



UNIVERSITY  
OF WOLLONGONG  
AUSTRALIA

# School of Health and Society Research Report 2018/2019



WE ACKNOWLEDGE THE TRADITIONAL CUSTODIANS OF THE LANDS ON WHICH THE UNIVERSITY OF WOLLONGONG IS SITUATED. WE PAY OUR RESPECTS TO ABORIGINAL ELDERS PAST AND PRESENT, WHO ARE THE KNOWLEDGE HOLDERS AND TEACHERS.

WE ACKNOWLEDGE THEIR CONTINUED SPIRITUAL AND CULTURAL CONNECTION TO COUNTRY. AS WE SHARE KNOWLEDGE, TEACHING, LEARNING AND RESEARCH WITHIN THIS UNIVERSITY WE ALSO PAY RESPECT TO THE KNOWLEDGE EMBEDDED FOREVERWITHIN THE ABORIGINAL CUSTODIANSHIP OF COUNTRY.

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# Introduction

At the School of Health and Society, we are passionate about research that addresses the most complex issues in our society. How can we help people to live safely and securely in the 21st century? What does an ageing society mean for Australia? How can we ensure Indigenous knowledges are valued and incorporated into all aspects of our lives? What can we do about the burden of chronic illness?

As a School, our collective research efforts focus on these challenges, explaining how they arise, proposing solutions, and rigorously assessing interventions.

We hope you enjoy reading about how we are contributing to addressing these important issues. Please make contact with us if you would like to learn more – we would love to hear from you.



**Professor Annette Braunack-Mayer**

Head, School of Health and Society

# Welcome

Researchers in the School of Health and Society are a dynamic and interdisciplinary team from across criminology, social policy, public health, social work and occupational health and safety. Our research is focused on working together with communities for positive impact, particularly where injustice and inequality affect people's lives. As a School, we have grown significantly in the recent past. As well as a number of new staff with a range of research interests, we now also house two key research entities within the Faculty of Social Sciences:

Powerlab and ACHEEV. Powerlab (Population Wellbeing and Environment Research Lab) focuses on understanding how urbanisation that prioritises people can be used to counter increases in chronic health conditions such as type-2 diabetes and obesity. ACHEEV (The Australian Centre for Health Engagement, Evidence and Values) examines the uncertainties that might accompany advances and changes in health services and policy.

Over the two years since the last School Research Report, the School of Health and Society has built on our research strengths and reach. We have aligned our research into five key research themes that reflect our School values. To this end, the projects that are showcased here are organised according to our themes



of: Ageing and Society, Global Indigenous Knowledge and Decolonisation, Preventing and Managing Chronic Conditions, Understanding and Preventing Violence, and Safety at Work and in the Community. Researchers in the School have been successful in a range of internal and external grants to support work across these themes and a regular Research Seminar program has been introduced at which we showcase our research to colleagues in the School and within the Faculty of Social Sciences. As we move into the future, we will continue to build on the research talents of colleagues in the School and our many collaborators by facilitating research mentorship and leadership that further strengthens the strong research foundations that have been laid within Health and Society.

Particular thanks are due to the School Research Committee for their work to highlight and grow research in the School.



**Associate Professor  
Catherine Mac Phail**

Head of Research  
School of Health and Society

Our research themes are: Ageing and Society, Global Indigenous Knowledge and Decolonisation, Preventing and Managing Chronic Conditions, Understanding and Preventing Violence, and Safety at Work and in the Community.

# Ageing and Society

Our research in Ageing & Society focuses on understanding the circumstances of older people in their social, cultural and environmental contexts. We work within the domains of civic, social and work participation, health and social care, lifestyle behaviours, outdoor spaces, environment, communication and technology. Our research is interdisciplinary and also takes action, in collaboration with older people, and those who provide supports, build environments or make policy, to improve the social, health, material and environmental circumstances of older people. We have a particular focus on ageing well and ageing in place.

For more information about our featured research projects, as well as other research from the School of Health and Society, please see our website [uow.edu.au/social-sciences/schools-entities/has/research](http://uow.edu.au/social-sciences/schools-entities/has/research)

# Promoting social health and quality of life for people with dementia

‘Connections for Life with Dementia’ is an interdisciplinary research project funded by the UOW Global Challenges Keystone Program led by Associate Professor Lyn Phillipson from UOW’s School of Health and Society (HAS). It includes researchers from three other UOW faculties, various community and industry partners, and is inclusive of the voice of people with dementia and their care partners.

Dementia is a global challenge that requires interdisciplinary thinking, collaboration and innovation to improve the lives of people living with dementia. With no effective treatment or cure in sight, there is increasing urgency to support the social health and well-being of people living with dementia and those at risk of developing it. The notion of social health and its application within dementia research and practice provides an exciting platform for applied interdisciplinary research and action. In particular a social health approach to research and action focuses on supporting the capacity of people with dementia to: fulfil social demands; manage their life; and participate in meaningful activities that support social connections.

Connected, active and social community environments are essential to reduce the need for institutional care and the economic costs associated with unnecessary hospitalisation. They can also limit the decline of older people at risk of cognitive impairment and increasing co-morbidity.

Connections for Life with Dementia specifically explores how neighbourhood and home design (Design Connections); intergenerational play (Play Connections); and creative, personalised supports in aged care (Care Connections) can support people with dementia to live connected lives that are manageable, meaningful and comprehensible.

The purpose of the project is to understand, support, and enhance social connections and quality of life for people with dementia in various care and community settings.

Specifically, ‘Connections for Life with Dementia’ builds on UOW’s existing strengths in ‘care’, ‘play’ and ‘design’ to create new knowledge and connections across three distinct but connected studies.

‘Connections for Life with Dementia’ will also support UOW’s first ever ‘Knowledge Exchange Centre’ (KEC). The KEC will build capacity for dementia research, and also support dynamic partnerships with people with lived experience and other key stakeholders. The activities within the KEC will ensure that each project plans for impact and prioritises sharing and uptake of research findings.

This project is working towards the United Nations ‘Sustainable Development Goals’ of ‘Good Health and Well-being’, ‘Sustainable Cities and Communities’ and ‘Partnerships for the Goals’ with team members aiming to create and use new knowledge in the areas of:

- Evidence-based curricula and environments to support intergenerational play and learning

- Building and street level design features to promote social, health and civic connections in care, learning and neighbourhood settings.
- Methods to support interdisciplinary collaborations between researchers, people with (and at risk of) dementia and the providers and developers of care services that support them

Engagement with key stakeholders in each project will support the translation of knowledge into practice for all participants. Dedicated advocacy and engagement with key stakeholders (e.g. roundtables) and broader dissemination (e.g. via social and mass media) will also support short-term impact in a wider audience.

In the medium to long term, the more widespread use and application of new knowledge, tools, and collaborations will result in health, social and economic impacts. These will include:

## **Social care providers**

- Using new intergenerational curricula to support social connections between people with dementia (and those at risk)
- Working in a connected way across their programs to promote social health
- Working with health providers to promote access for their clients to needed health services.

## **Health care providers**

- Providing new targeted services which promote social health and well-being for people with dementia and their carers across the care continuum.

## **Urban developers and policy makers**

- Developing policies which are inclusive of dementia-friendly design specifications
- Using planning and development guidelines to support the development of dementia-friendly building and precinct developments.

## **People with dementia and their carers being**

- Better supported by their health services to manage their disease
- Better supported by their care services to engage in meaningful social and occupational activity
- Better socially connected with children and their parents
- Better enabled by environments at the building, street and precinct levels in key settings to maintain their social, health and civic connections.

## **Governments and society:**

- Realising the economic and social benefits of reducing morbidity and improving quality of life for people with (or at risk of) dementia and their carers.

Associate Professor Lyn Phillipson (Principal Fellow) from HAS is the project leader. She is supported by a steering group who bring together expertise from the key areas of: Care (Professor Victoria Traynor), Play (Professor Lisa Kervin) and Design (Professor Richard Fleming). The Leadership group also includes experts in human geography (Dr Chris Brennan-

Horley), inclusive research methodologies (Dr Louisa Smith) and people who are experts through their lived experience (Dennis Frost and Lynda Henderson from the Southern Dementia Advisory Group).

