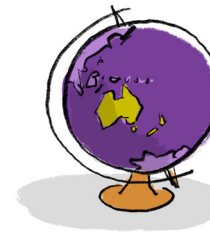

Child & Community Wellbeing Unit

2020 Annual Report



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FROM THE DIRECTOR



PROFESSOR LISA GIBBS

The year of 2020 was clearly a year in which everyone was tested, personally and professionally. It was also one which demonstrated the importance of our program of work in disaster resilience and in which our strong foundation of collaborative teamwork paid dividends.

The 2019/2020 Black Summer bushfires were devastating for affected communities and there was heavy reliance on our bushfire recovery research findings by government, emergency management and recovery agencies. As the seriousness of the COVID-19 pandemic became apparent, we also formed new collaborations to bring a disaster resilience perspective to the efforts in Australia to monitor and manage disease transmission. These events also highlighted the importance of our work with sectors of the community who often experience disadvantage, particularly families of children with a disability, families from a refugee and migrant background, and children and families experiencing domestic violence.

We are grateful to our ongoing and new partner agencies who guide our research agenda and then use our findings to shape their services so that they are most likely to improve people's lives.

Professor Lisa Gibbs

Director, Child and Community Wellbeing Unit

2020 HIGHLIGHTS AT A GLANCE

Trauma and Resilience

We responded to the Black Summer crisis by providing new resources and giving expert advice to government, recovery workers and educators about the needs of affected communities and schools, based on our extensive disaster research findings.

We conducted new research relating to the COVID-19 pandemic to contribute to the decision making of government, parents, educators and service providers.

Migration and Social Cohesion

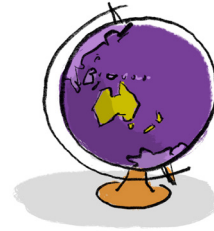
By combining research about the experiences of women with research about the role of key services, we are contributing to the development of new approaches to prevent family violence in migrant and refugee communities.

Changing Lifestyles and Healthy Futures

Our long-term partnership with Yooralla resulted in the development and evaluation of a promising new approach to supporting the mental wellbeing of parents caring for a child with a disability.

Capacity Building

There is continued demand for our Design and Data Visualisation courses and consultancy service. Our expertise in science communication was also sought to create a tool for school leaders in schools affected by the Black Summer bushfires to select the most appropriate recovery programs for their school community.



ABOUT THE PROGRAM

The work of the Child and Community Wellbeing Unit is conducted by an interdisciplinary team of leading public health researchers, working to address gaps in knowledge about child and community wellbeing.

Our research addresses key questions that inform decisions in policy and practice at the community, state, national and international levels. Our research projects are driven by a passion for justice, equity and human rights. We are concerned with the key drivers of health and wellbeing; the influence of culture and social contexts on a child's early years that impact health, educational, social and employment prospects later in life; and opportunities to promote health promoting change.

We have formed strong practice-research partnerships across a wide variety of sectors and disciplines, including government, education, emergency management, community health, dental health, disability and social work.

We engage members of the public, including children and their families, in decision making because research must be inclusive and broadly relevant if it is to contribute to community wellbeing. Through our partnerships we build the capacity of organisations to use research and evidence more effectively to improve health and wellbeing. We also learn from our partners about the context for our research and translation of findings into useful outputs.

Funding for this work requires great ideas, wonderful people, and significant and important findings. We wouldn't be able to achieve this without our funding partners, who share this vision for prevention, and recognition of the need for research in solving the complex problems.

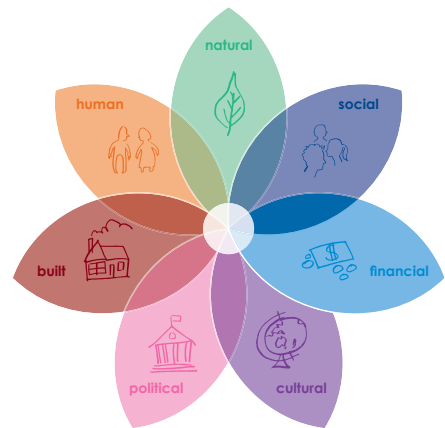
The Child and Community Wellbeing Unit was previously known as the Jack Brockhoff Child Health and Wellbeing Program which was founded by inaugural Director, Professor Elizabeth Waters enabled by a substantial gift from the Jack Brockhoff Foundation. Sadly, Liz passed away in September 2015. We continue to be inspired by memories of her vitality and passion as we build on her legacy.



RECOVERY CAPITALS (RECAP)

Disaster recovery processes are highly complex, presenting challenges in how to achieve holistic and inclusive approaches when working with people and communities. ReCap aims to produce resources to help address these challenges.

About the project



The ReCap project applies a Community Capitals lens to disaster recovery to increase understanding about the interacting influences of social, built, financial, political, human, cultural and natural capital on people's wellbeing. It uses end user-oriented evidence translation to improve the way that planning and decision making for disaster recovery is addressed. ReCap is a collaboration between academics, end-users and creators across Australia and Aotearoa New Zealand.

The first step in the project was to develop a framework to guide our approach to reviewing relevant evidence and developing recovery resources. The Community Capitals Framework¹ was taken as the starting point for the ReCap framework. Drawing on the practice expertise of end-users and additional academic knowledge, this was developed into the ReCap approach to disaster recovery which considers people, place and time, while interweaving issues of access, equity, and diversity.

Detailed evidence mapping against the ReCap framework was undertaken using previous research conducted by the academic teams and collaborators and broader literature. This was then summarised into key findings on the role of each of the recovery capitals, highlighting the complex interplay between them all. They are accompanied by prompts to consider when planning practical actions in the recovery contexts.

Knowledge translation and impact

ReCap is producing a series of resources in different formats to suit different needs (including online and hard copy guides, case studies and podcasts), with versions tailored to both Australia and Aotearoa New Zealand.

The pilot Australian edition of the first of these – the 'Guide to Recovery Capitals' – was released in July 2020 and can be found at <http://www.recoverycapitals.org.au/>.



Strategic partners for translation of research into policy and practice

Australian Red Cross, Victoria State Emergency Service, Country Fire Authority, Wellington Region Emergency Management Office, New Zealand Red Cross, Fire and Emergency New Zealand, University of Melbourne Department of Social Work, Phoenix Australia, Social Recovery Reference Group, Leadbeater Group, Australian Department of Home Affairs, Department of Primary Industries and Regions South Australia, Emergency Management Victoria, Resilient Melbourne, Creative Recovery Network, Regional Arts Victoria, Bushfire Recovery Victoria.

Funding Partners

Bushfire and Natural Hazards Cooperative Research Centre

Key publication

Download from the Phoenix Australia Disaster Mental Health Hub
<http://www.recoverycapitals.org.au/>

Guide to Post-Disaster Recovery Capitals (ReCap)



Pilot | Australian edition

Quinn P, Gibbs L, Blake D, Campbell E, Johnston D, Ireton G. Guide to Post-Disaster Recovery Capitals (ReCap). Melbourne, Australia: Bushfire and Natural Hazards Cooperative Research Centre; July 2020. Retrieved from <http://www.recoverycapitals.org.au/>

¹Flora, C., Flora, J., & Fey, S. (2004). Rural Communities: Legacy and Change (2nd ed.). Boulder, CO: Westview Press.

