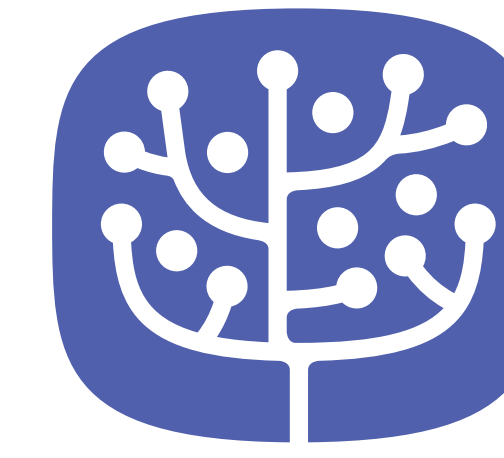


EVIDENCE & CHILD HEALTH UNIT



The Jack Brockhoff **Child Health and Wellbeing Program**

Enhancing opportunities for all children to thrive

We are building evidence about what makes a difference for children - in families, schools, communities, services and society - to build on the known social determinants of health.

We are focussing our research and knowledge translation efforts on:

- Supporting positive mental health and resilience
- Promoting common drivers of physical health and wellbeing
- Responding to the impacts of a changing world on children's lives

We know that it takes time to achieve a meaningful shift for major public health issues. We contribute by:

- Generating new knowledge
- Influencing policy and service delivery
- Building workforce capacity
- Developing and evaluating community based solutions

We achieve this through key strategic partnerships with government, service providers and community.

We are committed to excellence in the generation, translation and sharing of knowledge.

Associate Professor Lisa Gibbs is the Director of The Evidence and Child Health Unit and The Jack Brockhoff Child Health and Wellbeing Program. She is supported by Associate Directors Dr Elise Davis and Dr Rebecca Armstrong. Dr Armstrong is also the Director of Public Health Insight. Public Health Insight incorporates Cochrane Public Health and is affiliated with The Jack Brockhoff Child Health and Wellbeing Program.



PRIORITY AREAS:



Positive mental
health & resilience



Physical health &
wellbeing



Impacts of a
changing world on
children's lives

Public Health Insight

Public Health Insight work to understand the most effective ways of generating, translating and sharing knowledge.

We do this by building capacity and translating knowledge through:

- **RESEARCH:** Cochrane Public Health & Knowledge Translation research
- **TRAINING:** Evidence Informed Public Health, KT for Researchers
- **CONSULTANCY:** Development of KT plans

For research to be used and utilised, we need to understand the processes in which decisions are made and how to support that process.

Cochrane Public Health

Cochrane Public Health reviews focus on population level interventions that address the structural and social determinants of health.

WEB:

mspgh.unimelb.edu.au/centres-institutes/centre-for-health-equity/research-group/jack-brockhoff-child-health-wellbeing-program

mspgh.unimelb.edu.au/centres-institutes/centre-for-health-equity/research-group/public-health-insight

beyondbushfires.org.au

ph.cochrane.org/





About Us

The Indigenous Studies Unit aims to develop world-class research and teaching in Australian Indigenous Studies.

In collaboration with other faculties, centres, international scholars and agencies, the Unit works to increase Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander enrolments in Research Higher Degrees (RHDs) through a range of strategies, including the Melbourne Business School Native Title Masterclass (pilot).

WHO WE ARE:

UNIT HEAD: Redmond Barry Distinguished Professor Marcia Langton, Foundation Chair of Australian Indigenous Studies.

RESEARCHERS: Dr Kristen Smith, Shane Bawden, Leah Johnson & Jasmine Lyons.

HONORARY FELLOWS: Dr Lyndon Ormond-Parker & Dr Dino Hodge.

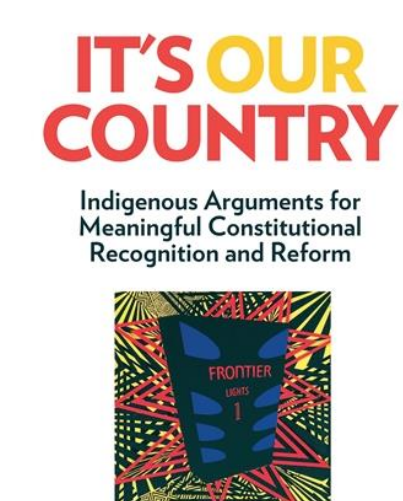
ARCHIVIST: Joy Hirst.

PhD STUDENTS: Todd Fernando, Terry James, James Rose (under examination), Tui Crumpen (Poche Centre Fellow), Sarah Schmidt (Faculty of Arts), Samantha Hamilton (CCMC, Faculty of Arts), Margaret O'Bryan (MGSE, under examination).

Our Research Areas

The Unit engages in interdisciplinary research investigating a range of Indigenous studies topics, including:

- Agreements with Indigenous People
- Alcohol Policy and Management
- Indigenous Constitutional Recognition
- Indigenous Health and Technology
- Cultural Conservation
- Food & Traditional Aboriginal Knowledge



Examples of Publications

- Smith, K., Langton, M., *The Alcohol Management Plan at Pormpuraaw, Queensland, Australia: A report of an ethnographic study of Indigenous agency in a complex policy setting*, Foundation for Alcohol Research and Education, Canberra, pp.1-42 (forthcoming 2017).
- Price, J., Langton, M., Cashman, J., King, C., & Hudson, S. 2016, *Ending the violence in Indigenous communities*, National Press Club Address, November, CIS Occasional Paper152, The Centre for Independent Studies, Sydney.
- Davis, M., Langton, M. 2016, *Constitutional Reform in Australia: Recognizing Indigenous Australians in the Absence of a Reconciliation Process*, In P. Macklem & D. Sanderson (eds.), *From Recognition to Reconciliation*, University of Toronto Press, Toronto, pp. 449-473.
- Davis, M., & Langton, M. (eds.), 2016, *It's Our Country: Indigenous Arguments for Meaningful Constitutional Recognition and Reform*, Melbourne University Press, Melbourne, Australia. Networked Society Institute, University of Melbourne.
- Smith, K., Chenhall, R., McQuire, S., & Kowal, E. 2016, *Digital Futures in Indigenous Communities: From Health Kiosks to Community Hubs*. Parkville: Melbourne Networked Society Institute, University of Melbourne.
- Langton, M. 2016, *Botanists, Aborigines and native plants on the Queensland frontier.*, In J.-C. Verstraete & D. Hafner (eds.), *Land and Language in Cape York Peninsula and the Gulf Country*, John Benjamin, pp. 221-239.
- Ormond-Parker, L., Langton, M., Huebner, S., Coleman, J., Pearson, C., Sloggett, R., Nordlinger, R., Smith, K., Clarke, K. 2015, *When Magnets Collide - Digital Preservation and Access of At-Risk Audiovisual Archives in a Remote Aboriginal Community*, Melbourne Networked Society Institute, University of Melbourne.
- Langton, M., Smith, K., & Chenhall, R. 2015, *Alcohol policy and assemblages of intervention: Managing alcohol in Indigenous*, Paper presented at the *Addiction 2015: Alcohol, Other Drugs, Behavioural Addictions: Prevention, Treatment and Recovery*, Surfers Paradise, Nerang, Queensland.
- Smith, K., Langton, M., d'Abbs, P., Room, R., Chenhall, R. & Brown, A. 2014, *Alcohol Management Plans*, in Elizabeth Manton, Robin Room, Caterina Giorgi and Michael Thom (eds), *Stepping the tide of alcohol: Liquor licensing and the public interest*, Foundation for Alcohol Research and Education in collaboration with The University of Melbourne, Canberra, pp.167-76.
- Smith, K., Langton, M., d'Abbs, P., Room, R., Chenhall, R. & Brown, A. 2013, *Alcohol Management Plans and Other Reforms*, Indigenous Justice Clearinghouse, Sydney, NSW. <http://www.indigenousjustice.gov.au/briefs/brief016.pdf>

Health Equity in our Research

The Unit staff contribute to a range of research areas that improve outcomes in Indigenous health, economic participation, cultural heritage, technology and resource management.

The Unit has a network of partnerships with stakeholders, including:

- The Department of Prime Minister & Cabinet
- Department of the Australian Attorney-General
- Defence Materiel Organisation
- Australian Heritage Council
- The Yothu Yindi Foundation
- Jawun Indigenous Partnerships
- National Native Title Council
- Empowered Communities
- The Lowitja Institute
- Indigenous Business Australia
- Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies
- Ngaanyatjarra Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara (NPY) Women's Council
- Thamarrurr Regional Authority Aboriginal Corporation
- Kimberley Aboriginal Law and Culture Centre
- The Minerals Council Australia
- The Aurora Project
- Indigenous Land Corporation
- National Recording Project for Indigenous Performance in Australia
- Centre for Aboriginal Economic Policy Research (ANU)
- National Centre for Indigenous Studies (ANU)
- Centre for Social Responsibility in Mining (UQ)



The Unit has collaborative partnerships with academics within the Medical Faculty and across multiple external Faculties, including the Faculty of Arts, the Faculty of Engineering, Faculty of Law and the Faculty of Science (including specific Centres, such as the Poche Centre and Murrup Barak). As a part of the Unit's knowledge translation, the team make regular contributions to Parliamentary reviews and inquiries, cross-platform media, and policy development. We also collaborate with international researchers in Tertiary Education institutions in nations including: France, Japan, Canada, United States, Cambodia, East Timor & India.