Overall participants are:

**Play Connections:** Professor Lisa Kervin (Project lead, SOC), Associate Professor Lyn Phillipson (SOC), Associate Professor Sarah Howard (SOC), Dr Cathrine Neilsen-Hewett (SOC), Dr Irina Verenikina (SOC), Dr Pippa Burns (SMAH), Dr Jack Yang (EIS), Dr Jessica Mantei (SOC), Karen Van Woudenberg (Playgroup NSW), Toby Dawson (IRT Foundation), Dr Jun Ma (EIS), Professor Christian Ritz (EIS).

**Care Connections Bluehaven Project:** Dr Louisa Smith, (Project lead HAS/SOC), Associate Professor Lyn Phillipson (HAS/SOC), Dr Kishan Karripanon (HAS/SOC), Gregor Cullen (LHA), Dr Montse Ros (EIS), Nick Guggisberg (Kiama Municipal Council), Clare Rogers (Blue Haven Care), Dale Wakefield (Blue Haven Care), Dennis Frost (Southern DAG), Lynda Henderson (Southern DAG).

**Health Service Project:** Dr Luise Lago (Project lead, AHSRI), Kara Cappetta (Higher Degree Research student, HAS/SOC), Paul van den Dolder (ISLHD).

**Design Connections:** Dr Chris Brennan-Horley (Project lead, SOC), Associate Professor Lyn Phillipson (HAS/SOC), Dr Kishan Karripanon (HAS/SOC), Professor Richard Fleming (Dementia Training Australia, SMAH), Senior Professor Paul Cooper (EIS, Sustainable Buildings Research Centre [SBRC]), Professor Tim

McCarthy (EIS, SBRC), Clayton McDowell (EIS, SBRC), Dr Cole Hendrigan (SMART), Dr Wanqing Li (EIS), Professor Chris Cook (EIS), Steven Beltrame (EIS, SBRC), Dennis Frost (Southern DAG).

Funding for the project has been made via the UOW Global Challenges Keystone Program; as well as external contributors - Bluehaven Care, Playgroup NSW and IRT Foundation.

## Problematic public seating can adversely affect older adults' community involvement

A project led by the School of Health and Society has identified that problematic public seating design, in particular low seat heights, adversely affects older adults' sit-to-stand ability, independence and involvement in community activities.

Enabling older adults to remain independent and engaged with their communities is a key social, health and economic challenge.

The title of the current research project now under way is: 'Seating, Mobility & Health: Towards a Pro-Mobility Community'.

This multi-stage project aims to investigate older Australians' (65 years plus) use, satisfaction and comfort with available public seating, and how this seating affects their independence and engagement in social and community activities.





The project has involved: (1) Online survey of older adults; (2) Focus groups with older adults across urban, regional and rural locations; (3) Interviews with space owners (e.g. local government); (4) Development of an audit tool that can be used to assess whether existing public seating (for example in public transport, shopping malls and council parks) facilitates the mobility of older adults and help identify solutions to improve this seating; (5) Field-testing audit tool – more than 500 public seats evaluated across Sydney, Blue Mountains and Illawarra; (6) Laboratory study: evaluation of older adults and younger controls transferring sit-to-stand from different types of public seating.

Findings of this comprehensive multi-stage project have been communicated in reports to the funding organisation (Family and Community Services) and will be disseminated through publications in peer-reviewed journals. Three papers are currently in preparation.

Researchers say older adults reported that poorly designed seating influences whether they go out, what places they go to and how much time they can spend there.

The most common locations of problematic seating were shopping malls, cafés and restaurants, and doctors' offices.

The development of an audit tool as part of the project will be the focus of ongoing engagement with stakeholders to develop strategies to improve public seating for older adults. Such strategies could include: (1) Auditing existing seating; (2) Providing a range of seating options; (3) Review policies and guidelines on public seating requirements to ensure they are older adult friendly.

Further planned research related to the project includes: (1) Ongoing investigation of public seating and older adults through application of seating audit tool; (2) Further laboratory study: Biomechanical evaluation of older adults transferring sit-

to-stand from public seating. Use of Neuromotor Adaptation Laboratory will enable collection of 3D motion data and force plate data.

The principal research team comprises: Dr Robyn Coman, School of Health and Society, UOW; Dr Vinod Gopaldasani, School of Health and Society, UOW; and Dr Carlo Caponecchia, School of Aviation, UNSW. Additional collaborators involved in laboratory study funded by SOC Alliance Grant: Dr Beth Mayland (Health and Society); Dr Jonathan Shemmell (Science, Medicine and Health, UOW); and Associate Professor Carole James (University of Newcastle).

External funding for the project has been derived from a Liveable Communities Grant 2017/2018, NSW Department of Family & Community Services (FACS). Internal funding has been provided from a Faculty of Social Sciences' Alliance Grant, 2018.

## Effectiveness of smart technologies for ageing in place

A pilot research project plans to increase the understanding of public views on the appropriateness and effectiveness of smart technologies for ageing in one's own home.

As they age people often wish to remain in their own homes as long as possible despite multiple challenges. This project aims to explore the social and ethical challenges relating to smart technologies to understand what the values and attitudes are of ageing people in the adoption of smart technologies.



Researchers through the School of Health and Society have conducted two World Cafes (mobile round table discussions) in the Illawarra to investigate ageing people's perspectives on barriers, challenges and desires for ageing in place.

The pilot project aims to seek the voices of older people about their perceptions and hopes for the use of smart technologies to help people to stay well and safe in their homes as they age.

The study parallels similar research conducted in South Australia by researchers from the University of Adelaide with involvement by researchers at UOW.

The team proposes to compare results obtained in the Illawarra World Cafes with those obtained in South Australia.

It has also permitted the formation of a cohesive team of researchers who will now have a track record in this area. Findings will be shared with Healthy Cities Illawarra, Age Friendly Illawarra, Illawarra Retirement Trust, Warrigal Care and local councils.

The pilot project will provide critical guidance and primary data to develop a larger three to five-year ARC Linkage Project to inform the development of ethical and relevant smart ageing guidelines. This will be developed in partnership with the University of Adelaide.

The project team comprises Dr Jacqueline Street, Associate Professor Lyn Phillipson, Dr Robyn Coman, Dr Alison Bell, Dr Kishan Karippanon, Dr Patti Shih, Ms Belinda Fabrianisi, Ms Kathleen Prokopovich and Ms Lucy Carolan.

## Packaging team's research aids food service provision for patients

Older patients in hospital can thank the food packaging project team within the School of Health and Society for improvements in the packaged food and beverages they receive while under medical care.

Project team Group Leader Dr Alison Bell said she and fellow researchers were currently examining the interaction of older people with food and beverage packaging provided in hospital food service.

She has deliberately presented this work at packaging conferences as well as ergonomics conferences so that changes can be made to packaging at the design phase to improve access and usability for older people.

Dr Bell has been working closely with a colleague in the United Kingdom on the UK's National Health Service (NHS) food service packaging and says her team's work has influenced change in NHS practice.

Meanwhile, research conducted in Australia with colleagues via a series of Global Challenges grants has facilitated change to hospital practice in the ACT.

"Plastic water bottles are being replaced by reusable water jugs and plastic cutlery removed as we demonstrated that older patients had difficulty accessing both the water and the cutlery," Dr Bell said.

The current research at The Canberra Hospital is examining the influence of a packed and sealed food service with a decanted food service on patient nutritional intake, satisfaction and overall system costs, including food and waste stream.

Dr Bell said the results of this study will provide sound evidence for decisions on types of food service provision for patients.

An additional project with colleagues in the School of Health and Society is exploring the selection of supermarket packaged food items with community-dwelling older Australians. They are being asked about their experiences with pack 'openability' as well as seeing if this influences food selection and thereby dietary choices.

At an international level, Dr Bell has a research association with Professor Alaster Yoxall from Sheffield Hallam University. Dr Bell, along with Dr Anne McMahon from the School of Health and Society have other connections through the packaging research centres at Lund University and Michigan State University and there are proposals for future research around medication packaging and older people.

A favourite aspect of the team's overall research is seeing a real change in the experience of older people through bridging the gap between the users and the packaging designers and design educators.

Dr Bell said it was fascinating to be involved in not only her current hospital food/beverage research but also other diverse programs with higher degree research students.

"Other research is as diverse as the design of boots for coal miners; health of Chilean miners; and management of railway suicide within a rail organisation. Ergonomics principles can be applied

across a wide range of enquiry -- it is an interesting and exciting field.