STRENGTHENING CHILDREN AND FAMILIES FOLLOWING DISASTERS AND MAJOR EMERGENCIES

Emergencies by their very nature are stressful and disruptive and can cause difficulties for children and families for months and even years afterwards.

About the project

This project involved the translation of evidence into practical resources that provide guidance on how to address the impacts of disasters and other major emergencies on child mental health and wellbeing, family function and positive parenting. The evidence drew from our previous research studies including Beyond Bushfires, the Strengthening School Communities study, PhD research into parenting after disasters, and the study of Long term disaster impacts on children.

Knowledge translation and impact



Influenced and consulted on a series of **5 Play School episodes** released in February 2021, which focus on 'everyday helpers', keeping calm and normalising reactions to crisis and disaster. They will continue to be available after airing on ABC iview website and ABC KIDS iview app.



400+
views

A new **guide to resources for children and families** to help people to navigate through materials released by multiple organisations following the 2019/2020 bushfires - <https://www.redcross.org.au/gethelp/emergencies/resources-about-disasters/resources-for-parents#recover> visited over 400 times since going live in January 2020.



20,000
copies
printed

A new guide to **parenting after disasters** which will be used in impacted communities for years to come - <https://www.redcross.org.au/getmedia/7cc1cce0-a6d9-41ac-a8e0-4bac2663be74/Crisis-Parents-Booklet.pdf.aspx>. The resource was **printed 20,000** times and distributed to **Red Cross offices across Australia**. It has been downloaded over 110 times since going live in May 2020.



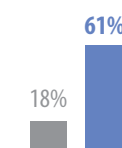
Resources tested through **webinars held with parents and carers** who had lived experience of disasters. Over **76 people attended live** and over **330 downloaded** the recorded session afterwards.

Knowledge translation and impact



20,000
copies
printed

Updated an existing Red Cross resource for children and parents after crisis which will be used in impacted communities for years to come - <https://www.redcross.org.au/getmedia/bc927459-bc19-4e1a-8e3c-e4178b01a0c2/CrisisChildren-Booklet.pdf.aspx>. The resource was printed 20,000 times and distributed to Red Cross offices across Australia. It has been downloaded over 250 times since going live in May 2020.



Trained 86 Red Cross volunteers – self reports of high confidence in capacity to support families increased from 18% to 61%; low confidence reduced from 26% to zero.



145
students

The resources were used to **train Social Workers** in the University of Melbourne entry-to-practice Master of Social Work course, with approximately 90 students enrolled in the subject Lifespan Risk and Resilience. It was also introduced into the Master of Advanced Social Work/Master of Health and Human Services subject, Advanced Trauma Perspectives, which had approximately 55 students enrolled. It will be an ongoing inclusion in these courses.



A group of young adults with lived experience of disaster (heavily impacted by the 2009 Black Saturday bushfires as children) were recruited to develop the **Young Views resource**. This booklet addresses the psychosocial impacts of a disaster event and provides suggested activities for youth-led workshops. The work in progress was presented to the Disaster Resilient Australian-New Zealand School Education Network (DRANSZEN) National Forum in August 2020.



The resources and recommendations were incorporated into **professional training and expert advice**, including a submission to the Royal Commission for Natural Disaster Arrangements, media interviews, a webinar to 300 members of the Independent Education Union of Australia and a series of webinars for over 200 school leaders and teachers from the NSW Teacher's Federation.

Strategic partners

This project was led by the University of Melbourne, Australian Red Cross, and Phoenix Australia: Centre of Posttraumatic Mental Health in collaboration with the University of Melbourne Children & Disasters Advisory Committee.

Funding partners

This project was made possible by the generous funding provided by Gandel Philanthropy, Helen Macpherson Smith Trust, Collier Charitable Fund and Perpetual 2019 IMPACT Philanthropy.

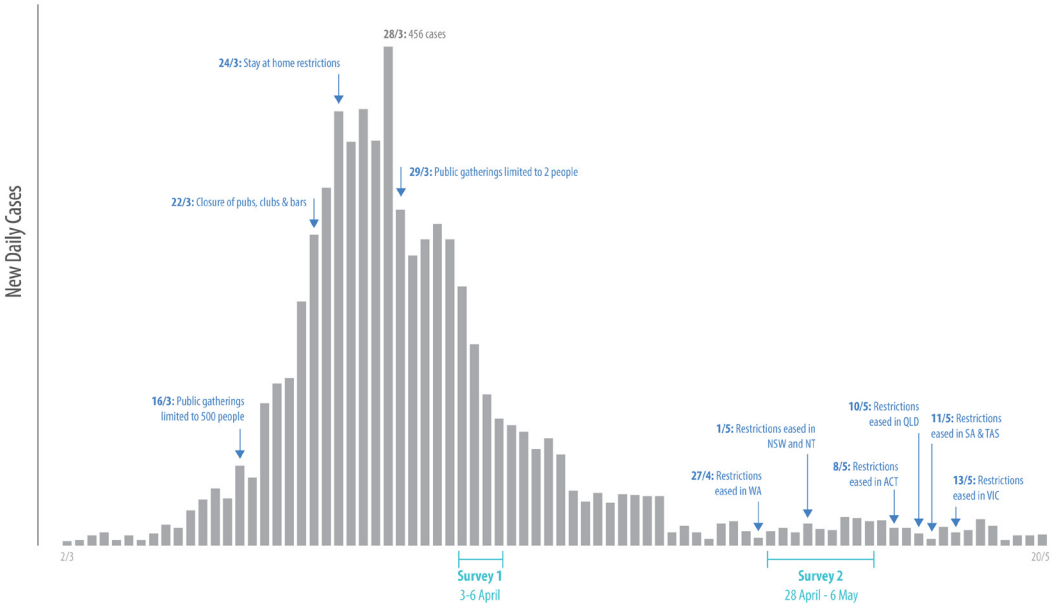
COVID ATTITUDES, RESILIENCE AND EPIDEMIOLOGY (CARE) STUDY

To guide decision making, it is important to understand how Australians were thinking, feeling and behaving in relation to the COVID-19 pandemic and the associated physical distancing measures used to control it's spread.