Alcohol Policy & Management

The research team has undertaken multiple projects investigating Alcohol Management Plans in northern Australia. The research is conducted using ethnographic, participatory methods in remote and urban areas. The first phase of research focused on the Northern Territory, where the team conducted fieldwork in: Jilkminggan, Alice Springs, Darwin, and Katherine. Further research was then undertaken in Cape York, Qld. The research projects are carried out in partnership with organisations including:



- Central Australia Aboriginal Congress
 - Aboriginal Medical Services Alliance Northern Territory
 - Northern Australian Aboriginal Justice Agency
 - Jilkminggan Community Aboriginal Corporation
 - Pormpuraaw Aboriginal Shire Council, and
 - Pormpur Paanthu Aboriginal Corporation.
- **2011-2015** Multiple projects were funded by partners, including: Department of Prime Minister & Cabinet (DPMC), the Lowitja Institute, Indigenous Justice Clearinghouse, and the Foundation for Alcohol Research & Education (FARE).
 - **2016-2019** Project 'Alcohol Management in Indigenous north Australia: Policies & responses'. This project involves multi-sited ethnographic fieldwork in three regions of north Australia (WA, NT, Qld). It is funded by the ARC Discovery program (DP160103192).

Engagement activities include:

- Project advice and legislative recommendations to Dep.PMC for *Stronger Futures in the Northern Territory Act 2012* and related policy;
- Expert witnesses for the *Federal Inquiry into alcohol use in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities 2015*.

Upcoming Accepted Conference Papers 2017:

- AIATSIS National Indigenous Research Conference, 21-23 March, Canberra, ACT.
- 14th National Rural Health Conference, 26-29 April, Cairns, Qld.



Agreements with Indigenous People

The Agreements with Indigenous People program of research began in March 2002, as an Australian Research Council (ARC) Linkage Project. The original aim of the project was to examine treaty and agreement-making with Indigenous Australians and the nature of the cultural, social and legal rights encompassed by past, present and potential agreements and treaties. To date, there have been four phases to this research:

- 2002:** Agreements, Treaties and Negotiated Settlements (ATNS) with Indigenous Peoples in Settler States: their role and relevance for Indigenous and other Australians (ARC Linkage)
- 2005:** The Implementation of Agreements and Treaties with Indigenous and Local Peoples in Postcolonial States (ARC Linkage)
- 2010:** Poverty in the Midst of Plenty: Economic Empowerment, Wealth Creation and Institutional Reform for Sustainable Indigenous and Local Communities (ARC Linkage)
- 2016:** Health and Community Agreements with Indigenous People (MSPGH)

A major achievement of this research has been the development and ongoing maintenance of the internationally acclaimed ATNS database and website:

<http://www.atns.net.au/>

The Unit regularly engages with Native Title Services Victoria & the National Native Title Tribunal & annually hosts 2 to 6 Legal and Anthropology Internships through the Aurora Project to give students 'hands-on' experience with the work that is conducted in this research area.





About Us

Our key themes

- Early years
- Cultural identity
- Good population data
- Health enablers
- How we teach, learn and research
- Knowledge translation and implementation in policy and practice

How we support health equity

- Running a comprehensive teaching and learning program across universities, including short courses and peer researcher training
- Contributing to significant reductions in Indigenous vision loss and trachoma over the past decade
- Developing evidence on effective interventions
- Creating healing spaces for young people
- Engaging in significant knowledge exchange and translation
- Supporting emerging Indigenous academics
- Providing information from health screening conducted as part of research to research participants
- Identifying periods of time when Indigenous children are at greater risk of inequitable health outcomes and therefore when interventions should be timed
- Emerging and established researchers presenting at and involved in international and national conferences
- Initiated a study comparing children's health and wellbeing among Indigenous populations in Norway, Australia and Indonesia
- Supporting research higher degree students with three enrolled PhD students and one medical student



Web:
First1000daysaustralia.org.au

Twitter:
@first1000daysaustralia



Web:
iehu.unimelb.edu.au

Twitter:
@IEHU_UniMelb

Facebook:
facebook.com/CheckTodaySeeTomorrow
facebook.com/cleanfacesstrongeyes

Research development priorities for 2017

The First 1000 Days

The period from conception to age 2 is critical for future health, emotional and social outcomes. The First 1,000 Days' approach offers a way to bring greater cohesion and coordination to the current patchwork of programs, and take a cross-programmatic, cross-regional approach.

More than a Landlord

This pilot project between Aboriginal Housing Victoria and IHEU uses social housing as an access point for engaging with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families. The project aims to trigger broader service responses to health including social and emotional wellbeing, physical health, housing needs, connections to community and culture, service use and aspirations as identified by households.

Connection to Country

The IHEU will be working with Parks Victoria to understand the relationship between caring for Country and the health and wellbeing of Aboriginal Victorian communities.

Addressing Family Violence

Through a collaborative partnership with the Yoowinna Wurnalung Healing Service, the IHEU explored the issue of young female-perpetrated violence and aggression. This work feeds into the development of a model of support for girls and families facing this issue.

Engagement with Learning for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Men in Prison

A program between the University of Melbourne, the Castan Centre (Monash) and Swinburne University is working to connect volunteer Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and non-Indigenous University students with incarcerated Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander men within Port Phillip Prison. The program encourages participants to explore and celebrate cultural identity, discuss educational experiences and find ways to engage in educational pursuits through the use of story-telling, intergenerational interactions and respectful passing on of knowledge.

HPV Self-collection for Cervical Screening

The IHEU completed research in a collaborative project with DHHS, VCS and BADAC on implementing self-collection HPV testing for under-screened Aboriginal women and women experiencing vulnerabilities. The research aimed at developing a safe and appropriate screening pathway to lower rates of cervical cancer in hard to reach women.