"I am passionate about ergonomics, functionality and usability," said Dr Bell who is a Senior Lecturer within the School of Health and Society and an Associate Member of the Illawarra Health and Medical Research Institute.

## Healthy ageing and active transport

### EXPLORATION OF THE 'GONG' SHUTTLE'S CONTRIBUTION TO OLDER PEOPLE'S QUALITY OF LIFE

A project by the School of Health and Society (HAS) is under way investigating whether the 'Gong Shuttle Bus' contributes to better quality of life for the over 55s in Wollongong.

Active transport is an ideal opportunity to increase both the physical and social well-being of people in older populations (WHO, 2017).

Earlier studies indicate that active transport enables older people to maintain social networks which positively affects their mental and physical health and reduces social isolation (Musselwhite et al, 2015).

The study provides the opportunity for older people to share their lived experience of the 'Gong Shuttle Bus'.

It involves participant observation around and within the bus service and qualitative interviews with passengers. It will provide insights into the extent to which using this free transport contributes to the physical, mental and social well-being of those over 55.

The project aims include:

- Examining the role of active transport in contributing to older people's health and well-being
- Exploring the extent to which the Wollongong Shuttle Bus contributes to the quality of life of people over 55
- Exploring older people's lived experience of the Wollongong Shuttle Bus. Findings to date indicate that the 'Gong' Shuttle bus does positively contribute to the well-being of older adults particularly in improving social inclusion by facilitating their access to services and maintaining social connections.

This study will form a basis for a larger study on the impact of active transport and older peoples' well-being in Australia, Taiwan and the United Kingdom.

The research team comprises of HAS researchers Dr Luke Molloy (SMAH), Dr Delia Rambaldini-Gooding (HAS), Dr Anne-Maree Parrish (HAS) The team also includes Professor Pascal Perez (EIS), Associate Professor Rodney Clarke (BUS) and Dr Michal Strahilevitz (BUS).

Funding for the project has been made via a UOW Global Challenges SEED grant.



# Global and Indigenous Knowledge

We are committed to the meaningful inclusion of Indigenous knowledges globally. In our research, we strive to deconstruct dominant ways of knowing and doing, being and becoming to decolonise teaching and learning, research, and service delivery across society. We work collaboratively with communities to participate in and lead research on the design and delivery of appropriate health and social services for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and political identity and decolonisation in the Pacific.

For more information about our featured research projects, as well as other research from the School of Health and Society, please see our website [uow.edu.au/social-sciences/schools-entities/has/research](https://uow.edu.au/social-sciences/schools-entities/has/research)

## Mental Health Talanoa targets Pacific communities

Various Primary Health Networks (PHN) and the NSW Ministry of Health are for the first time working together to provide a shared and collaborative response to Pacific mental health in Australia.

The Mental Health Talanoa project being undertaken through the School of Health and Society has three key areas it is striving to examine: 1) the prevalence of mental illness among Pacific communities residing in western Sydney; 2) the impact of such illness on their well-being and broader family and community; and 3) help seeking behaviour while promoting workforce development among service providers.

The project will collect survey information about common mental disorders, while also running talanoas (focus groups) on Pacific people's experiences.

Research collaborators are Associate Professor Jioji Ravulo (Chief Investigator), Ursula Winterstein and Dr Shannon Said.

Funding for the project has come from WentWest PHN, South West Sydney PHN, Nepean Blue Mountains PHN and the NSW Ministry of Health.

"It's the first time these respective PHNs and the ministry are working together to provide a shared, and collaborative response in general, let alone a targeted response to Pacific mental health in Australia," Professor Ravulo said.

"Through this initial 12-month period, we are aiming to create better strategies, support and resources for Pacific people, and service systems; including NSW Health Local Health Districts (LHDs) in responding proactively and meaningfully with Pacific-Indigenous people in Australia," he said.

Resources being developed include educational initiatives that will promote related health literacies across the community, and provoke change among health professionals to better nuance service provision to Pacific people.

Researchers are also developing a Pacific Indigenous Mental Health Lexicon (PIMHL) that will enhance the way Pacific people describe mental illnesses, and its accompanying impact and experiences. This will include being able to translate certain mental health concepts and terminology into specific Pacific languages (at this stage four – Samoan, Tongan, Fijian and Bislama).

The PIMHL working group consists of psychiatrists and other health professionals from the Pacific Islands and will have a wider impact on the Pacific diaspora in Australia, and across Islands of origin too.

The researchers are keen to continue to contribute to the regional, collaborative approach being undertaken across Oceania which includes Australia, Aotearoa (New Zealand) and the Pacific Islands.

"This positions the research project as being truly regional in its inception, and shared approach to promoting shared solutions and outcomes," Associate Professor Ravulo said.

## Project findings on improving Indigenous health outcomes

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people need to be able to take a lead role in determining the data required to measure their health outcomes.

This is one of the key findings from a study involving a School of Health and Society staff member, Ms Summer May Finlay.

The title of the overall project is 'Understanding the impact of the national key performance indicators on the Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisations'.

Research collaborators include Summer who also holds posts with the University of South Australia and South Australian Health and Medical Research Institute. The project has been conducted out of the University of South Australia and South Australian Health and Medical Research Institute including Professor Alex Brown (South Australian Health and Medical Research Institute, and University of Adelaide), Associate Professor Marie Williams (University of South Australia) and Professor Jenni Judd (Central Queensland University).

In Australia, monitoring system performance through routine data collection has become a significant area of policy development in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander primary health care (PHC) and specifically the Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (ACCHO) sector.

Since 2008, there has been an increased focus on improving Indigenous health outcomes through the 'Closing the Gap' (CTG) Framework. One CTG monitoring mechanism for the 240 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander PHC services was the national key performance indicator (nKPIs) introduced in 2012.

Since the introduction of the nKPIs, some changes were made to the data collection processes. The impact of these changes on ACCHOs has not been evaluated.

Summer said changes in policy inevitably are going to affect the environment within which they are being implemented.

"Understanding the impact of the nKPIs on ACCHOs is vital to determining their feasibility, acceptability and usefulness to the sector and its funders," she said.

The research program used a mixed methods approach underpinned by naturalistic inquiry, action research and Indigenous methodologies.

Summer said that across each of the studies under the research program there was consistency in the findings that there was a lack of engagement in the design of the nKPI framework and subsequent changes.

"The systematic review revealed reasonable consistency in the way the nKPI data was reported but the usefulness of the reports was limited. A significant finding of the case studies was the lack of use of the nKPIs to assist services in improving health outcomes."

The lack of usability was echoed in the stakeholder interviews and survey.



She said through the research program it was identified that the usability issues were caused by several factors including poor quality and the nKPIs not reflecting ACCHOs service delivery model.

“One of the key reasons the nKPIs usability was limited was due to the lack of consultation with ACCHOs on their development and ongoing implementation. The research program highlighted that the nKPIs are just one example among many of poor government engagement with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.”

Summer stressed that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people need to be able to take a lead role in determining the data required to measure their health outcomes.

Based on the findings of the research program, a number of recommendations were made for both the ACCHO sector and the Commonwealth Government. One of the key recommendations for the Commonwealth Government is the need to ensure that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are engaged in any redevelopment and governance of the nKPIs.

“To improve the nKPIs there needs to be greater consultation with the ACCHO sector to ensure that the data set meets the

needs of ACCHOs and reflects their service delivery model.”

Currently under development is a Chapter in the ‘Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisations in practice: Sharing ways of working from the ACCHO sector’, a policy brief, several publications and conference presentations. Conference presentations include: Lowitja Institute International Indigenous Health and Wellbeing Conference, Melbourne 2019 Finlay, S, Brown, A., Williams, J, and Williams, M. Defining our own outcomes. 15th World Congress on Public Health, Melbourne, 2017 Finlay, S, Brown, A., Williams, J, and Williams, M. Defining our own outcomes Lowitja Institute International Indigenous Health and Wellbeing Conference Melbourne 2016 Finlay, S, Brown, A., Williams, J, and Williams, M. Defining our own outcomes.

Funding for the project was provided through the NHMRC Centres of Research Excellence (CRE).

## Music, mobile phones and community justice in Melanesia

Using mobile phones, Australia’s top researchers in digital ethnography, ethnomusicology and conflict resolution are collaborating with regional award-winning music producers to build music technology infrastructure to enhance economic, cultural and social justice for Melanesian communities.