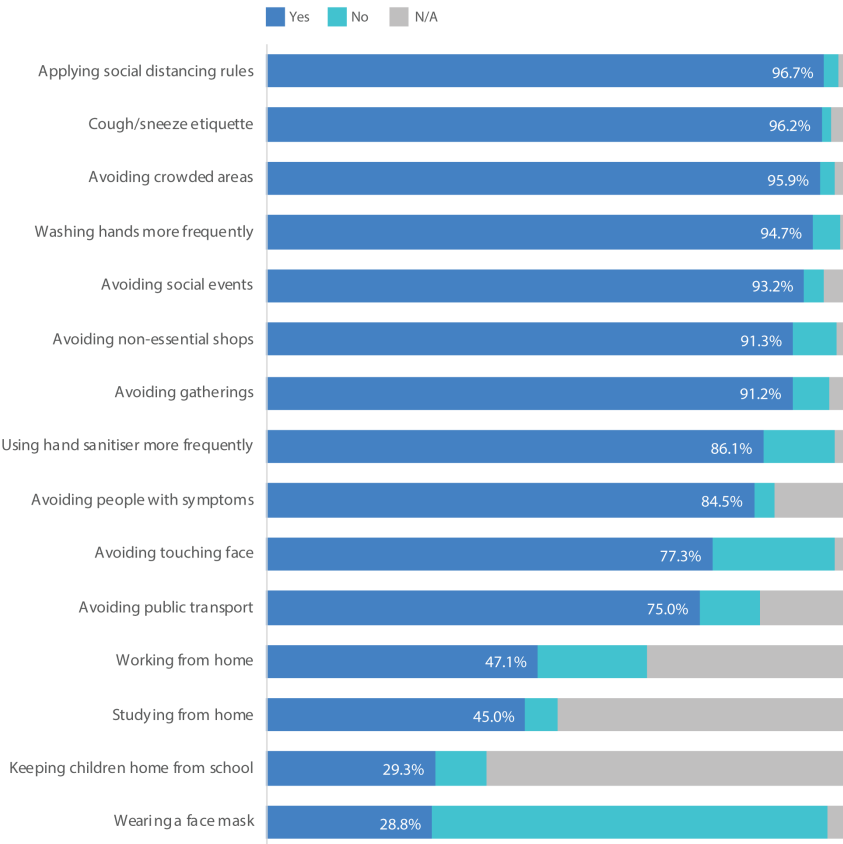
About the project

Our team was a key contributor to a partnership project between the Melbourne School of Population and Global Health and the Doherty Institute for Infection and Immunity led by Dr Freya Shearer. Three online surveys were carried out in April, May and September 2020. Approximately 1000 Australians aged >18 years responded to the first two surveys (71.8% completed both) and results were weighted to be representative of the adult population in Australia. The September survey targeted residents of the state of Victoria, who, due to the presence of community transmission of COVID-19, were living under stricter restrictions than the rest of the Australia. As part of the third survey, Victorians from non-English speaking backgrounds were deliberately oversampled, and completed the survey with the help of an interpreter. The project aimed to gain real-time understanding of how people in Australia were thinking, feeling and behaving in relation to the COVID-19 pandemic and distancing measures; and b) explore how this changed over time.

Plot of national daily new case notifications in Australia, timings of key national response policies and Surveys 1 and 2.



Percentage of respondents taking measures to protect themselves and others from COVID-19 infection at time 1 (April 2020).



Knowledge translation and impact

Survey results were released as a series of rapid reports, and key findings were disseminated to relevant government contacts. Certain variables fed directly into the disease prediction models used to inform decision making at the federal level, through the Australian Health Protection Principal Committee.

A policy brief of the Victorian specific September results were disseminated to the Victorian Chief and Deputy Health Officers, to inform decision making related to easing restrictions in late September.

Funding partners

- Melbourne School of Population and Global Health
- Doherty Institute for Infection and Immunity, University of Melbourne and Royal Melbourne Hospital.
- The Burnett Institute

Key publications

- https://www.doherty.edu.au/uploads/content_doc/social_distancing_survey_wave1_report_May142.pdf
- https://www.doherty.edu.au/uploads/content_doc/Covid_report_2.pdf

COVID-19 UNMASKED

Prospective longitudinal study to determine the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on the mental health and wellbeing of infants and preschool aged children and their families

The COVID-19 pandemic and related restrictions have been a challenge for many families in Australia and around the globe. Preschool children might be particularly vulnerable for the mental health impact of the pandemic because of their still developing cognitive capacities and their dependence on caregivers to understand stressful events.

About the project

Led by our collaborators in Queensland, COVID-19 Unmasked (Young Children) is an online prospective study launched in Australia and in several other countries to help understand the mental health impacts of the pandemic on young children aged one to five years and their families.

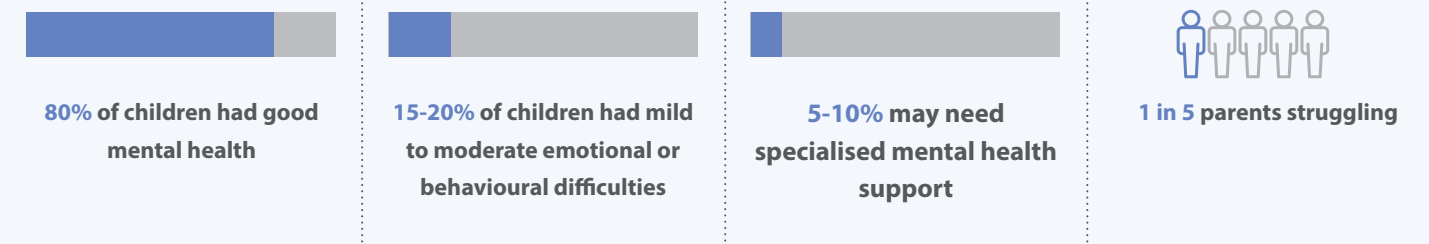
The first wave of data collection was completed between May and July 2020. A total of 998 parents reported on their experiences during the COVID-19 pandemic, their own and their children's wellbeing and worries. Many families described positive experiences during the first wave of lockdowns in Australia, including more quality family time together, increased connection with friends and family, and more appreciation and gratitude. No children and only one caregiver was diagnosed with COVID-19. However, children and parents have been affected in many ways.

Mild to moderate emotional or behavioural difficulties in children were reported by 15-20% of parents. Tantrums, fears, worries, clinginess, low mood and sleeping difficulties were common. Some young children were confused about the pandemic and current restrictions and overestimated the risk of getting or transmitting the virus.

Confusion, worries and unhelpful thoughts (e.g. that things will never be alright again) can cause increased sense of threat and have negative impact on a child's wellbeing. Data collection will continue into late 2021. Following the longitudinal trajectory of child and family coping can best inform future disaster-related research and interventions.

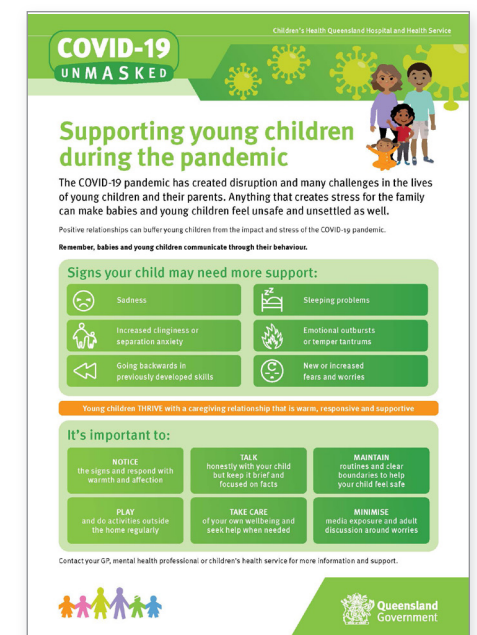


Key findings



Knowledge translation and impact

Based on the initial findings of the COVID-19 Unmasked project, we prepared tip sheets to support parents, educators and professionals working with young children. The findings were successfully disseminated across different service providers and decision makers.



