**Background**

Undertaking clinician led research in General Practice in rural and regional settings with limited access to academic research support can be a challenge. Recruiting GPs to provide clinical placements for medical students can be difficult for universities.

**Aims**

To demonstrate the research process, challenges and benefits of undertaking clinician led GP research exploring the impact of the medical student presence in a GP Consultation from the GP, patient and student perspective in rural and regional Queensland.

**Method**

A literature review identified the knowledge gaps, inspiring the development of a cross-sectional study conducted among GPs accepting University of Queensland Rural Clinical School, UQRCS medical students, their patients and students; comparing consultations with and without students in attendance.

The four researchers based at three different locations embarked on the research project.

GP recruitment involved the GP researcher telephoning the eligible GP’s and following up with information being sent to the practice. Following GP recruitment, the allocated student was invited to participate. Patients within these practices were then invited to participate. Following ethics clearance data collection via questionnaire commenced.

A log of the research project progress was kept from protocol development to publication.

**Results**

Thirteen General Practices (response rate 50%), and12 students participated; 483 patients completed questionnaires following consultations, 253 consultations with, and 230 without a student.

The researchers were not based at all study sites, creating challenges for GP recruitment at the other sites. The study period was extended to enable adequate participant numbers.

Findings were published in an international medical education journal and utilised by the UQRCS for clinical placements.

**Conclusion**

Undertaking clinician led GP research with limited academic research support is possible in the rural and regional setting. This project demonstrates the process for clinician led research, resulting in findings that inform decisions impacting General Practice.