This infrastructure will strengthen Melanesian communities by increasing economic opportunities and the creation and dissemination of conflict resolution themed music within Australia’s ‘arc of instability’.

UOW’s School of Health and Society is contributing to this project which seeks to understand how communities mobilise in Melanesia through the integration of digital media, mobile phones, and music.

Researchers intend for the outcomes of this project, novel phone apps and distribution strategies, to enable the creation and dissemination of peace, justice and community-building music more widely and affordably. At the same time, they propose to provide an income-stimulating model of music distribution for Melanesian musicians.

Community concerns around justice, peace, health and the environment have long been connected to music as a vital medium in the region.

The project will draw on new uses of mobile phones for creating, disseminating and listening to music to transform related social, cultural and industrial practices in Melanesia.

The project team comprises the principal investigators -- Dr Denis Crowdy, Dr Camellia Webb-Gannon (HAS), Professor Heather Horst and Associate Professor Michael Webb together with Dr Monika Stern, Dr Jason McLeod, Mr Tom Dick and Mr David Bridie.

Funding for the project has been made available through an Australian Research Council grant of \$215,378 and \$60,808 through Partners Further Arts and Wantok Musik Foundation.

## Project's findings aim to improve Aboriginal health workers' retention rates

Aboriginal health workers often suffer high rates of stress and burnout in their roles, leading to high turnover and low retention rates.

In contrast to this, Waminda South Coast Women's Health and Welfare Aboriginal Corporation, an Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation located on the South Coast of NSW, had a staff retention rate of 94% in 2017.

Project researchers say the aim of their phenomenological intrinsic case study was to identify the factors that contribute to the high staff of retention rate at Waminda using a strengths-based approach

The project title is 'Factors supporting Aboriginal Health Worker retention rates: An evaluative case study of Waminda South Coast Women's Health and Welfare Aboriginal Corporation'.

Researchers involved in the project are Sara Deroy (School of Health and Society Honours student), Dr Heike Schütze (Health and Society lead researcher) and Mr David Kampers (Law, Humanities and the Arts).

The study has provided evidence of some of the specific factors contributing to the high staff retention in an Aboriginal

Community Controlled Health Service, including altruism, teamwork and collaboration, cultural safety, supervision, professional advancement and recognition. The study identified the importance of the need to understand the overlap of being a staff and community member; feeling like one is making a difference and has a voice; and having supportive leadership and governance.

Researchers say the findings may be useful to improve Aboriginal Health and Well-being staff retention rates in other health services -- both Aboriginal specific and non-Aboriginal specific alike. The findings may also benefit organisations outside of the health workforce, along with policy-makers.

This project provided an avenue for an Honours student to build her research skills, and the unique opportunity to present her work nationally and internationally:

Presentations of the research have included: Deroy, S. and Schütze, H. Factors supporting Aboriginal health and wellbeing staff retention rates: A strengths-based journey. 23rd IUHPE World Conference on Health Promotion, 7-11 April 2019, Rotorua, New Zealand. Deroy, S. Schütze, H. Campers, D. Waminda: leading the way with Aboriginal Health Worker retention rates. 3rd International Conference on General Practice and Primary Care. 16-17 August 2018, Madrid, Spain. Deroy, S. and Schütze, H. Supporting Aboriginal Health Services is key to prevention: A literature review. Public Health Prevention Conference 2018. 2-4 May, Sydney Boulevard Hotel, Sydney, Australia.

A further publication is in preparation.



# Preventing and managing chronic diseases

The burden of disease as a result of chronic conditions has significant personal and community costs. Our research into the prevention and management of chronic conditions and how they are addressed aims to encourage people to live healthy and fulfilling lives. Our interdisciplinary research team recognises the complexity of chronic conditions considering the impact of genetic, behavioural, social, occupational and environmental variables.

For more information about our featured research projects, as well as other research from the School of Health and Society, please see our website [uow.edu.au/social-sciences/schools-entities/has/research](http://uow.edu.au/social-sciences/schools-entities/has/research)



# Project tackles food security in Pacific Island nations

Building food security and resilience in Pacific Island communities is necessary in order to face current and imminent health imperatives.

A research team, led by the School of Health and Society, believes that understanding the food environment within the Pacific Island nations is critical.

They argue it is vital to foster appropriate policy, regulation and approaches to strengthen the food systems and address key challenges in human and planetary health.

Finding a method to map the food environment that requires minimal resources, is adaptable and easily used in the Pacific Islands is essential to support needed changes.

Pacific Island Nations need environmental data that can be used to complement and strengthen other food composition data sources such as household income and expenditure surveys in order to develop effective initiatives.



One novel approach to collect data was piloted in Niue in 2018 by the team. Further enhancement to the approach was achieved with a unique analysis methodology developed as part of an Honours project in 2019. The approach incorporates an innovative food photographic mapping method. In addition inductive reasoning (derivation of general principles from specific observations) was applied to build a food inventory analysis of the photographic data.

The project is ongoing and is expected to build off the pilot case study of Niue's food environment. Based on recommendations, further research into using this innovative method will be shared with Niue government officials and it is anticipated to be trialled in other Pacific Islands post feedback.

The research team involved in the project comprises Dr Joanna Russell (HAS Co-leader), Dr Anne-Therese McMahon (HAS Co-leader), Claire Walker (Honours Student), Associate Professor Quentin Hanich, from the Australian National Centre for Ocean Resources and Security (ANCORS) and Brooke Campbell (ANCORS).

Funding for the project, entitled 'Nutrition in the Pacific', has been made via a UOW Global Challenges Project Grant.

# Improving bowel cancer outcomes with more targeted screening

Thousands of lives could potentially be saved if bowel cancer screening participation rates could be increased.

Colorectal cancer (CRC) or bowel cancer is a serious health problem and in Australia CRC is the third most commonly diagnosed cancer in males and females combined.

A series of studies are currently underway with collaborators from the Sax Institute, Cancer Council NSW, Wollongong Hospital and the School of Health and Society at UOW to investigate how to increase screening uptake rates for CRC in order to improve cancer outcomes.

The primary objective is to identify populations for targeted screening strategies as well as additional screening strategies to complement those of the National Bowel Cancer Screening Program (NBCSP) with the overarching aim to improve CRC outcomes.

Population groups which are currently under represented for CRC screening include those living in rural and regional Australia, culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) communities, and those with low socio-economic status.

Funding for studies currently underway have been provided by a Faculty of Social Sciences Mid-Career Research Grant.

Senior Lecturer in the School of Health and Society, Dr Tam Ha, who holds a PhD in cancer epidemiology said newly-diagnosed cases were 16,171, and the second highest cause of cancer mortality with 5,537 deaths in 2018.

In terms of direct cancer costs, CRC was found to incur \$1.06 billion (AUD) out of the total \$6.3 billion cancer related costs in 2013 -- the top contributing cancer type.

Modelling studies assessing the effectiveness and cost-effectiveness of the NBCSP suggest the best way to improve NBCSP outcomes was to maximise Faecal Occult Blood Test participation rates.

Estimates suggest an increase in screening participation rates from 40 to 60% would result in saving 83,800 lives from 2015-2040.

## A distinct focus on chronic disease self-management

Providing patient empowerment leading to enhanced quality of life is at the heart of research being undertaken by a team tasked with preventing and managing chronic diseases.

Dr Hassan Hosseinzadeh said it was very rewarding when he witnessed a patient's happiness and improved confidence in managing his or her chronic condition.

"It is like giving a person life-long resources to enjoy their life with minimum burden on themselves and their community," according to the Senior Lecturer from the School of Health and Society who among his external appointments is also a Member of the Aboriginal Chronic Conditions Network.

Dr Hosseinzadeh has a distinct research focus on chronic disease self-management aimed towards empowering individuals to manage symptoms, complications and consequences of living with chronic conditions.

This passion has yielded 48 publications, including 45 peer-reviewed papers, two scientific reports and one book 'Health Promotion Interventions & Chronic Disease Management', a major textbook used at UOW and the University of New South Wales. More than 70 per cent of his publications have been cited in 23 countries.

Dr Hosseinzadeh is currently leading many diabetes and Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary (lung) Disease (COPD) self-management projects in Australia, Saudi Arabia, Nepal, Jordan, Pakistan, Singapore and India.