Strategic partners for translation of research into policy and practice

Dr Alexandra De Young (lead partner): Queensland Centre for Perinatal and Infant Mental Health (QCPIMH), Children's Health Queensland Hospital and Health Service (CHQ HHS) and Child Health Research Centre; School of Psychology, University of Queensland (UQ)

Funding partners

- German Research Council (Project: 420503242)

Key publications

De Young A, Paterson R, March S, Hoehn E, Alisic E, Cobham V, Donovan C, Middeldorp C, Gash T & Vasileva M. (2020). **COVID-19 Unmasked Young Children – Report 1: Early findings and recommendations**. Brisbane, Queensland Centre for Perinatal and Infant Mental Health, Children's Health Queensland Hospital and Health Service.

GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE PREVENTION AND RESPONSE IN MIGRANT AND REFUGEE COMMUNITIES

Family violence is both prevalent and preventable and is a major problem across all sectors of Australian society. Migrant and refugee women experiencing family violence face specific barriers to accessing support including barriers associated with language and culture, precarious immigration status, and a complex service system that may be insufficiently resourced to cater for their needs.

About the project

In collaboration with researchers from the Gender and Women's Health Unit, Dr Karen Block has been involved in several investigations in this area over the last few years. She is currently leading an evaluation of family violence prevention work funded by the Victorian Government and being undertaken by over 80 community-based organisations. The ASPIRE project (Analysing Safety and Place in Immigrant and Refugee Experience), aimed to increase understanding of the nature and dynamics of violence against immigrant and refugee women in different Australian contexts.

Building on this, the MuSeS project (Multicultural and Settlement services Supporting women experiencing violence) built evidence about the role of settlement and multicultural services in addressing family violence. The SEREDA project (Sexual and gender-based violence against Refugees from Displacement to Arrival) is a multi-country study conducted in partnership with researchers from the United Kingdom, Sweden and Turkey, in which we are speaking with refugee women who have experienced violence and service providers to inform better support for survivors. Several of the PhD projects detailed on page 22 of this report are also linked to this program of research.



Knowledge translation and impact

All of these projects are helping to build our understanding of the experiences and support needs of migrant and refugee women and families in the context of gender-based violence. Our work in this area is directly informing both community and government partners. Findings from the ASPIRE project were drawn on in the Victorian Royal Commission into Family Violence.

Strategic partners for translation of research into policy and practice

- Victorian State Government
- Foundation House
- Multicultural Centre for Women's Health
- inTouch
- Our Watch
- Arabic Welfare
- Women's Refugee Commission

Funding partners

- Victorian State government
- ANROWS
- Wellcome Trust
- Volkswagen Stiftung
- Riksbankens Jubileumsfond

Key publications

Block K, Nasr H, Vaughan C, Sullivan C & Alsaraf S. (2019). **What responses, approaches to treatment, and other supports are effective in assisting refugees who have experienced sexual and gender-based violence?** University of Birmingham Working Paper.

Vaughan C, Chen J, Sullivan C, Mariyam S, Sandhu M, Hourani J, Block K, Murdolo A. (2020). **Multicultural and Settlement Services supporting women experiencing violence: The MuSeS project.** Sydney: Australia's National Research Organisation for Women's Safety.

PURSUIT OF WELLBEING: SUPPORTING THE MENTAL HEALTH OF PARENTS OF CHILDREN WITH A DISABILITY

Parent mental wellbeing is often not addressed by child disability support services, despite poor mental health being increasingly recognised as a risk for parents.

About the project

We engaged in a partnership with Yooralla over 6 years to understand how to support parent mental wellbeing in their role as carers of children with a disability.

We were also supported in our research and decision making by experts from Royal Children's Hospital, Iverson Health Innovation Institute, Deakin Health Economics, Monash Department of Paediatrics, and the Centre for Developmental Disability Health at Monash Health.

Methods

Interviews and focus group discussions were held with parents and with Yooralla staff members to understand their experiences before planning an approach.

A trial program to build staff skills and confidence in supporting parents' mental wellbeing during routine home visits was co-developed with Yooralla and implemented through their Early Childhood Disability Services.

The capacity building intervention program was progressively rolled out at different service sites over a 12-month period and evaluated using a stepped-wedge design.

Key findings

Our research showed parents need and want mental health support from disability services but staff tended to lack the confidence and strategies for providing that support.

Development and delivery of the new program was complex due to the broader sector changes under the new National Disability Insurance Scheme. Introducing the strategies to support parent mental wellbeing during this time of funding and service changes demonstrated the commitment of Yooralla to a family services approach.

Key findings

A statistically significant improvement was shown in staff confidence to talk to parents of children with a disability about their wellbeing. Positive trends were also seen across a range of other measures including parent satisfaction and staff wellbeing. A reduction in staff sick leave partially offset the cost of the intervention.

Knowledge translation and impact:

Yooralla management and staff continue to incorporate parent support in their services.

Training materials continue to be available via the Yooralla staff intranet and within the induction training schedule.

This program provides a model for other disability services. Wider trialing is needed to confirm its feasibility, sustainability and impact.

In the current COVID-19 pandemic climate, effective strategies to support family wellbeing will be required even more as families of a child with a disability grapple with the impacts and ramifications of social and physical restrictions.

Strategic partners for translation of research into policy and practice

- Yooralla

Funding partner

- National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) – Partnership Project

Key publications

1. Young D, Gibbs L, Gilson K-M, Williams K, Reddihough D, Tracy J, Tonmukayakul U, Carter R. **Understanding key worker experiences at an Australian Early Childhood Intervention Service.** Health and Social Care in the Community. Accepted 5 February 2021.
2. Davis E, Young D, Gilson KM, Reynolds J, Carter R, Tonmukayakul U, Williams K, Gibbs L, McDonald R, Reddihough D, Tracy J, Morgan J, Ireland P, Kenyon C, Carracher R. **'A Capacity Building Program to Improve the Self-Efficacy of Key Workers to Support the Well-Being of Parents of a Child With a Disability Accessing an Early Childhood Intervention Service: Protocol for a Stepped-Wedge Design Trial'.** JMIR Res Protoc. 2019. 8(4)
3. Young D, Davis E, Gilson K-M, Gibbs L, Chan J, Reddihough D, et al. **Developing a new service model for children with a disability: What do parents want?** J Intellect Disabil Res. 2016;60(7):765.

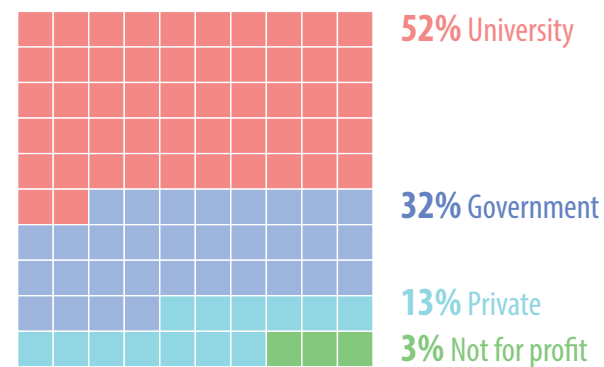


DESIGN AND DATA VISUALISATION

alanapirrone.com.au

Training

The impacts of COVID-19 forced the design and data visualisation short course to move online. There were four courses run in July, September October and November with a total of 66 people attending. Participants were from:



Client feedback

“ I just also wanted to say that doing your course has been so **incredibly valuable** to my both my studies and work already.

I took part in the three minute thesis competition, where you can only have one slide, so I **used icons** and a **diverging stacked bar** chart - all of which I learnt about through your course and **actually won the competition!** I've also used PollEv several times for different reasons and every time, people absolutely love it.