Indigenous Eye Health

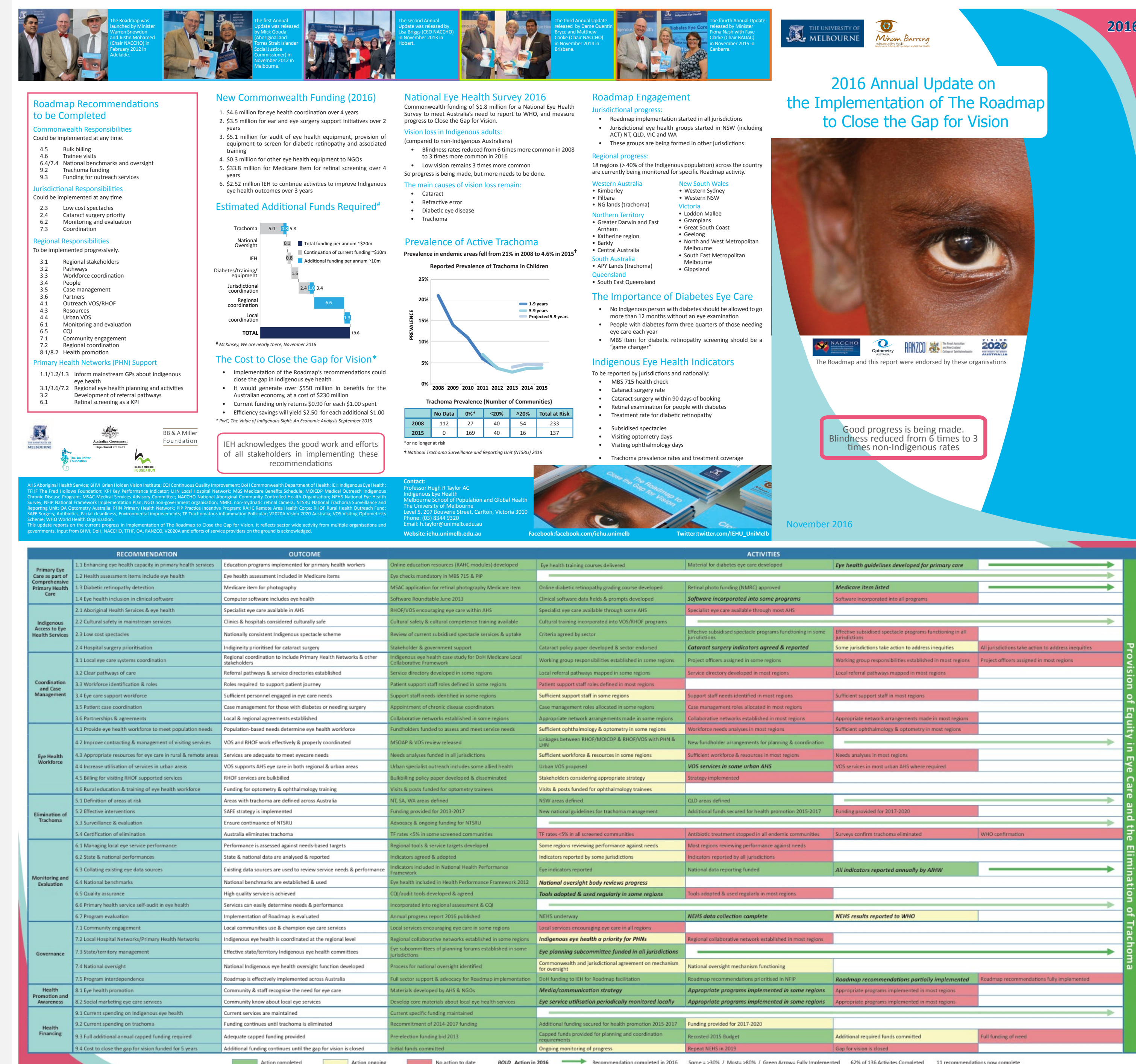
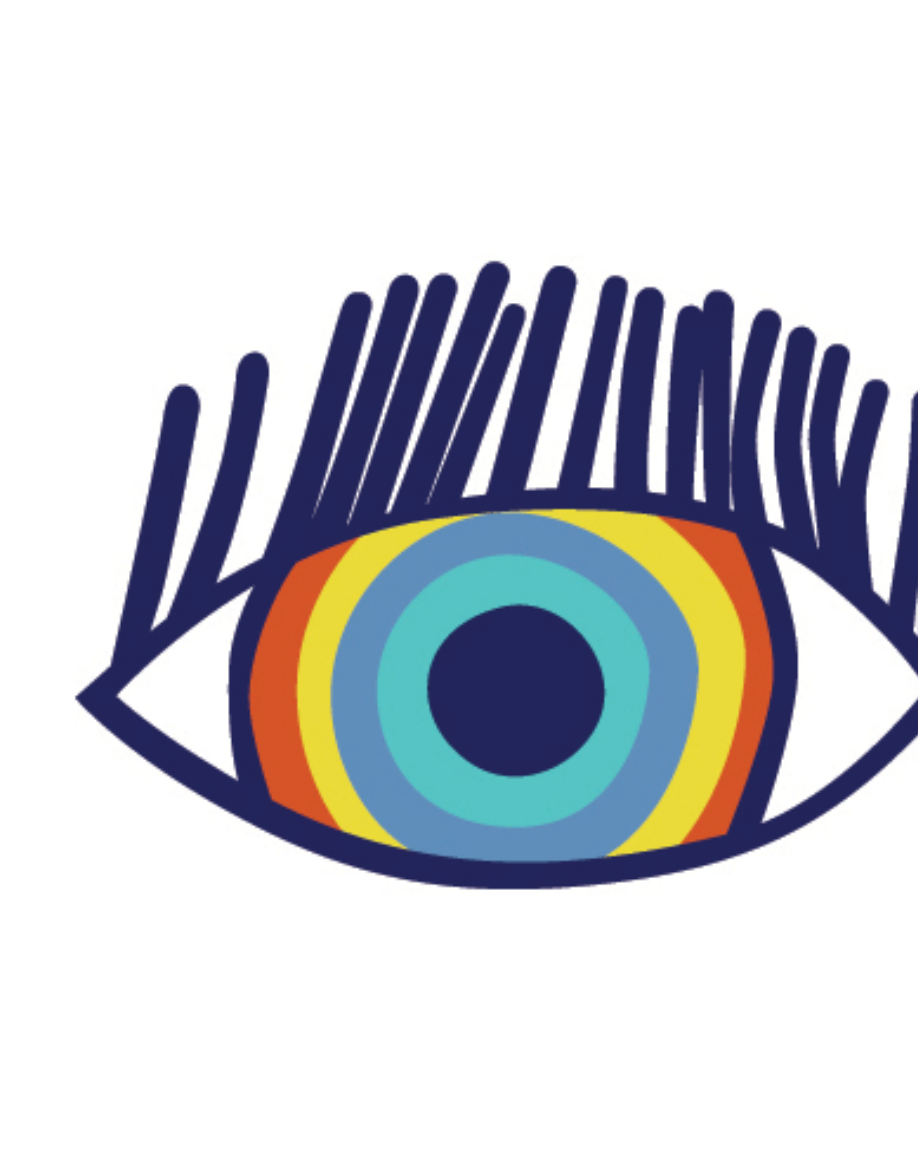
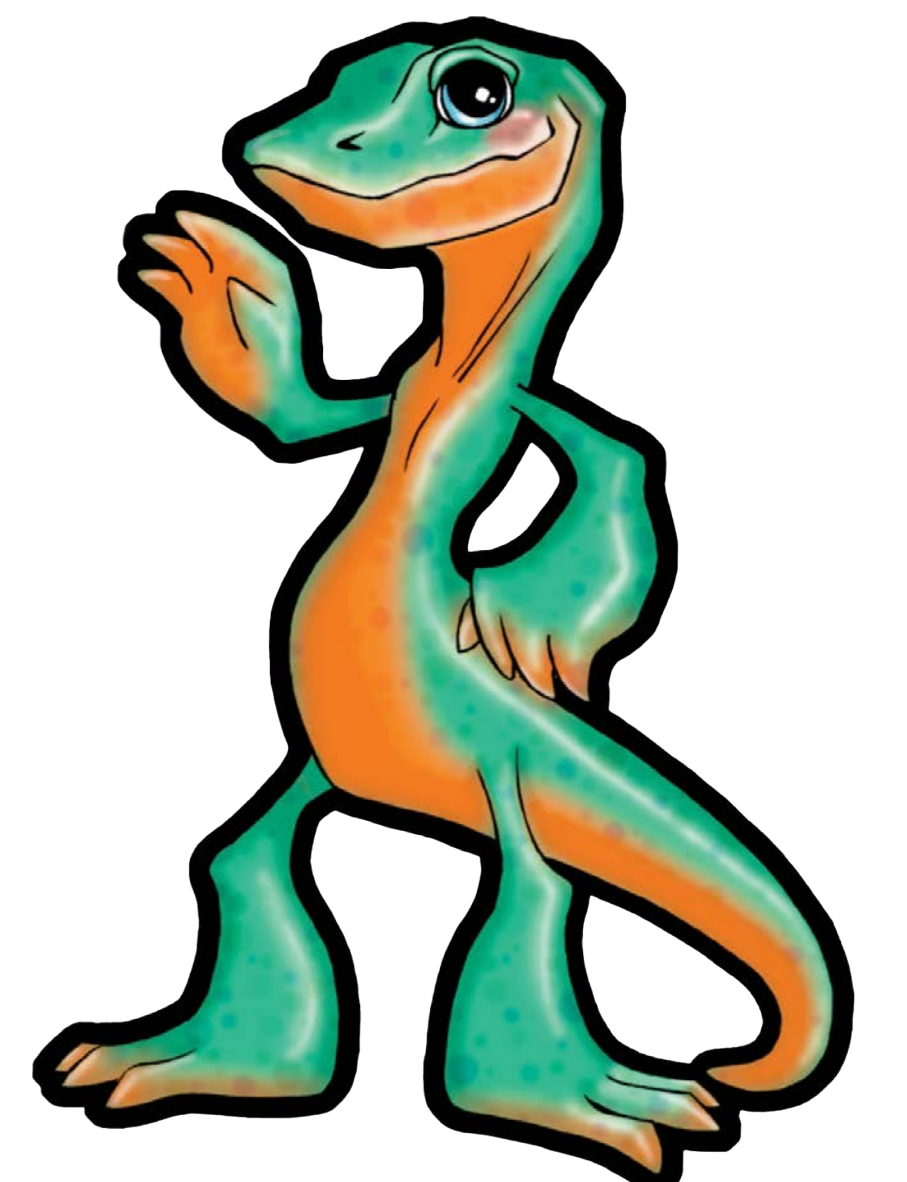
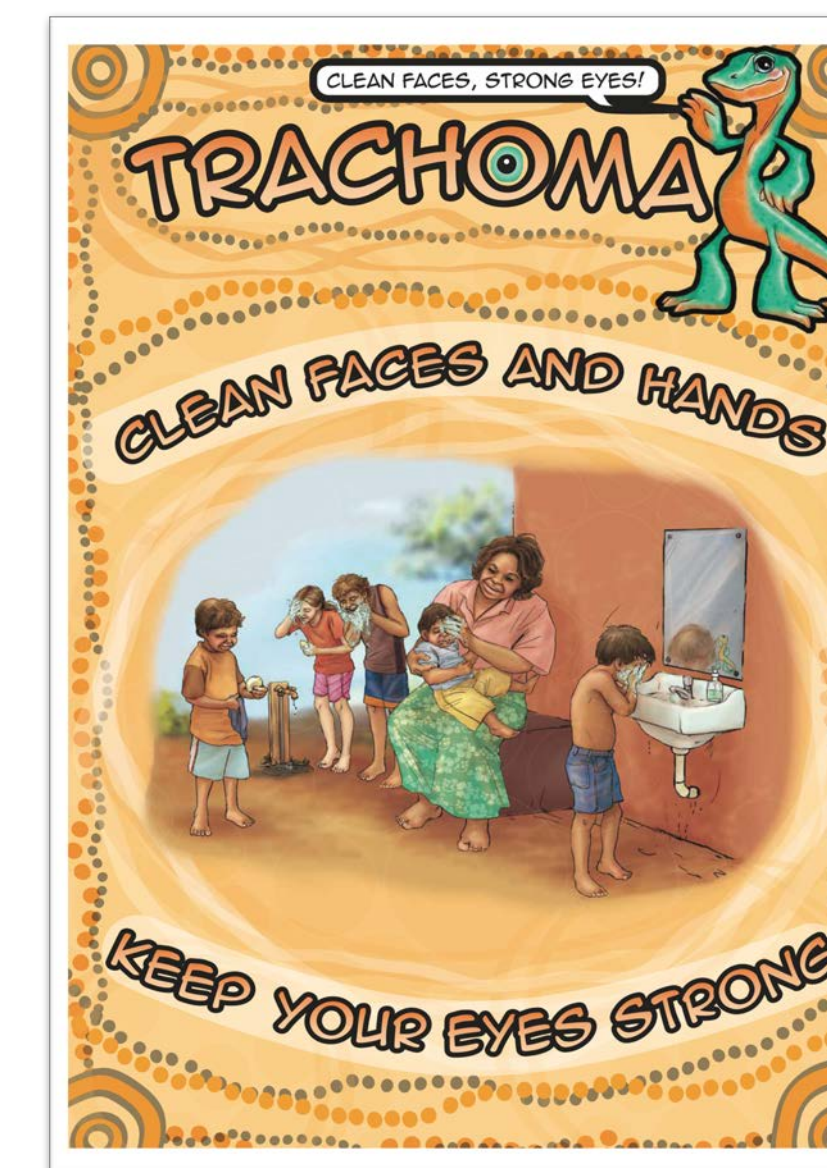
Indigenous Eye Health has developed an evidence base and policy framework to close the gap for Indigenous eye health.