For instance in Nepal, Dr Hosseinzadeh is involved in a study aimed at designing and implementing a self-management intervention informed by health literacy and patient activation among multi-morbid COPD patients in community settings



in rural Nepal. The project uses co-design (participatory) research method to ensure the results meet end-users' need. The focus is on knowledge generation and translation rather than dissemination of findings.

He also has established very successful linkages with his original home country of Iran.

Type 2 diabetes is a pivotal feature of his team's research. Reflecting this focus, the Agency for Clinical Innovation has awarded Dr Hosseinzadeh a grant for 2019-2020 entitled 'Supporting Type 2 Diabetes Self-Management in the Context of Multi-Morbidity: A Pilot Project'.

In earlier studies in which Dr Hosseinzadeh has been involved it was shown that patient activation intervention (i.e. self managed behaviours) showed a significant positive effect on Type 2 diabetes. This was particularly the case for those undertaking physical activity, a healthy diet, foot care and blood glucose self-monitoring.

And what is the team's ultimate goal? – to create a fair and compassionate environment which would allow everyone to enjoy their life regardless of their health status.

## Synthesising evidence to inform WHO Guidelines on food policy

For the past two years, School of Health and Society researchers have undertaken two major reviews of the evidence to inform the development of World Health Organization Guidelines on the effectiveness of nutrition labelling policies for population health.

This has included a scoping review of the evidence, which was presented at the first meeting of the WHO Nutrition Guidance Expert Advisory Group (NUGAG) Subgroup on Policy Actions in Geneva, 2018.

Subsequently, the team undertook a major systematic literature review, presented at the 2nd NUGAG meeting in China in 2019. This review is directly informing the Guideline development on nutrition labelling which is being drafted in 2020.

WHO Guidelines are authoritative documents that provide options to users on best practice interventions. In this case, the Guidelines provide evidence-informed guidance to Member States globally on recommended policy actions to promote healthy diets and nutrition.

The literature review will be published in an academic journal as well as in supporting documentation for the new Guidelines.

Researchers involved in the project are Associate Professor Bridget Kelly, Professor Heather Yeatman, Dr Amy Carrad (School of Health and Society, UOW) and Professor Simone Pettigrew (The George Institute for Global Health, University of Sydney).

Funding for the project has been made available through the World Health Organization.

## Significant new research on long-term effects of flexible learning spaces in schools

The NSW Department of Education is funding the introduction of flexible learning spaces in schools throughout the state, however, there is minimal literature on the long-term effects of flexible learning spaces.

Significant research is now being carried out through the School of Health and Society (HAS) to address this situation. The project is entitled SPACES- Investigating the effects of 'Flexible Learning Spaces' compared to traditional classrooms in primary and high schools -- a longitudinal study.

Project collaborators include Dr Anne-Maree Parrish (HAS), Professor Tony Okely, Dr Dylan Cliff, Katharina Kariippanon (HAS), Professor Lisa Kervin, Dr Jessica Mantei, Associate Professor Sarah Howard and the NSW Department of Education -- Lilliana Ruttingher, Hayley Russell and Aaron Cook.

There is limited research investigating the feasibility, acceptability and impact of flexible learning spaces (FLS) (a design which accommodates a variety of furnishings to meet the needs of different pedagogical approaches of teachers and learning styles of students) in the primary and high school setting.

The HAS project aims to evaluate the implementation of FLS in six primary and nine high schools since baseline data collection in 2016. The project will involve re-visiting schools from the original baseline data collection to understand how different school contexts have experienced the flexible learning space transition over time.

The outcomes of this study will provide the NSW Department of Education with research informed resources to assist schools who are implementing flexible learning spaces and contribute to the limited evidence base in the effects of educational facility design.

The baseline data collection for this project was originally commissioned by the NSW Department of Education in 2016 to evaluate a change in school classroom design moving from traditional rows of desks to a Flexible Learning Space, and was conducted by PhD student Katharina Kariippanon.

The project has benefited the NSW Department of Education by providing feedback to teachers, executives and directors regarding the effect of FLS on children's learning, time on task, engagement and collaboration.

At an organisational level, the research provided constructive infrastructural design advice and addressed teacher concerns regarding the practical implications of a pedagogical approach which encouraged students to be co-creators of their learning experience using collaboration, independence and experiential learning in an environment where students are free to move around the classroom.

Children benefitted through a more actively engaged approach to their learning which led to more positive classroom interactions and a reduction in sitting time, resulting in improved health and



wellbeing. This new project will revisit schools in the original project to assess the long-term effect of FLS design, providing further feedback to inform the organisation, schools, teachers and students. The project data collection is beginning in 2020.

In the research team's current collaboration with the NSW Department of Education they are negotiating plans for a longer-term research project to inform the school community as this new classroom design is introduced over the next three to five years.

Funding for the project has been derived from a Faculty Partnership Grant of \$10,000 and a Department of Education-Innovation learning environments grant of \$75,147.78.

## Diverse team developing next generation of sunscreens

As a public health issue, the Australian population remains highly vulnerable due to extreme levels of UV radiation experienced in the Southern hemisphere.

Researchers from across diverse disciplines at UOW are designing and testing for Australian conditions the next generation of sunscreens. The project has global implications for sun safety.

The project brings together researchers from disciplines including medicine, science, engineering, marketing and law. The team consists of group leader Associate Professor Konstantin Konstantinov from the Australian Institute for Innovative Materials (AIIM) along with Dr Phil Barker, Associate Professor Sheikh Solaiman, Professor Ronald Sluyter, Dr Vitor Sencadas, Professor Michael Lerch, Dr Shahnaz Bakand, Dr Jennifer Algie, and Professor X-F Huang. [Also, a higher degree research student, Marcela Chaki Borras has been intensively involved in experiments together with a PhD student, Alex Morlando working on sunscreen products.]

One of the main areas of the research is toxicology and safety evaluation of sunscreen ingredients.

In this project, Dr Shahnaz Bakand from School of Health and Society is contributing to the safety evaluation and toxicity ranking of the nanoscale ingredients. -- see <https://www.uow.edu.au/global-challenges/making-future-industries/next-generation-sunscreen/>

As a toxicologist and health and safety expert, she believes that 'safe design' is an integral part of successful development of any therapeutics, cosmetics and sunscreen products.

Overall, the team has investigated the comparative toxicity of sunscreen nanoparticle ingredients in human skin cells using in vitro test methods. They have also designed and installed the UV irradiation system at the Illawarra Health and Medical Research Institute to study the comparative toxicity of sunscreen nano-ingredients in the presence of sun simulated light with UVB and UVA components.

This practical method for photo-toxicology assessment of UV filters is being applied on a number of UV filters. The new generation nanoparticle system for sunscreen UV filtration was developed by reducing the photocatalytic activity of currently available nanoscale inorganic UV filters.

Safe design has enabled the team to enhance the biocompatibility while maintaining the UV absorption properties of the UV filtration system. The researchers have already published a review article in 2019. The experimental results are also promising and will be published soon in peer-reviewed journals.

In addition to the team's experiments on nano-toxicology and photo-toxicology of the novel inorganic nanoscale UV filters, another research development of the project will be the differential toxicity of these materials on melanoma and non-malignant skin cells.

This may open new possibilities for the team to apply for future external funds.

Funding for the project to date has been made possible through:

- Global Challenge Project Funding- Stage 2. 2019. \$28,000. Konstantinov, K., Barker, P., Solaiman, S., Sluyter, R., Sencadas, V., Lerch, M., Bakand, S., Algie, J., and Huang, X-F. Next Generation Sunscreens: Designed and tested for Australian conditions, with global implications for sun safety.
- Global Challenge Project Funding- Stage 1. 2018. \$27,900. Konstantinov, K., Huang, X-F., Barker, P., Hossain, S., Solaiman, S., V. Sencadas, V., Lerch, M., Bakand, S., and Algie, J. New generation sunscreens optimized for Australian extreme UV exposure and development of reliable in-vitro test protocols for UV protection.
- Global Challenge Seed Funding. 2017. \$15,000. Konstantinov, K., Yamauchi, Y., Barker, P., Sluyter, R., Solaiman, S., V. Sencadas, V., Lerch, M., Bakand, S., and Algie, J. New generation sunscreens optimised for Australian extreme exposure conditions and reliable in-vitro test protocols for SPF and critical wavelength.