It is the best \$500 I've spent on any education and I can't thank you enough.

“ The **detail, ideas and format** of your presentation yesterday was so incredibly **practical and applicable** for my work. You demonstrated obvious passion for what you do and the examples of your work demonstrated your expertise. I was in awe.

Blog Impact

Blog views for 2020

Published in Nightingale, the journal of the Data Visualization Society and alanapirrone.com.au

 **19,000+** VIEWS

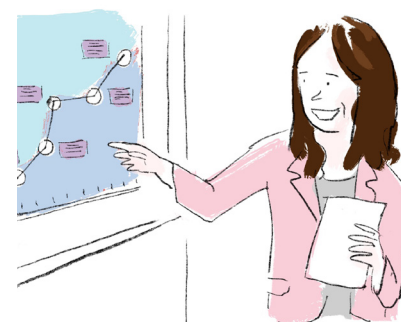
Most popular blog

Seven different ways to display Likert Scale Data



 **10 HOURS**
READING TIME SINCE JUNE

Invited external client training, presentations & workshops.



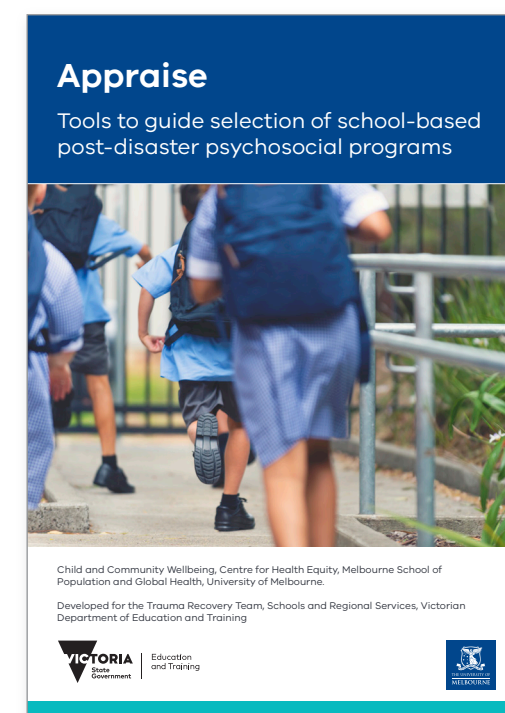
4 full courses
5 webinars
4 presentations

APPRAISE TOOL

A guide was developed for the Victorian Department of Education and Training to assist schools affected by disaster to determine which psychosocial recovery programs will be most suitable for their school community. The report includes two quick appraisal tools - the Appraisal Tool for Principals (Appendix 5.1) and a separate Appraisal Tool for Program Providers (Appendix 5.2), to complete.

They cover program features, participants and scale, critical features of psychosocial programs, delivery mode, provider credentials, costs and evidence. The tools are intended to be used together to enable principals to easily compare programs and to assess if the program meets the current and ongoing needs of the school in the months and years after disaster exposure.

The APPRAISE report and tools can be accessed here - https://mispgh.unimelb.edu.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0019/3525022/Appraise-report_combined.pdf





2020 TEAM



Professor Lisa Gibbs is the Director of Child and Community Wellbeing Unit and supported by the Associate Directors: Associate Professor Eva Alisic and Dr Karen Block.

The senior leadership team are responsible for the management of research projects, research strategy, research income, staff development and operational issues.

They were supported by Professor Olena Hankivsky, Director of the Centre for Health Equity, which is situated within the Melbourne School of Population and Global Health under the leadership of Professor Nancy Baxter. They also receive excellent ongoing professional support by the Centre and School finance and administration teams, in particular Michelle Kelsey, Business Manager.

The Child and Community Wellbeing Unit is also grateful for the ongoing advice and expertise of our Advisory Committee (see next page for Committee members).

STAFF

A/Prof Eva Alisic	Greg Ireton	Hannah Morrice
Dr Karen Block	Kathryn Joy	Robyn Molyneaux
Dr Kate Brady	Edwin Kwong	Alana Pirrone
Dr Lauren Carpenter	Dr Claire Leppold	Phoebe Quinn
Prof Lisa Gibbs	Katitza Marinkovic	Dana Young

HIGHER DEGREE

Meg Chin	Greg Ireton	Hala Nasr
Dr Bradley Christian	Revathi Krishna	Farnaz Shahimi
Susan Davie	Shaminka Mangelsdorf	Sarah Strauven
Caitlin Douglass	Katitza Marinkovic	Claire Sullivan
Shane Harrison	Cassandra McEwen	Dana Young

HONORARY

Dr Rebecca Armstrong, National Disability Insurance Agency	Dr Elise Davis, Summer Foundation	Emeritus Professor Colin MacDougall, Flinders University
Dr Kathryn Bowen, Department of Health and Human Services	Dr Hugh Colin Gallagher, Swinburne University	Professor Laurence Moore, University of Glasgow
Professor Rona Campbell, University of Bristol	Dr Kim-Michelle Gilson, Royal Children's Hospital	Dr Sandra Passardi, University Hospital Zurich
Andrew Coghlan, Australian Red Cross	Dr Martin Hall, Dental Health Services Victoria	John Richardson, Australian Red Cross
Dr Simon Crouch, Department of Health and Human Services	Dr Ashrafalsadat Hosseini, Foundation House	Dr Elena Swift, Griffith University
		Dr Mira Vasileva, University of Melbourne

ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Chairperson: Professor Dorothy Scott OAM, The University of Melbourne (Honorary)	Professor Paul Monagle, Royal Children's Hospital	Associate Professor Georgia Paxton, Royal Children's Hospital
Dr Robert Grenfell, CSIRO	Professor Rob Moodie, The University of Melbourne	Dr Priscilla Seyfort, Cobaw Community Health Services Ltd
Professor Olena Hankivsky, The University of Melbourne	Ms Emily Myer, Myer Foundation	Professor Katrina Williams, Monash University

HIGHER DEGREES

MEG CHIN

When a child dies from a life-threatening condition: Hearing the voices of bereaved siblings (2017-2021).
Supervisors: Prof Louise Harms, Prof Lisa Gibbs.

SHANE HARRISON

Sexual exploitation and abuse of boys in conflict: Facilitating individual and collective agency for survivors in low-resource humanitarian settings using feminist participatory action research (2017-2021).
Supervisors: Dr Cathy Vaughan, Dr Karen Block, A/ Prof Richard Chenhall. Human Rights Scholarship.

GREG IRETON

Long term impacts of disaster on school children (2019-2021).
Supervisors: Prof Lisa Gibbs, Prof David Forbes.

REVATHI KRISHNA

Child-co-developed, child-centred disaster risk reduction in Chennai, India (2016-2021).
Supervisors: A/Prof Eva Alisic, Prof Kevin Ronan
Monash University International Postgraduate Research Scholarship.

CASSANDRA MCEWEN

Young refugees experiencing moral injury (Clinical PhD), (2018-2021).
Supervisors: Dr Laura Jobson, A/Prof Eva Alisic
Australian Government Research Training Program (RTP) Scholarship.