We provide:

- Advocacy
- Technical advice

To support:

- The **Roadmap to Close the Gap For Vision**
- **'Check Today, See Tomorrow'** for diabetes eye care
- **'Clean Faces, Strong Eyes'** for trachoma elimination





About Us

Our aim is to improve the health of women, their families and communities through high quality teaching, research and knowledge exchange.

Our work contributes to knowledge about the health effects of gender inequity and its intersection with other social, economic, cultural, psychological, and biological factors.

Teaching

Our staff teach the following subjects in the Masters of Public Health Program:

- Gender and Health
- Women and Global Health
- Qualitative Research in Public Health
- Health Inequalities
- Community Based Participatory Research

Disability

Improving employment outcomes for people with disabilities

People with disabilities have much poorer employment outcomes which have flow on effects to health. We will recruit 1500 people with disabilities to assess pathways into meaningful employment and the relationships between employment and health trajectories. We will assess barriers and facilitators to employment including workplace, service-related, community and individual factors. Intersections between disability and gender are a major focus.



Centre for Research Excellence in Disability & Health

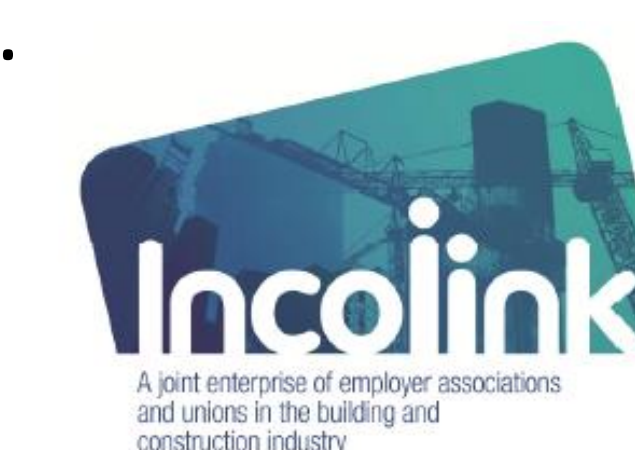
The goal of the Centre for Research Excellence in Disability and Health (CRE-DH) is to identify implementable cost-effective policy reform to improve the health and wellbeing of working-age disabled Australians. We bring multidisciplinary researchers together with influential stakeholders to produce a knowledge-base that contributes to major policy reform in the field of disability and health. The CRE-D&H is unprecedented internationally, and a game changer for the Australian disability agenda.

Work, Gender and Mental Health

Contact and Connect

Contact and Connect is a randomised controlled trial testing the effects of a smartphone program on depression stigma and suicide ideation. It is aimed at unemployed construction workers in Victoria.

Our major partner in rolling out this trial are Incolink, a large redundancy fund for those who have worked in the construction industry.



Cancer prevention



Translating evidence into practice

In Australia, uptake of appropriate risk management strategies (e.g. risk reducing medication or use of MRI instead of mammogram) by women at high risk of breast and ovarian cancer is suboptimal, and use of unproven screening methods (like transvaginal ultrasound and CA125 test) continues despite not being included in the guidelines. We will conduct qualitative interviews with women and their clinicians, followed by an online survey to define the reasons for this behaviour and to design interventions. Funded by Cancer Australia (2016-2018).

Violence Against Women

Analysing Safety and Place in Immigrant and Refugee Experience (ASPIRE)



The **ASPIRE project** has generated evidence about family violence against immigrant and refugee women across Victoria and Tasmania. Project outputs were heavily cited by the Royal Commission into Family Violence in Victoria, and our findings have informed current family violence policy and practice reforms in Victoria and Tasmania.

The project has built the capacity of immigrant and refugee women to conduct research on difficult topics, and has strengthened collaboration within the Centre for Health Equity, and between the Centre and the Multicultural Centre for Women's Health, the University of Tasmania, and stakeholders in the national response to violence against women.

Housing and the built environment

Understanding how local and regional accessibility are associated with active travel, and related health and economic impacts

This project examines how local and regional accessibility (e.g. having nearby shops and services and efficient public transport) are related to walking and cycling for women, men and children.

It will investigate the complex relationship between adult's and children's travel and estimate the economic and health cost of inequalities in opportunities for active travel.

World Health Organization (WHO)