# Understanding and preventing violence

We take an interdisciplinary approach to studying violence, in collaboration with affected communities, to particularly understand the specific contexts in which it occurs and can be prevented. Violence occurs in public and private settings – although the majority of violence takes place in people's homes. Our research merges public health, social policy, social work, worker health and safety, and criminology. We work in a variety of different settings in collaboration with local partners in innovative ways to prevent violence to help keep communities safe.

For more information about our featured research projects, as well as other research from the School of Health and Society, please see our website [uow.edu.au/social-sciences/schools-entities/has/research](https://uow.edu.au/social-sciences/schools-entities/has/research)

# Understanding and developing community prevention responses to domestic and family violence

Data collection has now been completed for a project examining community perceptions of domestic and family violence in the areas of Lake Illawarra and Warilla.

Using a household survey, the research team firstly aimed to gather a local picture of attitudes and perceptions about domestic and family violence (DFV) in the two suburbs located in the Illawarra.

There are dramatically different rates of reported DFV in different areas yet attitudinal data is only rarely available at the local level. The household survey that researchers conducted filled this gap in local knowledge.

Secondly, researchers wanted to understand what work is currently happening to prevent DFV and where gaps remain.

To establish this project team members interviewed people who work to prevent DFV and who support people who have experienced DFV.

A third aim was to understand community strengths and priorities for action on DFV. Researchers achieved this via a series of community forums with community members. Ideas about primary prevention that are based in local practice and community knowledge will be taken forward in 2020.

Following data collection, an event was held in January 2020 to establish how to take the results forward, and the research team are working with partners to secure further funding and support for violence prevention in these communities.

Project participants from the School of Health and Society are co-leaders Dr Natalia Hanley and Associate Professor Catherine Mac Phail, together with Helen Simpson. They are working in collaboration with the Illawarra Women's Health Centre.



Funding for the project has been made available through the Illawarra and Shoalhaven Local Health District.

## Book puts spotlight on impact of #MeToo

The #MeToo movement has sparked a global re-emergence of sexual violence activism and politics.

Within 24 hours of the allegations against Hollywood movie mogul, Harvey Weinstein, more than 12 million sexual harassment and assault survivors around the world had used the #MeToo.

Researchers have now drawn together an anthology which uses the #MeToo movement as a starting point for interrogating contemporary debates in anti-sexual violence activism and justice-seeking.

Responsible for compiling the collection are Dr Rachel Loney-Howes, a Lecturer in Criminology at UOW's School of Health and Society and Dr Bianca Fileborn, a Lecturer in Criminology at the University of Melbourne. Dr Loney-Howes specialises in researching gender-based violence. She and Dr Fileborn also both contributed a chapter to the anthology.

The collection involves 19 accessible chapters from academics, practitioners, and sexual violence activists across the globe to provide diverse, critical, and nuanced perspectives on the broader implications of the movement.

It taps into wider conversations about the nature, history, and complexities of anti-rape and anti-sexual harassment politics, including the limitations of the movement.

It features both internationally recognised and emerging academics from across the fields of criminology, media and communications, film studies, gender and queer studies, and law.

The book was published in October 2019. Researchers say it's difficult to know what impact the book has been although the publishers, Palgrave Macmillan, point out it was in the top 25% of sales for 2019.

In collaboration with Associate Professor Kaitlynn Mendes (University of Leicester UK), Professor Sonia Nunez-Puente and Dr Diana Fernandez (King Juan Carlos University Spain), and Dr Bianca Fileborn (University of Melbourne), Dr Loney-Howes is mapping the digital footprint of the #MeToo movement.

They are examining a variety of digital feminist campaigns from different geo-political locations that pre-date #MeToo to illustrate their significance in enabling the #MeToo movement to gain prominence.

From this process of mapping the emergence of #MeToo, the researchers hope to create a digital archive of feminist activism in which they can detail the history for digital feminist activism from a global standpoint.

## Program aims to build resilience following domestic violence

Building Resilience in Children (BRiC) is a group and family work program aimed at strengthening mother-child relationships after exposure to domestic violence.

This three-year evaluation will follow up a cohort of 60 mother-child dyads who complete the program.

Key outcomes will be measured at baseline (4 weeks after commencement), end of intervention (program completion) and six-month follow-up (6 months post-completion).

In addition, qualitative interviews with a sub-group of mothers will complement the quantitative findings.

This project aligns well with the Violence Prevention theme being established in UOW's School of Health and Society which is being led by Professor Jo Spangaro.

Participants in the BRiC project are Professor Spangaro (Group Leader) from the School of Health and Society; Dr Kim Spurway, Research Associate, School of Health and Society (part-time appointment – pending); and Dr Nicola Wyn Man, UNSW consultant statistician.

Funding for the project (\$103,000) has been made through the Sutherland Shire Family Services.

Publication of data will be undertaken and three to four conference papers are expected.

## HAS helps to light up remote district of Timor Leste

The School of Health and Society (HAS) is involved in an international collaboration working to reduce energy poverty through the provision of household solar lighting for Indigenous people living in remote communities in the Remexio district in Timor Leste.

The title of the research project is 'Lighting up Remexio': A partnership project to reduce energy poverty in Timor Leste with environmentally sustainable community-based economic development.

Taking part in the research are Associate Professor Lynne Keevers (Chief Investigator from HAS), members of Kangaroo Valley-Remexio Partnership (KVRP, lead partner organisation), including Padre David Alves Conceicao, Project leader in Timor





Leste, Ms Sandy Fritz, Ms Lynne Dooley and Mr Nuno Derti dos Santos (interpreter) and members of the International Project Group of Alternative Technology Australia (partner organisation).

The Remexio communities are rebuilding and recovering from the destruction, violence and trauma that followed in the wake of the Indonesian withdrawal from Timor Leste.

This practice-based study employed collaborative inquiry to analyse the working model of 'Lampu Diak', the name of the solar lighting project and its impacts on the health and well-being of local people and the communities in which they live.

The research study reviewed the implementation of the Lampu Diak project, investigated people's experience of various aspects of the village solar lighting model, identified factors critical to its success and practices to improve the project's effectiveness.

The analysis characterised the Lampu Diak project as a heterogeneous and distributed network. This network has five main components: 1) the design of site-specific solar lighting technology; 2) training of local technicians in the assembly, installation and maintenance of the lighting systems; 3) community-based committees that manage the Lampu Diak project in each suko (village); 4) a community-contribution fund for system maintenance and the microeconomic development aspects of the project; and 5) fundraising and community education based in Australia.

Associate Professor Keevers said the research identified the social development practices that sustain the project, including the introduction of clean, affordable, sustainable solar lighting and the associated 'common funds'. [Common funds are informal microcredit schemes managed by community-based self-help groups.]

"The study demonstrates the potential affordances, benefits and pitfalls of common funds. It shows the unanticipated ways in which common funds continue to unfold and extend the Lampu

Diak project, enabling the emergence of a community economy that has the potential to make a significance difference to people's capacities to live a life that matters to them," Professor Keevers said.

The research concluded that integrating a common fund and community economy into the Lampu Diak project also had the potential to strengthen the viability and sustainability of the solar lighting project.

Professor Keevers said there was a list of social impacts and economic development benefits of this international collaboration on people living in Remexio. These include increased access to study and educational opportunities with the provision of light for study and learning; increased sense of sexual safety especially for women and children; health improvements with the provision of smoke and pollution free light; lower energy costs; and local training and employment opportunities for solar installers and maintenance technicians.

Professor Keevers said a further research project in collaboration with KVRP will follow the emergence of 'common funds' and identify practices effective for encouraging: 1) local governance and community ownership in which decision-making rests with those most affected by the outcomes of decisions; 2) personal empowerment and control by community members over their own lives; 3) the ongoing development of local structures and processes by which local people can meet their own needs through the development of a community economy.

Funding for the project was derived from the Kangaroo Valley East Timor Assistance Fund (\$7,766); and the School of Health and Society Research Funds (\$5,000).

The early results of the research also contributed to the attainment of a \$250,000 grant from Google to enable the Lampu Diak scheme to be extended to other regions of Timor Leste that do not have access to electricity.

# Safety at work and in the community

Our broad research program investigates interactions of humans with their environments from macro to micro levels: work environment; organisational; industry; social and political context; and professional practice. We have a particular focus on collaborative research with industry partners, community agencies and other stakeholders to provide practical outcomes for risk reduction in the workplace and communities.