FARNAZ SHAHIMI

Resilience and the Sense of Identity among Refugee Children: A Social Ecological Perspective (2019-2022).
Supervisors: Dr Karen Block, A/Prof Eva Alisic
Melbourne Research Scholarship.

SARAH STRAUVEN

Exploring collective narrative work with traumatised refugees (2017-2021).
Supervisors: Dr David Denborough, Dr Karen Block, Dr David Rose.
Melbourne Research Scholarship.

CLAIRE SULLIVAN

Legal responses to violence: Experiences of refugee women (2018-2021).
Supervisors: Dr Karen Block, Dr Cathy Vaughan
Australian Government Research Training Program Scholarship (with additional research support funds from the Melbourne Social Equity Institute).

DANA YOUNG

Sports participation, social capital and health for migrant adolescent girls (2018-2021).
Supervisors: Dr Karen Block, Prof Lisa Gibbs.
National Health and Medical Research Council Postgraduate Scholarship.

HALA NASR

Women-only safe spaces as a response to gender-based violence: Experiences, limitations and possibilities for refugee women. (2018-2021).
Supervisors: Dr Cathy Vaughan, Dr Karen Block.
Australian Government Research Training Program (RTP) Scholarship.

CAITLIN DOUGLASS

Exploring alcohol and other drug use among migrant communities in Victoria (2018-2021).
Supervisors: Dr Megan Lim, Professor Margaret Hellard, Dr Karen Block, Dr Danielle Horyniak.
Australian Government Research Training Program (RTP) Scholarship.

MOLLIE DAPHNE

Supporting inclusion for refugee-background students in Victorian schools: an educational framework to support practice (2019-2022).
Supervisors: Prof Joseph Lo Bianco, Dr Julie Choi, Dr Karen Block.
Australian Government Research Training Program (RTP) Scholarship.

We are very pleased to announce the following PhD submissions:

DR BRADLEY CHRISTIAN

Caries Risk Assessment Tools: The Evidence (2014-2020).
Supervisors: Prof Lisa Gibbs, Prof Hanny Calache, Geoff Adams.
Australian Postgraduate Award.

KATITZA MARINKOVIC

Scaling-up participatory research with children – investigating the influence on co-researchers' critical consciousness and their agency in the research process (2016-2020).
Supervisors: Prof Lisa Gibbs, Dr Karen Block.
Becas-Chile Scholarship.

We are very pleased to announce the following PhD successful completions:

KATE BRADY

What do people who have been affected by a disaster consider to be helpful and unhelpful in their recovery? (2013-2019).
Supervisors: Prof Lisa Gibbs, Prof Louise Harms.
Australian Postgraduate Award.

LAUREN CARPENTER

Nutrition and oral health in the early years: Trends and influences in children aged 0-5 years (2015-2019).
Supervisors: Professor Lisa Gibbs and Associate Professor Anthea Magarey.
National Health Medical Research Council Postgraduate Scholarship.

ELENA SWIFT

What is quality of life for children with cerebral palsy? A constructivist grounded theory approach with implications for measurement. (2015-2019)
Supervisors: Prof Lisa Gibbs, Prof Dinah Reddiough, Prof Andrew Mackinnon.
Australian Government Research Training Program (RTP) Scholarship, Centre for Research Excellence Cerebral Palsy PhD Scholarship. measurement.



2019 INTERNAL AWARDS

BROCKHOFF EXCELLENCE AWARD: **PHOEBE QUINN**



Phoebe Quinn for her strong engagement with the disaster recovery literature, rapidly building in-depth and nuanced understanding of the evidence base and demonstrating skills in translating research evidence into themes and messages to guide recovery actions.

CORALIE MATHEWS IN MEMORIAM AWARD: **KATHRYN YOUNG**



Kathryn Young for her connection with school communities across the State and successful engagement of school staff and students in the research activities for the evaluation of the Resilience project. Her capacity to work flexibly with schools while still maintaining research rigour are critical skills in community based research.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND KNOWLEDGE TRANSLATION: **THE THINK BIG CHILE TEAM**



The Think Big – Chile team for their strong engagement with children and teenagers in Chile as co-researchers. They have demonstrated clear commitment and capacity to promote the rights of children and teenagers while also protecting their safety in a challenging social and political environment.

2020 RESEARCH OUTPUTS

PUBLICATIONS

Alisic E, Roth J, Cobham V, Conroy R, De Young A, Hafstad GS, Hecker T, Hiller R, Kassam-Adams N, Lai B, Landolt MA, Marsac M, Seedat S, Trickey D. **Working towards inclusive and equitable trauma treatment guidelines: A child-centered reflection.** European Journal of Psychotraumatology (in press).

Bryant RA, Gibbs L, Gallagher HC, Pattison P, Lusher D, MacDougall C, Harms L, Block K, Ireton G, Richardson J, Forbes D, Molyneaux R, O'Donnell M. **The dynamic course of psychological outcomes following the Victorian Black Saturday bushfires.** Australian and New Zealand Journal of Psychiatry 2020 Nov 11:4867420969815. doi: 10.1177/0004867420969815. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 33176436.

Carpenter L, Gibbs L, Magarey A, Dashper S, Gussy M and Calache H. **Nutrition and oral health in early childhood: Associations with formal and informal childcare.** Public Health Nutrition. July 2020 doi:10.1017/S1368980020001676.

Chattopadhyay A, Christian B, Masood M, Calache H, Carpenter L, Gibbs L, Gussy M. **Natural History of Dental Caries: Baseline Characteristics of The VicGen Birth Cohort Study.** International Journal of Paediatric Dentistry 2020; 30: 334-341. DOI: 10.1111/ipd.12609.

Christian B, Calache H, Adams G, Hall M, Dashper S, Gibbs L, Gussy M. **A methodological study to assess the measurement properties (reliability and validity) of a caries risk assessment tool for young children.** Journal of Dentistry. 2020 Apr; 95:103324. doi:10.1016/j.jdent.2020.103324. Epub 2020 Mar 19.

Cowlshaw S, Metcalf O, Varker T, Stone C, Molyneaux R, Gibbs L, Block K, Harms L, MacDougall C, Gallagher HC, Bryant R, Lawrence-Wood E, Kellett C, O'Donnell M, Forbes D. **Anger dimensions and disaster mental health: Distribution and implications after a major bushfire.** Journal of Traumatic Stress 2020 <http://dx.doi.org/10.1002/jts.22616>

Eriksen C, Simon GL, Roth F, Lakhina SJ, Wisner B, Adler C, Thomalla F, Scolobig A, Brady K, Bründl M, Neisser F, Grenfell M, Maduz L, Prior T. **Rethinking the interplay between affluence and vulnerability to aid climate change adaptive capacity.** Climatic Change. 2020. pp.1-15.

Fane J, MacDougall C, Jovanovic J, Redmond G, Gibbs L. **Preschool aged children's understandings and experiences of their own wellbeing: Are current indicators applicable to young children?** Child Indicators Research (in press).

Gibbs L, Kornbluh M, Marinkovic K, Bell S, Ozer E. **Using technology to scale up Youth-Led Participatory Action Research (YPAR): a systematic review.** Journal of Adolescent Health. 2020; 67: S14-S23.