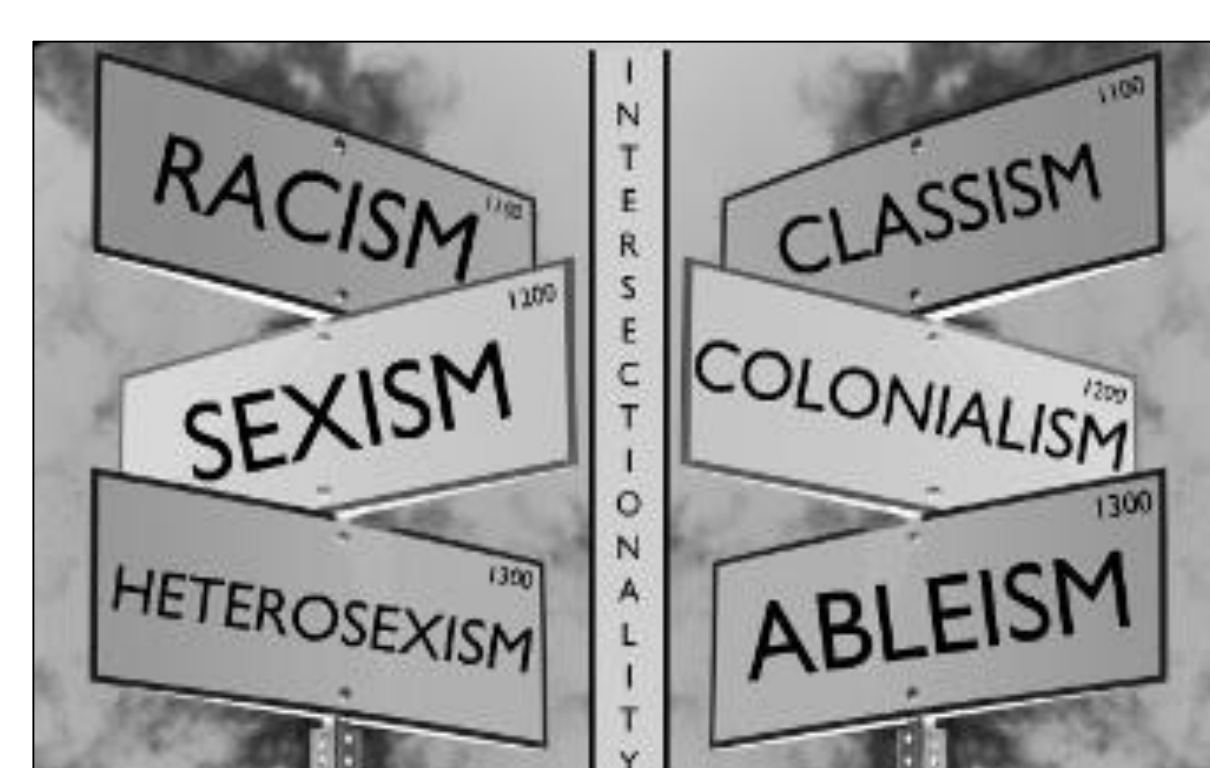


World Health Organization Collaborating Centre

As part of our international work, we host the WHO CC in Women's Health where we work in partnership with experts, scholars and international agencies in the Asia-Pacific region to develop research priorities and programs as well as to increase regional research capacity.

Health Equity: Research & Teaching

1. We generate evidence about how gender **intersects** with socio-economic position, ethnicity, disability, migration, status, age & other factors to shape health inequities.



2. We work with **vulnerable populations**: migrants and refugees, people with disabilities, people with low incomes and living in poverty.

3. **Advocacy** and a **feminist approach** underpin our research and teaching. We prioritise engagement with policy makers, service providers and communities, and have expertise in participatory approaches that explicitly aim to catalyse social change and reduce inequity.

4. We measure **population-level differences** on key health outcomes between women and men eg. housing affordability stress.



About Us

We work with others to explore the various dimensions of health inequities. In doing so, we help to inform the development of strategies that improve health equity.

By investigating the historical and social conditions that may influence health equity, we contribute to a broader understanding of the lived experience of those in poverty and/or poor health.

Who we are:

Emma Barnard Sociology
Richard Chenhall Anthropology
Lynn Gillam Ethics
Marilys Guillemin Sociology

Janet McCalman Historical Pop Health
Ros McDougall Ethics
Bridget Pratt Ethics
Merle Spriggs Ethics

Telling the truth to seriously ill children

“Jay” is a 7-year-old boy with a cancerous tumour in his right tibia. This tumour has to be removed to save his life, which means amputating his leg below the knee. Jay’s parents are distraught and ask their doctor, “What will we say? Should we tell him? When? How?”

Ethical and clinical guidelines agree that even young children should be given open, accurate and honest information in a developmentally appropriate way. However there is evidence to suggest that doctors find this a challenging and uncertain area, and that children do not receive open communication. This project aims to understand the multiple factors influencing the real-life decisions of doctors and parents about what and when to tell a child; to undertake a practical ethical analysis; and produce practical guidelines and educational resources.



PROJECT NOW FUNDED BY ARC

Current sub-studies:

- How adolescents with Cystic Fibrosis get information about their condition
- How parents of children with Muscular Dystrophy discuss this with their child

[Prof Lynn Gillam and Dr Merle Spriggs](#)

DECRA success

Ethics & equity: Engaging with the needs of disadvantaged groups in health systems research priority-setting

The project aims to develop urgently-needed ethical guidance on how research users and beneficiaries should be engaged in health systems research priority-setting. As a matter of justice, research on health systems should generate knowledge that is used to improve access and affordability of care for disadvantaged groups. Yet research questions often fail to reflect the major health system issues such groups face and research findings are often not used in policy and practice. Better engagement of disadvantaged groups, policymakers and other stakeholders in priority-setting can address these problems. It is anticipated that the ethical guidance will facilitate a rise in research that helps improve health systems for disadvantaged groups.

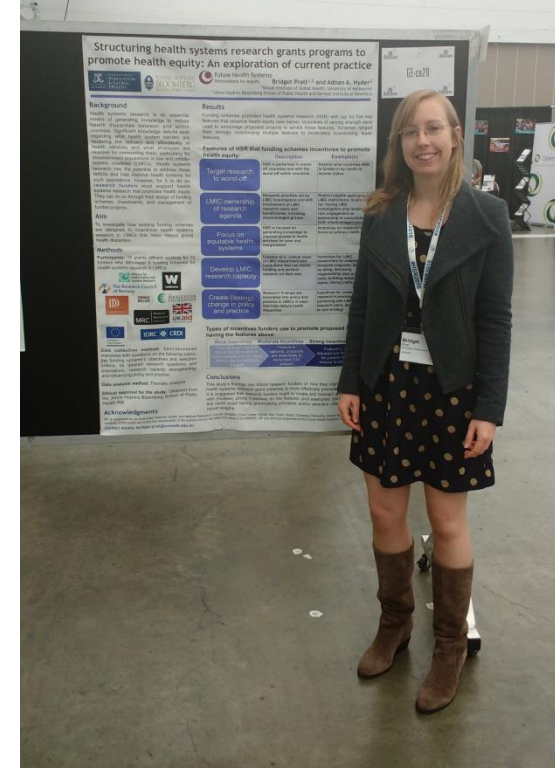
Presented at 4th Health Systems Research Symposium in Vancouver Nov 14-18 2016



- 3 presentations
 - *Governance of transnational health systems research consortia and health equity (oral)*
 - *Inclusion and national health systems research priority-setting (oral)*
 - *Structuring health systems research grants programs to promote health equity (poster)*

Bridget has also been elected as Vice Chair of the Health Systems Global Ethics Working Group – Congratulations Bridget!

<http://www.healthsystemsglobal.org/twg-group/9/Ethics-of-Health-Systems-Research/>



Health Equity in our work

Research

- Ethical and rigorous research practice
- Addressing the inequity in harms from alcohol & drug use
- Giving research participants a voice
- Linking research to health justice

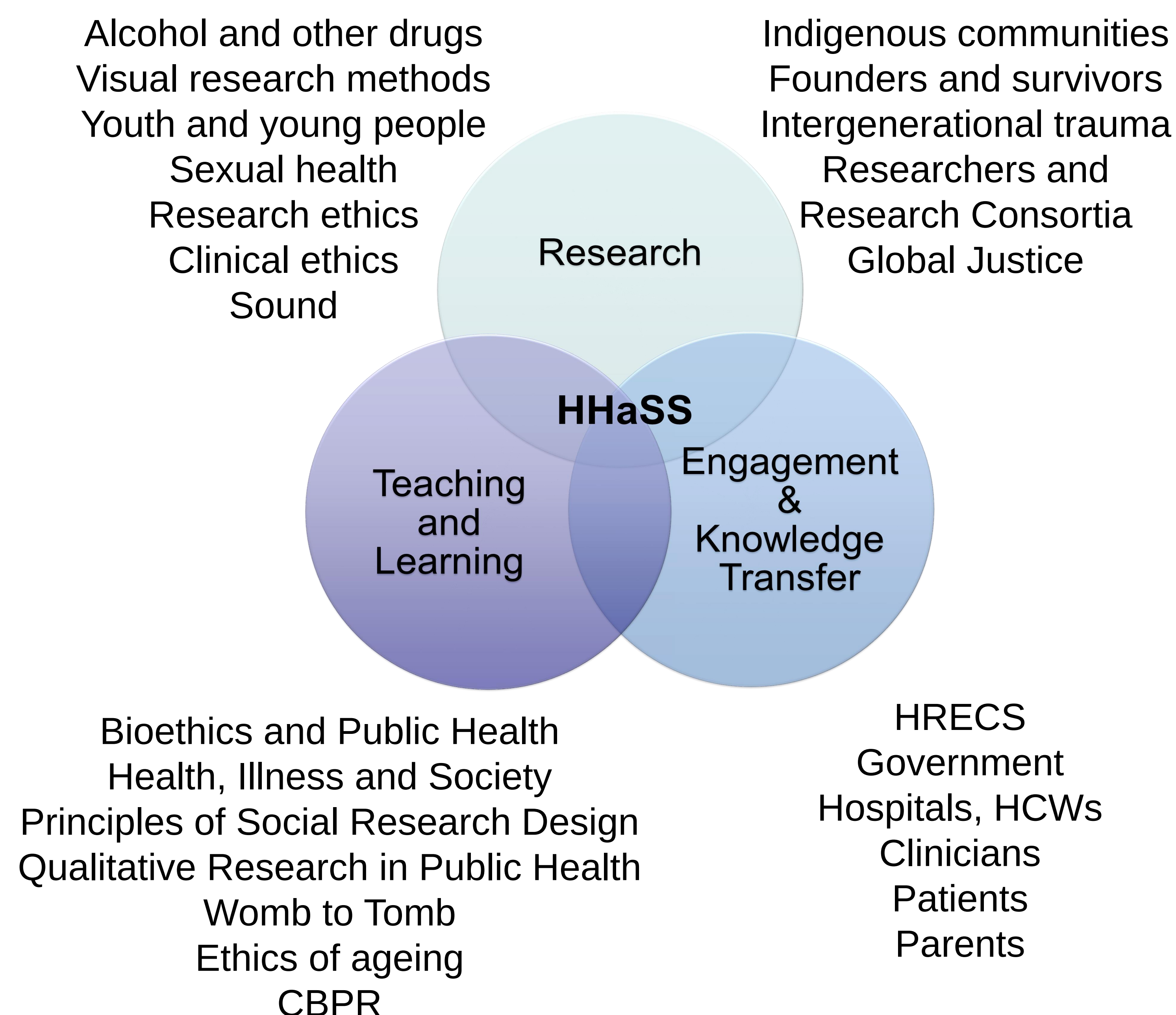
Teaching and Learning

- Understanding equity
- Developing conceptual & theoretical tools
- Innovative methodological approaches