For more information about our featured research projects, as well as other research from the School of Health and Society, please see our website [uow.edu.au/social-sciences/schools-entities/has/research](http://uow.edu.au/social-sciences/schools-entities/has/research)

## Project leads to better use of respiratory protection

A series of studies led by UOW's School of Health and Society has resulted in a change to the provision of respiratory protection in the Australian marketplace against a workplace carcinogen.

Researchers have reported that end users have now been better informed on the efficacy of the protection they choose and how it is used. The findings are expected to have international standards implications.

In Phase 1 of the project, both negative pressure and powered air filtering respirators used in the workplace were evaluated against carcinogenic diesel engine emissions.

Serious shortcomings in filtration efficiency were disseminated to all stakeholders -- regulators, standard setters, employers and workers. This was achieved via grant reports and conference presentations on three continents.

Phase 2 of the project is evaluating the physiological effects of respiratory protection.

With an obese and ageing population that is increasingly sedentary, the ability of workers to use these protective devices is diminished, potentially leading to overexposure to workplace carcinogens and the development of respiratory diseases.

A collaboration with the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) and the National Personal Protective Technology Laboratory (NPPTL) is currently under development.

Members of the Health and Society project team comprise Jane Whitelaw (team leader, HAS), Kerrie Burton, Professor Alison Jones and Professor Brian Davies (HAS).

Funding sources for the project have included competitive grants from Coal Services Health & Safety Trust, Safe Work NSW, and partnership grants from Safety Equipment Australia and ERP Engineering.



## Help at hand for social workers experiencing vicarious trauma

A three-year project is now in its final stages aimed at exploring the impact of compassion fatigue and vicarious trauma in hospital-based social workers.

Compassion fatigue and vicarious trauma are understood to be potential outcomes of working in environments where the primary task of the helping professional is to empathise with those experiencing, or having had experienced, trauma. For social workers working in hospitals they can become disengaged from their patients and families, or become physically or emotionally unwell themselves.

Four metropolitan hospitals in the South East Sydney Local Health District (SESLHD) -- St George Hospital, Sutherland Hospital, Prince of Wales Hospital Sydney and Sydney Eye Hospital participated in the project exploring the impact on the social work workforce in a healthcare setting. The research team is being led by UOW through the School of Health and Society.

Findings to date have included high levels of practitioner anxiety towards the nature of hospital social work including 24-hour on call work, differing culture and stigma existing in different hospitals as to worker stress and the management of this stress. There has also been a focus on the role that clinical supervision and line management can play in supporting the social work workforce to be sustainable into the future.

The project is nearing its completion and its impact is already being well realised. There will now be an inclusion of compassion fatigue and vicarious trauma in work, health and safety guidelines in the SESLHD, the inclusion of compassion fatigue and vicarious trauma in clinical supervision guidelines in the SESLHD, the development of training packages for social workers, social work supervisors and managers, and the development of a visual tool to support education and trouble shooting in this area.

The tools described above will be developed in the final stage of the project in 2020 and trialled at different Local Health Districts across NSW. There is also further research planned in South Western Sydney Local Health District in 2020 to undertake a cost-analysis into practitioner compassion fatigue and vicarious trauma in the healthcare setting.

Throughout the life of the project practical impact has also been observed by way of a change in localised safety policies to support on call social work staff (St George Hospital), increased training opportunities (Sutherland Hospital), and increased dialogue on the topic at all levels of hospital management (Sutherland Hospital).

Funding for the project has come from the Prince of Wales Hospital Foundation (2018) and SESLHD TIIC Funding (2018).

The research team comprises team leader Dr Mim Fox (School of Health and Society, UOW), Patrick Dunn (Social Work Network Head, SESLHD), Ben Birrell (Head of Department, Sutherland Hospital), Scott Crehan (Head of Department, St

George Hospital), Peggy Yeomans (Head of Department, Prince of Wales, Sydney/ Sydney Eye Hospital), Elisabeth Murphy (Social Work Educator, ILSHD), Jenni Graves (Social Work Educator, SESLHD), Madeleine Hayes (Social Worker, St George Hospital), Anna Harrison (Social Worker, Sutherland Hospital), Phillipa Cull (Social Worker, St George Hospital), Dominique Hopkins (Research Assistant).

## Understanding moral distress in maternal health providers working with refugee and migrant women

A research team from UOW's School of Health and Society is investigating the experiences and perceptions of moral distress among maternal health service providers (e.g., nurses and social workers) who work with refugee and migrant women in the Illawarra and South Western Sydney areas.

It has been found that refugee and migrant women are at higher risk of childbirth complications and generally poorer pregnancy outcomes.

These women also report lower satisfaction with pregnancy care due to language barriers, perceived negative attitudes among service providers and a lack of understanding of refugee and migrant women's needs.

The research builds on the concept of moral distress to address a key dilemma facing providers today: how can providers help refugee and migrant women in a culturally competent way, when institutional and structural barriers (and the consequent lack of appropriate pathways and resources) severely limit their capacity to do so?

This project has three main aims: (1) To understand the experiences and perspectives of maternal health service providers including nurses, midwives, physicians, and social workers in their work with refugee and migrant women; (2) To identify organisational barriers in providing culturally competent maternal health services and; (3) To examine the links between the expectations of cultural competency, organisational capacity and commitment to multicultural services, and providers' experiences of moral distress.

The study will serve as a platform for further research addressing the problems of service delivery to refugee and migrant women in the maternal health sector and beyond.

The researchers plan to organise and conduct workshops to bring practitioners, representatives of service provider organisations, and key representatives of Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) groups together to develop solutions to improve service provision to migrant and refugee women in the local context, and potentially across maternal health service in Australia.





Funding for the project has come from a Faculty of Social Sciences' Early Career Research start-up grant of \$4,000.

The research team from the School of Health and Society comprises Dr Katarzyna (Kasia) Olcon (group leader), Dr Delia Rambaldini-Gooding and Dr Chris Degeling.

## Workers' health protected by tackling workplace hazards

Research undertaken by the new industry partnership centre, the Centre for Occupational, Public & Environmental Research in Safety and Health (COPERSH) at UOW's School of Health and Society has directly resulted in lowering the exposure rates of workers to potentially hazardous contaminants.

Centre leaders Professor Brian Davies AM (Professor of Occupational Health and Safety) and Dr Vinod Gopaldasani, along with their team members, have played critical roles in undertaking collaborative research with industry partners to provide practical outcomes for risk reduction in the workplace.

For Professor Davies his main areas of research centre on control of diesel exhaust emission, control of respirable crystalline silica and prediction of worker dust exposure from historical data.

He was the project manager of an industry research team that developed a non-flammable disposable diesel exhaust filtration system which reduced the exposure of workers to diesel emissions in Australian underground coal mines.

This project resulted in the Australian coal industry, for the most part, adopting this technology with a resultant lowering of worker exposure to carcinogenic compounds in diesel emissions.

"Ultimately what I strive for in my research is to protect worker health. Every project that has usable outcomes lowers the exposure of workers to potentially hazardous contaminants," Professor Davies said.

His research has included investigating respiratory protection and whether Australia's standards are protecting workers' health or providing a false sense of security.

His achievements in the field have already been well recognised. In 2005 he was made a Member of the Order of Australia for his contribution to the profession of Occupational Hygiene and for improving the health of coal miners.

Both Professor Davies and Dr Gopaldasani have jointly published in the area of hydration status of underground miners in a temperate Australian region.

And Dr Gopaldasani also has a particular focus on those exposed to occupational diseases such as silicosis and heat stresses in workplaces.

He has created links with international research partners in Chile who are now part of COPERSH – the new centre being established along with Professor Davies.

His overseas linkage with the Ergonomic Society of Chile and Chilean Society of Occupational Medicine provides a platform to share research and learnings.

"The favourite aspect of my research is simply being able to make a small change that can lead to a big difference to people's lives," according to Dr Gopaldasani, who is Academic Program Director within his school.



## ACHEEV

# Centre makes contested health-related decisions more inclusive and democratic

When a pandemic influenza hits, who should receive the early supply of vaccine? How should artificial intelligence be used in health systems? Should Australians' health data be shared with private companies? These are the sorts of health-related decisions that the Australian Centre for Health Engagement, Evidence and Values (ACHEEV) are investigating.

The mission of ACHEEV is to make health-related decisions more inclusive and democratic.