Gussy M, Mnataganian G, Dashper S, Carpenter L, Calache H, Mitchell H, Reynolds E, Gibbs L, Hedge S, Adams G, Johnson S, Amezdroz E, Christian B. **Identifying predictors of early childhood caries among Australian children using sequential modelling: Findings from the VicGen birth cohort study.** Journal of Dentistry. 2020; 93:103276 <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jdent.2020.103276>.

Lang A, Carpenter L, de Silva A, Kearney S, Hegde S. **Health promotion competencies promoting child-oral health: Victorian multidisciplinary workforce perspectives.** Health Promotion Journal of Australia (in press).

McEwen C, Alisic E, Jobson L. **Moral injury and mental health: A systematic review and meta-analysis.** Traumatology (in press).

Molyneaux R, Gibbs L, Bryant R, Humphreys C, Hegarty K, Kellett C, Gallagher HC, Block K, Harms L, Richardson JF, Alkemade N, Forbes D. **Interpersonal violence and mental health outcomes following disaster.** BJPsych Open. 2020; 6(1); E1. doi:10.1192/bjpo.2019.82.

Newnham EA, Dzidic PL, Mergelsberg E, Guragain B, Chan EYY, Kim Y, Leaning J, Kayano R, Wright M, Kaththiriarachchi L, Kato H, Osawa T, Gibbs L. **The Asia Pacific Disaster Mental Health Network: Setting a Health EDRM Mental Health Agenda.** International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health 17(17),6144; <https://doi.org/10.3390/ijerph17176144>.

Ozer EJ, Abraczinskas M, Duarte C, Mathur R, Ballard PJ, Gibbs L, et al. **Youth Participatory Approaches and Health Equity: Conceptualization and Integrative Review.** American Journal of Community Psychology. 2020. DOI: 10.1002/ajcp.12451.

Vasileva M, Graf R, Reinelt T, Petermann U, Petermann F. **A meta-analysis of the international prevalence and comorbidity of mental disorders in children between 1 and 7 years.** Journal of Child Psychology and Psychiatry. 2020. doi: 10.1111/jcpp.13261.

Vasileva M, Schilpzand EJ, Mangelsdorf SN, Conroy R, Barrett A, Jowett H, Bressan S, Babl FE, Anderson V, Mehl MR, Alisic E. **Children's Daily Life after Potentially Traumatic Injury: A Naturalistic Observation Study.** Traumatology. (in press).

REPORTS

De Young A, Paterson R, March S, Hoehn E, Alisic E, Cobham V, Donovan C, Middeldorp C, Gash T, Vasileva M. **COVID-19 Unmasked Young Children – Report 1: Early findings and recommendations.** Brisbane. Queensland Centre for Perinatal and Infant Mental Health, Children’s Health Queensland Hospital and Health Service. 2020.

Gibbs L, Morrice H, Ireton G, MacDougall C, Foliente G. **Red Cross Drought Resilience Program Mid-term Evaluation Report for Australian Red Cross.** Child and Community Wellbeing Unit, Melbourne School of Population and Global Health and Centre for Disaster Management and Public Safety, University of Melbourne, August 2020.

Gibbs L, Nursey J, Carpenter L, Cowlshaw S, Roberts M, Cook J, Wraith R, Molyneaux R, Kosta L, Ireton G, Marinkovic K, Forbes D, Bryant R. **Understanding of the long term impacts on children of bushfires. Final report to the Victorian Department of Education and Training.** University of Melbourne, February 2020.

Gibbs L, Young D, Marck CH, Nursey J, Cook J, Wraith R, Cotton A. **APPRAISE: Tools to guide selection of school-based post-disaster psychosocial programs, Report to Victorian Department of Education and Training.** Child and Community Wellbeing Unit, University of Melbourne, July 2020.

Ireton G, MacDougall C, Gibbs L. **Fostering social connections within Community Fireguard Groups to build resilience using a multi-agency support model.** Research report to the Country Fire Authority. University of Melbourne, March 2020.

Meagher N*, Carpenter L*, Marinkovic Chavez K, Vasileva M, MacDougall C, Gibbs L, Price DJ, Shearer FM. **Distancing measures in the face of COVID-19 in Australia. Summary of national survey findings. Survey 2 Report, July 2020.** Melbourne School of Population and Global Health, University of Melbourne. Doherty Institute for Infection and Immunity, University of Melbourne and Royal Melbourne Hospital. Melbourne, Australia 2020.

Quinn P, Gibbs L, Blake D, Campbell E, Johnston D, Ireton G. **Guide to Post-Disaster Recovery Capitals (ReCap):** Retrieved from www.recoverycapitals.org.au. Melbourne, Australia: Bushfire Natural Hazards Cooperative Research Centre; July 2020.

Rachele JN, Burke K, Burn G, Alisic E. **Making the City of Melbourne more inclusive for children and young people with a disability.** The University of Melbourne. 2020. DOI: 10.26188/5e6abec867741.

Shearer FM et al. Briefing Note - **COVID-19 Attitudes, Practices and Impacts: The Victorian Experience.** Melbourne School of Population and Global Health, University of Melbourne. Doherty Institute for Infection and Immunity, University of Melbourne and Royal Melbourne Hospital. Melbourne, Australia 2020.

Shearer F, Gibbs L, Alisic E, Marinkovic K, Meagher N, Quinn P, Carpenter L, MacDougall C, Price D. **Distancing measures in the face of COVID-19 in Australia: Summary of national survey findings, Survey Wave 1. May 2020.**Melbourne, Australia: Melbourne School of Population and Global Health, University of Melbourne; Doherty Institute for Infection and Immunity, University of Melbourne and Royal Melbourne Hospital; 2020.

Vaughan C, Chen J, Sullivan C, Mariyam S, Sandhu M, Hourani J, Block K, Murdolo A. **Multicultural and Settlement Services supporting women experiencing violence: The MuSeS project.** Sydney: Australia’s National Research Organisation for Women’s Safety. 2020.

BOOKS AND BOOK CHAPTERS

Alisic E, Conroy R, Thoresen S. **Epidemiology, Clinical Presentation, and Developmental Considerations in Children and Adolescents.** In Forbes, Bisson, Monson & Berliner (Eds.) Effective Treatments for PTSD, Third Edition. Practice Guidelines from the International Society for Traumatic Stress Studies. New York: Guilford Press. 2020.

Newnham E, Reifels L, Gibbs L. **Disaster Mental Health Research.** In WHO guidance on research methods for health emergency and disaster risk management. (Eds) Mike Clarke, Virginia Murray, Emily Chan, Ryoma Kayano, Jonathan Abrahams, and Tracey O’Sullivan (2020)

Shearer FM, Meagher N, Marinkovic Chavez K, Carpenter L, Pirrone A, Quinn P, Alisic E, McCaw JM, MacDougall C, Price DJ, Gibbs L. **Promoting resilience while mitigating disease transmission: An Australian COVID-19 study.** In: COVID –19 : Geospatial Information and Community Resilience (Open Access) edn. Edited by Rajabifard A, Páez D, Britton I, Foliente G. Melbourne, Australia: UN GGIM Academic Network (in press).

Sullivan S, Block K, Vaughan C. **The continuum of gender-based violence across the refugee experience.** In L. Isham & C. Bradbury-Jones (Eds), Gender based violence: An essential textbook for healthcare and social work professionals. Singapore: Springer (in press).