Engagement & Knowledge Transfer

- Protecting the interests of sick children
- Capacity development of NGOs
- Building capacity & training in community contexts

Major Themes, Topics or Programs



Sovereignty Exhibition

The Sovereignty exhibition at Australian Centre for Contemporary Art (ACCA) included all Digital Stories created by Korin Gamadji Institute alumni, made during three workshops conducted between 2014-2016 as part of a three year ARC linkage project at the University of Melbourne. Workshops were conducted at Museum Victoria, ACMI and at Camp Jungai in Central Victoria. Various Aboriginal Elders, artists, filmmakers, performers and scriptwriters assisted the young participants in the creation of their stories. The exhibition includes the display of the digital stories as a series of video installations, shown simultaneously on 7 screens. The exhibition of the stories was organised and conducted in collaboration with Korin Gamadji Institute at the Richmond Football Club and ACCA. Along with the young participants, researchers were involved in public and education programs, supplying information about the DST workshops, writing the extended label and captions for the stories on display.



Navigating ethical uncertainty: fertility and childhood cancer

Showcasing our planned work:

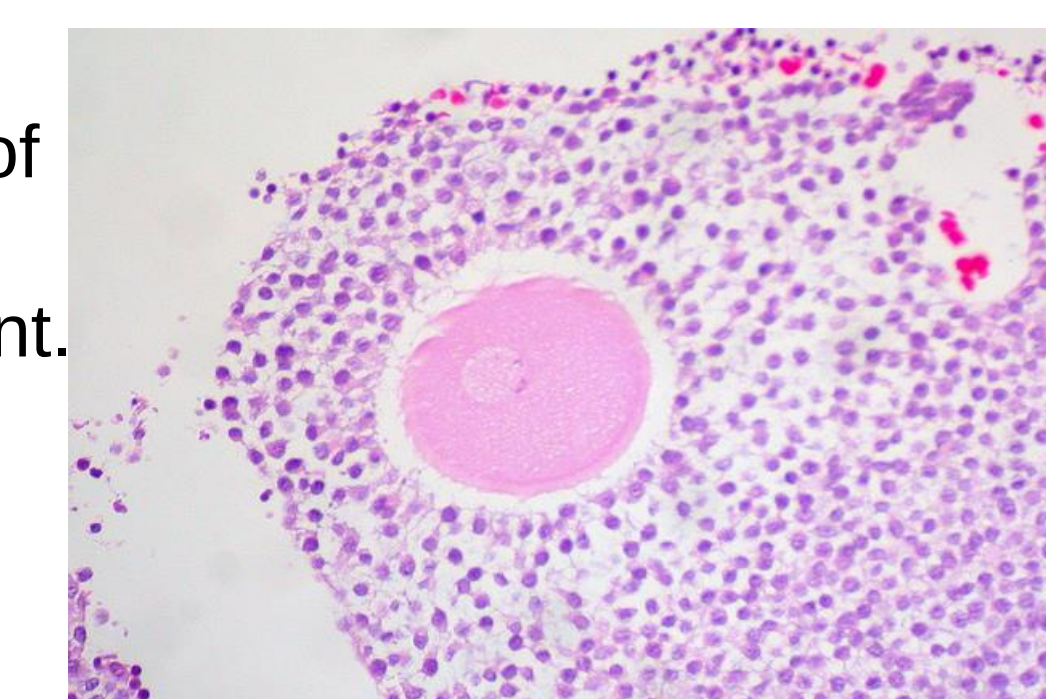
This ARC DP if successful will be lead by Dr Ros McDougall with Prof Lynn Gillam and Yasmin Jayasinghe from the Royal Children's Hospital, Melbourne in 2018.

Emily is a four year old girl diagnosed with brain cancer. Her treatment will provide a 70% chance of survival but carries a high risk of damaging her ovaries. As a result, she is unlikely to be able to conceive a child - naturally or via IVF. Her parents are aware that a new process is being developed, involving surgery to remove ovarian tissue, which is then frozen, stored at an IVF clinic and re-implanted in adulthood. Emily's parents are keen to pursue this, and understand that the process is experimental and is not standard practice around Australia or internationally. No live births have been reported for patients who have had tissue stored at this age. Emily's doctors explain that surgery to remove ovarian tissue involves small but real risks and are worried about exposing Emily to these risks, given the unproven nature of the benefit. Without evidence for efficacy, they are concerned that offering the procedure may be unethical.

For young children with cancer, treatment can damage their future fertility. There are now experimental techniques aimed at preserving the fertility of these patients. Despite this, the effectiveness of these techniques has not yet been proven and they involve risks to the child. This creates substantial ethical uncertainty, reflected in doctors' hesitation about offering these techniques. This project aims to develop an ethical framework to guide fertility preservation for

young children. The framework would assist doctors to determine if it is ethical to offer experimental fertility preservation to a specific child. It would also help organisations to design ethical processes for the retrieval and storage of reproductive tissue from children. With increased cancer survival rates, ensuring future quality of life is now a crucial part of good cancer treatment. By increasing global understanding of the ethics of fertility preservation and

producing an implementable framework for Australian health professionals and organisations, this project will facilitate ethical practice and improve care pathways for young children with cancer.





About Us

Non-Communicable Disease Unit (NCDU) undertakes research, research training and knowledge translation in 4 key areas:

- 1. Identifying** multiple determinants & complex pathways underlying chronic NCDs
- 2. Implementing & evaluating** lifestyle and community-wide interventions for chronic NCDs in resource constrained settings, including use of “smart technologies”
- 3. Developing & evaluating** innovative approaches to improve the uptake of evidence-based prevention in high- and low/middle-income countries.
- 4. Developing & evaluating** contemporary methods to build the public health research capacity of developing countries at an individual and institutional level.

Alcohol and Other Drug Hotspots

Overview: The **AOD Hotspots Project** is a partnership project between local and state level stakeholders to identify innovative approaches to alcohol and other drugs:

- 1. The Changing Trends Project** combines key informant interviews with existing data sets aggregated at a local level to give a local perspective on changing trends in AOD and merging at risk populations.
 - 2. The Night Time Economy (NTE) Project** is developing a framework that identifies opportunities to strengthen the NTE across local government in Victoria.
- Funding:** Our Changing Trends project is supported by a Victorian Law Enforcement Drug Fund grant and our NTE project is supported by partnership contributions from the DHHS and the City of Yarra and the City of Melbourne.

GIS and spatial mapping program

Dr Suzanne Mavoa, NHMRC ECF (2017-2020) has recently joined NCDU as Deputy Head and she is leading a new program to apply GIS and spatial mapping to understand more about how urban environments influence health and most particularly, heart disease and other chronic conditions.

