

Professor Deborah Snell



**AUT BRAIN HEALTH
RESEARCH INSTITUTE**



Positions

Professor – University of
Otago Christchurch

Contact info

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Research focus

Deborah (Debbie) is a Professor at the University of Otago whose work focuses on improving rehabilitation outcomes for people with musculoskeletal and neurological conditions. Her research emphasises psychological and psychosocial factors, patient-reported outcomes, and recovery following injury, including traumatic brain injury, concussion, and spinal cord injury. Deborah is committed to maintaining strong clinical relevance in her research, integrating her dual roles as a practising clinician and researcher, and advancing evidence-based rehabilitation through collaboration with patients, clinicians, and researchers in Aotearoa and internationally.

Current projects

1. Evaluation and implementation of psychological risk screening tools for adults after mild traumatic brain injury
2. Psychological factors and variability in recovery and outcomes after mTBI
3. Understanding cognitive recovery after mTBI

Examples of recent work

Snell, DL; Faulkner, JW; Williman, JA; Silverberg, ND; Theadom, A; Surgenor, LJ; Siegert, RJ (2025). Associations between psychological factors, self-reported cognitive difficulties and cognitive performance after mild traumatic brain injury. *Brain impairment*, 26, 1B24074.

Snell, DL; Wynands, P; Dunn, JA; Nunnerley, J; Theadom, A (2025). Screening and outcomes of co-occurring traumatic brain injury among people with spinal cord injury: A scoping review. *Journal of Rehabilitation Medicine*, 57, 41897.