comparative research training and evaluation income is less in rural
- Meeting University matrices & career paths is difficult
- Research outputs are not instantaneous – research takes time
- Capped limits of capacity for a single researcher
- Over-worked health professionals – no time/funding for research activities (especially post-PHCRED fellowships)