Recent projects with China

- Two research students from China are using a longitudinal study (CHARLS) to study the progression and outcomes of chronic conditions – particularly heart disease and diabetes – in China.
- There is also a developing collaboration with Shanghai CDC to develop new mhealth programs for chronic conditions to implement and evaluation in Shanghai

ADVENT

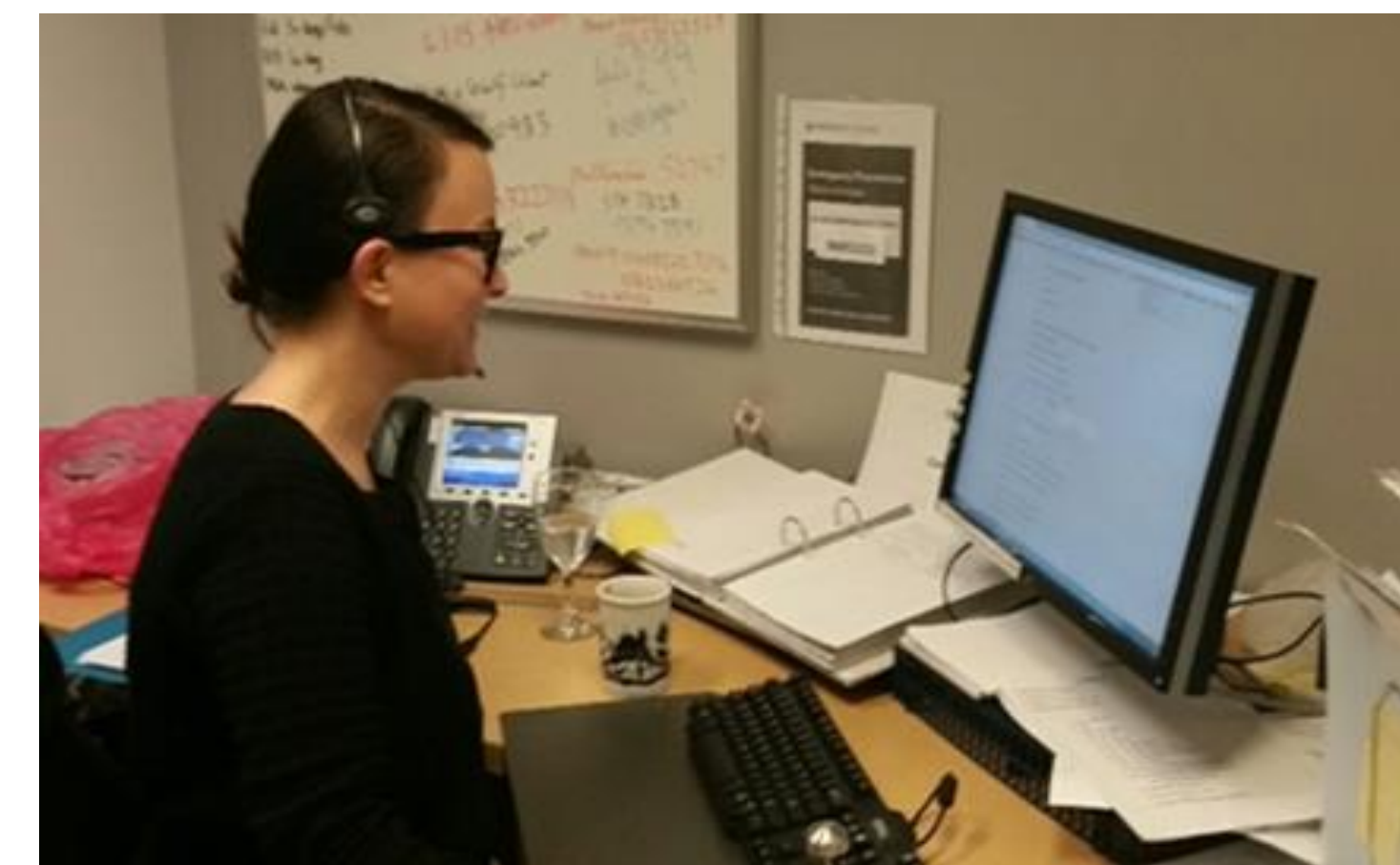
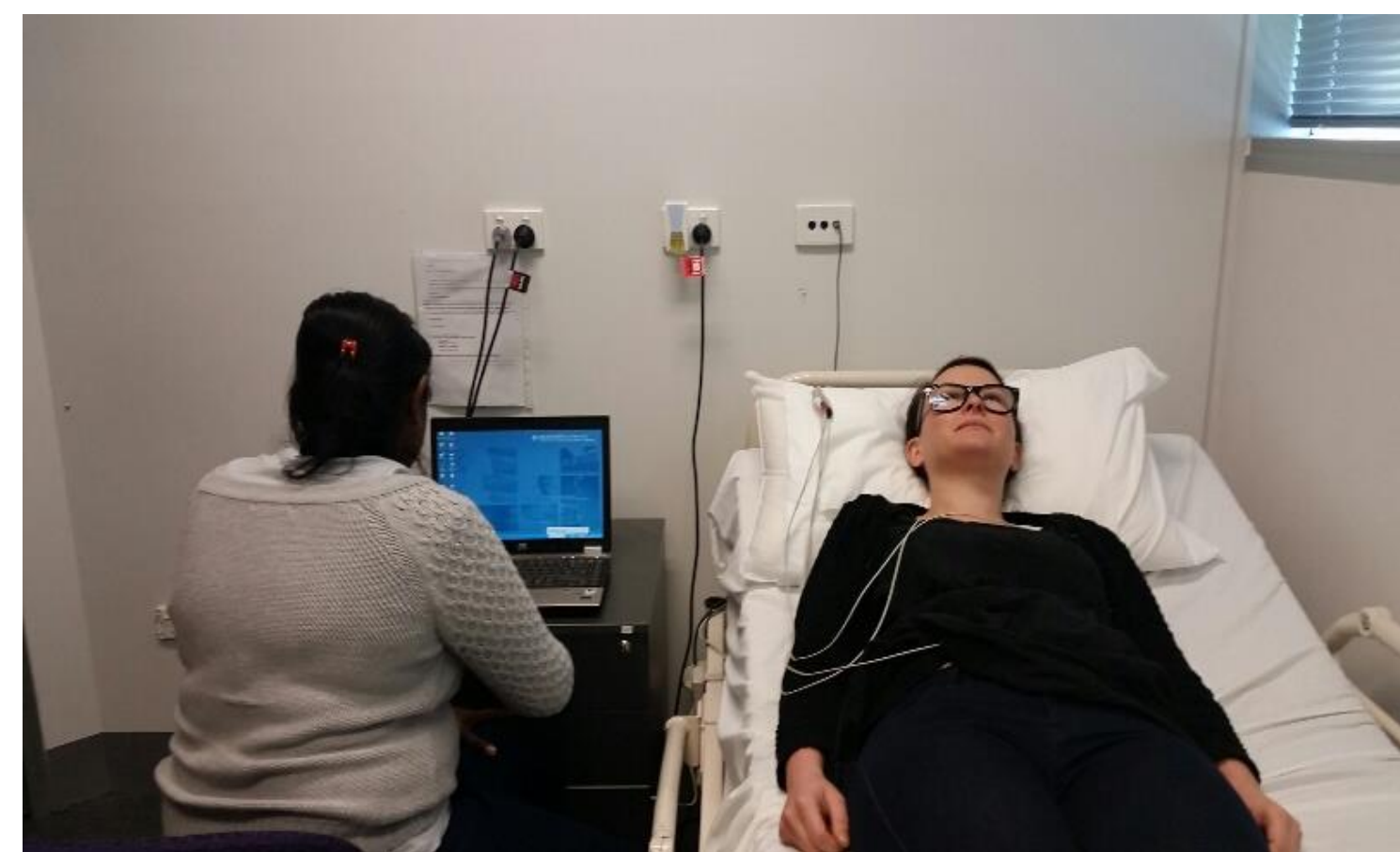
Overview: Prospective cohort study investigating sub-type: depression and anxiety and their underpinning pathophysiology (inflammatory and autonomic function) in acute coronary syndrome patients over 2 years.

Funding: NHMRC Project Grant (2012-15).