Wallerstein N, Belone L, Burgess E, Dickson E, Gibbs L, Parajon LC, Ramgard M, Sheikhattari P, Silver G. **Community Based Participatory Research: Embracing Praxis for Transformation.** In Sage Handbook of Participatory Research, (Eds) Burns D, Howard J, and Ospina S. (in press).

GRANTS

Alisic, E. University of Melbourne Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences (MDHS) Dame Kate Campbell Fellowship 2021-2025.

Block K, Vaughan C, Chenhall R, Hourani J. Locked-down Life: Impact of COVID-19 on the day to day life of young people with refugee backgrounds, Centre for Health Equity. **\$6,000**, 2020.

Block K, Young D. Co-designing, implementing and evaluating an intervention to tackle racism and Islamophobia in junior sport. Commonwealth Department of Health, 4-ENJ01IS. **\$315,000**, 2020-2022.

Gibbs L, Cowlshaw S, Ulubasoglu M, Nursey J, Tekin E, Watterston J, Cesur R, Ireton G, Cobham V, Callard N, Harms L. School staff and student health and wellbeing after the 2019/2020 bushfires. Victorian Department of Education and Training. **\$180,000**, 2020-2021

Gibbs L, Gallagher C, Brady K, Ireton G. Community-led recovery. BNHCRC. **\$250,000**, 2021.

Gibbs L, Ireton G, Brady K, Block K, Harms L, Reifels L. Academic Research Partner - User experience case studies in 2 bushfire-affected regions. National Mental Health Commission. **\$79,000**, 2020.

Gibbs L, Ireton G, Quinn P. Bushfire Recovery Victoria and University of Melbourne Research Partnership Bushfire Recovery Victoria. **\$511,000**, 2020-2021.

Gibbs L, Johnston D, Richardson J, Quinn P, Blake D, Campbell E, Ireton G, Pirrone A. ReCap Utilisation Products. BNHCRC. **\$222,000**, 2020-2021.

Gibbs L, Leppold C, Blashki G, Reifel L, Williamson M, Marinkovic K, Wiseman J, Stanley J. MSPGH Targeted Research Support Grant. **\$10,000**, 2020.

Gibbs L, MacDougall C, Ireton G, Block K, Morrice H, Quinn P, Leppold C. Bushfire Recovery Program Evaluation. Australian Red Cross. **\$425,000**, 2020-2023.

Gibbs L, Simpson J, Carpenter L, Molyneaux R. Journey of Hope Evaluation. Save the Children. **\$100,000**, 2020-2021.

Gibbs L, Ulubasoglu M, Tekin E, Nursey J, Cesur R, Ireton G, Cowlshaw S, Cobham V, Forbes D. School staff support after major emergencies. Teachers Health Foundation **\$400,000**, 2020-2021.

Gibbs L, Young D. Development of appraisal criteria for psychosocial recovery programs for bushfire-impacted school communities. Victorian Department of Education and Training. **\$44,000**, 2020.

Gibbs L, Young D, Kavanagh A, Sayers M. Disaster recovery for people with a disability across the lifespan: A scoping review. Melbourne Disability Institute. **\$20,000**, 2020.
Johnston D, Mooney M, Becker J, Blake D, Tassell-Matamua N, Alefaio S, Naswell K, Malinen S, Gibbs L, Paton D. Updating the psychosocial response and recovery framework for Aotearoa New Zealand in a COVID-19 context. MBIE COVID-19 Innovation Acceleration Fund. **\$117,100AUD (\$126,000NZD)**, 2020.

Klocker N, Dufty-Jones R, Hodge P, McMichael C, Block K. A longitudinal study of humanitarian settlement in regional Australia: opportunities, challenges and key learnings. ARC LP200100205. **\$1,115,016**, 2021-2025.

Learmonth Y, Marck C, Heritage B, Gibbs L, van der Mei I, Skeffington P, Kermode A, Walker D. Crisis resilience in persons with MS, Project C-RIMS; Identifying a template for healthcare-based emergency management for persons with MS. MS Research Australia. **\$230,000**, 2021-2023

Marella M, Devine A, Smith F, Logam L, Gibbs L, Harrison M, Smith C. The impact of transitions to remote learning on Victorian school students with disability due to the COVID-19 pandemic response. Melbourne Disability Institute. **\$20,000**, 2020.

Marck C, Gibbs L, Hunter A, Learmonth Y, Heritage B, Kermode A, van der Mei I. Crisis resilience in persons with multiple sclerosis (C-RIMS). MSPGH Centre for Health Equity. **\$5,934**, 2020.

Marck C, Learmonth Y, Heritage B, Gibbs L, Hunter A, Walker D, Skeffington P, Kermode A, van der Mei I, Frampton L. Crisis resilience in people with multiple sclerosis (C-RIMS). Melbourne Disability Institute. **\$20,852**, 2020.

Marinkovic K, Carpenter L, Coveney K & Howe R. Developing sustainable and participatory approaches to child research during and after COVID-19, U21 Researcher Resilience Fund. **\$5,951 (USD4,276)**, 2020 -2021.

Somanadhan S, De Brún A, Kroll T, Davies C, Gibbs L, Shier H. Children as Innovators - Harnessing the Creative Expertise of Children to Address Practical and Psycho-Social Challenges of COVID-19 Pandemic. Health Research Board Ireland. **\$332,566 AUD (€198,693)**, 2020-2022.

Tucci J, Gibbs L, Ellis B. ChildSPACE - A pilot program to support children, young people and their families living in bushfire affected communities. Direct Relief. **\$585,598**, 2020-2022.

Young D, PHIRST (Population Health Investing in Research Students Training) scholarship to attend the 11th International Conference on Sport & Society, University of Granada, Granada, Spain 18-19th June 2020. **\$1300**, 2020.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY



INCOME

Competitive research funds	\$1,076,210
Government grants & commissioned research	\$864,659
Non-government grants & commissioned research	\$757,384
Other philanthropic	\$389,907
Courses & consultancies	\$389,173
University of Melbourne	\$230,189
Jack Brockhoff Foundation	\$ 144,209

Total: \$3,851,731

EXPENDITURE

Estimated final expenditure at 31 Dec 2020 - **\$2,576,919**

Breakdown of expenditure:

SALARY	82%
NON-SALARY	9%
OUTGOINGS FOR SHARED GRANTS	9%



CHILD AND COMMUNITY WELLBEING UNIT

Formerly the Jack Brockhoff Child Health & Wellbeing Program
Centre for Health Equity, Melbourne School of Population and Global Health, The University of Melbourne

Website

child-health.mspgh.unimelb.edu.au
beyondbushfires.org.au

This report was produced in-house by the Child and Community Wellbeing Unit and designed by Alana Pirrone.
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MAJOR THANKS FOR A MAJOR GIFT

We are very grateful to the major funding received from the Jack Brockhoff Foundation over a 10 year funding period from 2009-2018 that enabled the establishment and management of the Jack Brockhoff Child Health and Wellbeing Program, the predecessor to the Child and Community Wellbeing Unit. This supported the development of our program of research with a positive and enduring impact on the health and wellbeing of children and communities.

It is only possible to conduct meaningful research if we have funding partners who share our vision to make a difference. If you would like to support our next steps please contact **Professor Lisa Gibbs** at **+613 8344 0920** or **lgibbs@unimelb.edu.au**.