ADVENT



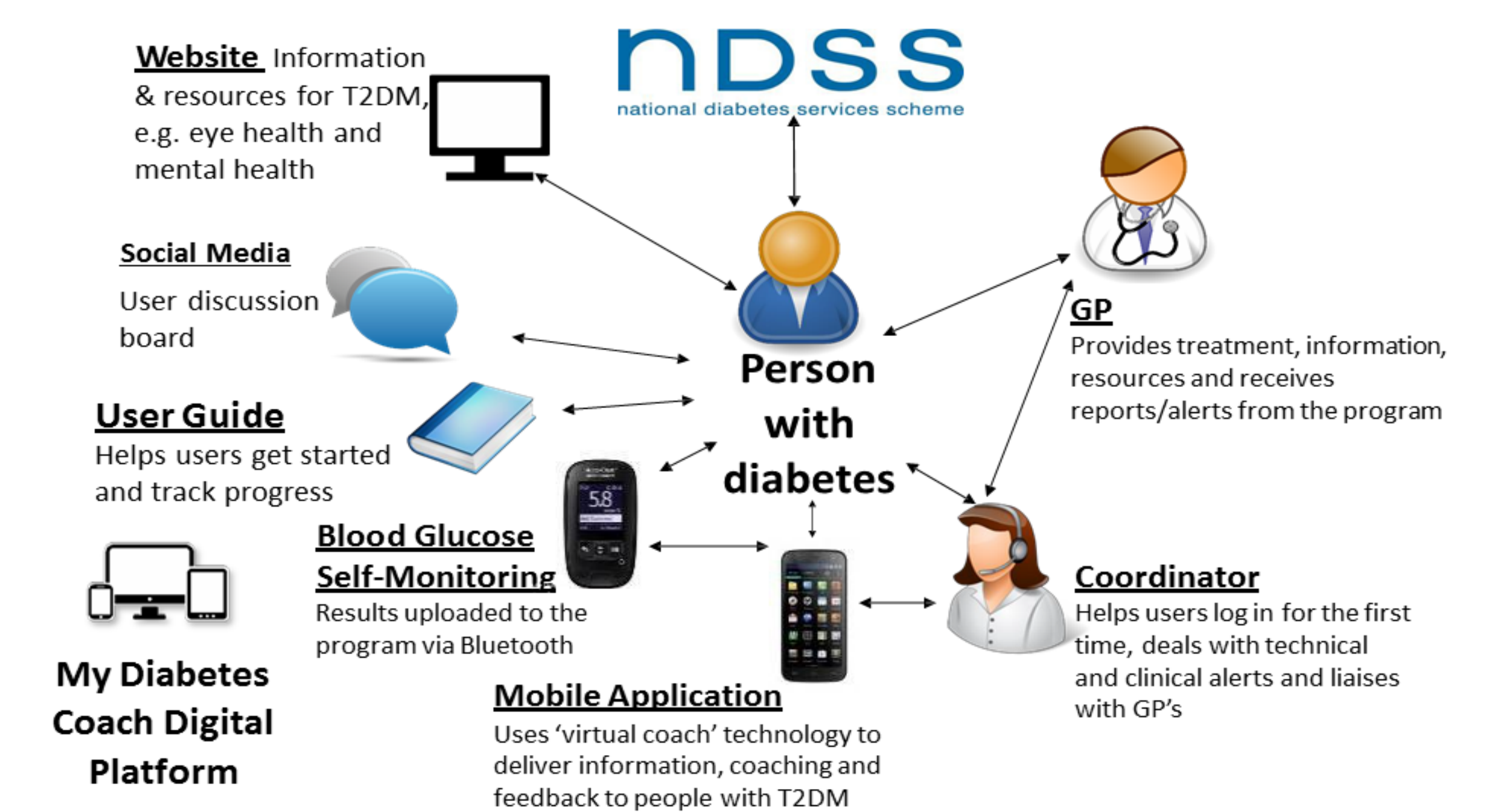
Mood and Heart Rate Variability in cardiac patients



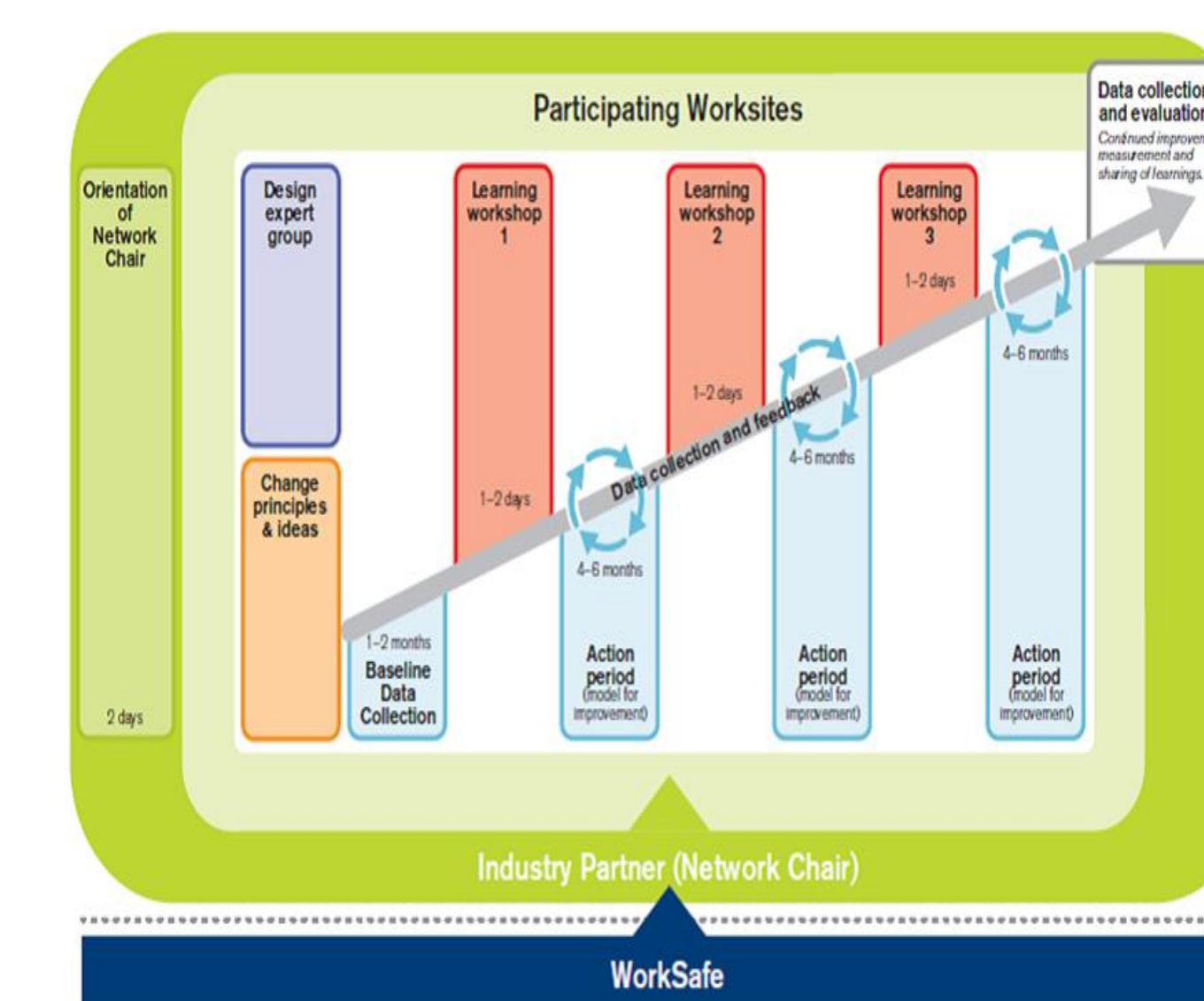
My Diabetes Coach Project

Overview: Evaluates the “real world” implementation of a “Virtual” Health Coaching program to improve self-management of type 2 diabetes in partnership with NDSS, Diabetes Australia, Diabetes Vic, Diabetes QLD and Diabetes WA, Roche Diagnostics

Funding: NHMRC funded project (2014-17); Recruitment commences in April 2016.



WorkHealth Improvement Network (WIN) Evaluation



Overview: Evaluating the WIN Program in >30 public hospital and manufacturing worksites; it is trialling integrated approaches to worker health, safety and wellbeing. WIN uses a continuous improvement model across 3 waves to address musculoskeletal disorders, mental health and wellbeing and safety culture. The evaluation involves data at a worker, worksite and network level using worksite audits, employee surveys, interviews and focus groups.

Funding: Institute for Safety, Compensation and Recovery Research (2015-2017)

Research capacity building in South Asia



ENCORE Program
Excellence in Noncommunicable Disease Research
Between Australia and India



- The US NIH-funded ASCEND Research Network provides research training to ‘early career’ researchers from India, Sri Lanka and Malaysia.
 - The new ENCORE Program is for ‘mid-career’ researchers from the University of Melbourne and top India public health and medical research institutes.
- Aim:** Strengthen NCD research capacity across Asia and build international networks in order to reduce the burden of NCD.
- Funding:** US National Institutes of Health funded project (2010-15) & University of Melbourne International Research and Research Training Fund (2016 – 2018).



Prevention and control of NCDs in India

Overview:

- The Kerala Diabetes Prevention Program (K-DPP). Cluster RCT of a community-based lifestyle intervention for prevention of diabetes in Kerala,
- Scale up of K-DPP to 375,000 pax. across 15,000 communities in Kerala through a community-coalition model.
- Controlling Hypertension In Rural India (CHIRI) Study. Large scale survey to assess the barriers and facilitators to hypertension control in three different regions of India, and feasibility study of a small-group intervention.

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Outcomes:

- ✓ Daivadanam M et al. *BMC Public Health* 2013 13:95 | DOI: 10.1186/1471-2458-13-9
- ✓ Sathish T et al. *BMC Public Health* 2013 13:1035 | DOI:10.1186/1471-2458-13-1035
- ✓ Aziz Z et al. *Implementation Science* 2015 10:172 | DOI: 10.1186/s13012-015-0354-6
- ✓ 3 PhD Students
- ✓ Other related projects underway in China, South Africa and other countries.



Photo of NCDU staff and HDR students



Contact Us

Professor Brian Oldenburg,
Director, Centre for Health Equity & Head, NCDU
Email: brian.oldenburg@unimelb.edu.au
Website: <http://mispgh.unimelb.edu.au/>