The centre works with diverse stakeholders around contested and controversial health issues. Its academic staff share backgrounds in health ethics, public health and health social science. ACHEEV aims to become an internationally-recognised leader in bringing public perspectives and values into health policy and practice.

Its innovative methods include community juries, world cafés, discrete choice experiments, Delphi processes, dialogue groups and values-based social research methods.

ACHEEV works closely with publics, consumer groups, practitioners and policymakers, and develops impact plans for all of its major projects.

All ACHEEV team members are also members of UOW's School of Health and Society. The team comprises Professor Stacy Carter (Director), Tory Hayward (Administrator), Professor Annette Braunack-Mayer (Professor of Health Ethics), Dr Chris Degeling (Senior Research Fellow), Dr Jackie Street (Research Fellow), Patti Shih (Research Fellow), Kathleen Prokopovich (researcher and PhD candidate), Julie Hall (researcher), Belinda Fabrianesi (researcher), Lucy Carolan (researcher), Rebecca Bosward (researcher), Sebastian Isbanner (researcher), Cheryl Travers (PhD candidate) and Mina Motamedi (PhD candidate).

ACHEEV's project about pandemic influenza vaccines was funded by the Commonwealth Government Department of Health (\$127,000) through a tender awarded to Dr Chris Degeling (UOW) and Professor Jodie McVernon (University of Melbourne).

ACHEEV ran community juries, to support members of the public to deliberate about how the vaccine should be distributed.

Three community juries were convened between March and June 2019 in Wollongong, Melbourne and Kalgoorlie-Boulder. Juries heard a day of expert evidence about options for vaccine distribution, and after a further day of deliberation made recommendations about how the initial supply of vaccine should be distributed.

The final report was delivered to the Commonwealth Office of Health Protection. Dr Degeling and Professor McVernon were invited to present outcomes to The Communicable Disease Network of Australia and The Australian Health Protection Principles Committee. Findings will be integrated into the Australian Health Management Plan for Pandemic Influenza.

Papers on disease modelling done for this project, and reporting on the community juries, are in preparation for submission to Lancet Public Health.

Findings were presented to the Australasian Association for Bioethics and Health Law Conference in Dunedin in November 2019 and have been submitted for presentation at the Congress of the International Association of Bioethics in Philadelphia (USA) in June 2020.

The ACHEEV research program is growing in key areas including: (1) Ethical and social implications of data use and artificial intelligence in health systems and services; (2) Communicable diseases and infectious disease control; (3) The health implications of relations between humans, other animals and environments; (4) Overdiagnosis and overtreatment; (5) Ageing; and (6) Health inequalities and inequities. The centre also does methodological work regarding deliberative methods, empirical ethics and values-based social research.

ACHEEV was established through support from the UOW Health and Wellbeing strategy. ACHEEV staff won \$1.97 million in research grant funding in 2018-19. Of this, 72% was from Category 1 (competitive national grant funding) including from the National Health and Medical Research Council and the Australian Research Council.

[uow.info/soc-acheev](http://uow.info/soc-acheev)

## POWERLAB

# PowerLab meets the challenging epidemics of modern times

Obesity, type 2 diabetes, dementia and loneliness are epidemics of modern times and have been linked to urbanisation that does not prioritise people and contact with nature.

The goal of the Population Wellbeing and Environment Research Laboratory (PowerLab) is to enhance understandings of how people and equity orientated changes in urban environments can enable population well-being and human flourishing across the lifecourse.

Based at UOW's School of Health and Society, PowerLab was established in 2016 by Professor Thomas Astell-Burt (Founding Director) and Associate Professor Xiaoqi Feng (Founding Co-Director 2016-2019, now at UNSW) with the objective of engaging policymakers, practitioners and the public to co-produce, collaborate and communicate evidence for positive change in society.

Researchers in PowerLab have won support from the National Health and Medical Research Council (more than \$2 million from one project and two fellowships), the Australian Research Council (one fellowship) and strategic co-investment (\$3.2 million) from Hort Innovation Ltd, as well as project support from The Australian Prevention Partnership Centre (TAPPC), personnel support from the UOW Health and Wellbeing Strategy, group support from UOW Faculty of Social Sciences, and funding from Universities Australia and UCL Global Challenges to support development of international collaborations with Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München and UCL's Research Department of Epidemiology and Public Health.

One example of a key project has been 'Greener Cities Healthier Lives'. It has been funded by strategic co-investment of \$3.2 million over five years by Hort Innovation Ltd, UOW Faculty of Social Sciences and Global Challenges.

This project is co-led by Professor Thomas Astell-Burt and Professor Xiaoqi Feng, supported by co-investigators from four UOW faculties and two local health districts (South Western Sydney and the Illawarra and Shoalhaven), multiple researchers and four PhD studentships.

Further funding from a NHMRC Boosting Dementia Research Leadership Fellowship awarded to Professor Astell-Burt (1 of only 4 in 'Public Health' across the country) to support work on the role of green space in neurodegenerative and cardiometabolic diseases.

Results from multiple longitudinal studies in this project have found communities in Sydney, Wollongong and Newcastle with more tree canopy nearby tend to have better general, mental and physical health. Also, communities across Australia with green space perceived by residents to be better quality also tend to have better child and maternal health (e.g. mental health).

These landmark research findings on child and adult mental health, diabetes, hypertension, heart disease are published in high impact international journals including American Journal Preventive Medicine, JAMA Network Open, and International Journal of Epidemiology.

Professor Astell-Burt's research on green space and health was integrated in Wollongong City Council's 2017-2037 Urban Greening Strategy, presented at multiple community engagement events led by Western Sydney LHD, NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE) and the Institute of Australian Consulting Arboriculturalists, and cited by the Lord Mayor of Sydney as justification for two new NSW Premier's Priorities on urban greening (#11 and #12).

Papers led by project co-lead Associate Professor Xiaoqi Feng won state and national research awards in 2019 from Parks and Leisure Australia. Professor Astell-Burt communicated the project research, results and impacts so far to local audiences in the Wollongong area through the UOW Big Ideas event entitled "Health Grows On Trees", attended by more than 800 people including the university executive and livestreamed.

[uow.edu.au/social-sciences/research/powerlab/](http://uow.edu.au/social-sciences/research/powerlab/)



# HDR Student Profiles



**JUDITH HOPWOOD**

## Judith helps give ‘voice’ to invisible homeless people

Part-time PhD student from the School of Health and Society, Judith Hopwood, has extensive experience in the area of health and social justice.

The main area of research for the registered nurse from Sydney’s Royal North Shore Hospital is centred on homeless people living in Brooklyn, NSW.

She is completing her PhD focussed on the lived experiences of houseless/homeless people.

Judith believes the part of her research which has had the most impact is the giving of a ‘voice’ to usually invisible, powerless people and the recording of their stories.

“Apart from extensive linkages to experts in homelessness in Australia I have ventured to find out information from places that include the USA, Spain, Italy and Canada,” she said.

She said such research was vitally important so that people without ‘voices’ can be heard and that by recording their stories a better policy development and implementation occurs.

“My favourite research aspect is the privilege of meeting with and speaking to people living on the edge of society to reveal their lives.”

Her PhD thesis title is ‘The narrative of being houseless: lived experiences of cave dwellers’.

Judith already holds a Master of Bioethics (UTS) degree and a Certificate of Child and Adolescent Health (NSW College of Nursing) as well as a Certificate of Clinical Nursing Studies (NSW College of Nursing).

She has served as the Member of Parliament for Hornsby and she continues her involvement in committees addressing the issues of youth, domestic violence, homelessness, housing, health and women’s issues generally.





JENNIFER HINES

## Doctoral research aims to reduce known carcinogen at its source

Diesel engine exhaust is a known carcinogen with other non-malignant health effects.

The main area of research for PhD candidate from the School of Health and Society, Jennifer Hines, is in controlling worker exposure to diesel engine exhaust by reducing such exposure at the source. This in turn will lead to an improvement in worker health and reduced running costs to the workplace.

Having more than 20 years' experience as an occupational hygienist, Jennifer's research has predominantly involved measuring the exhaust of diesel engines, determining maintenance requirements to improve the exhaust from these measurements, and ultimately the engine operation. This quantitative research has been completed in two Illawarra underground coal mine sites and is currently being expanded to a number of other industries.

With significant cost savings for industry when machines are maintained properly, Jennifer believes this is an added incentive for industry adoption of the program.

"It was this concept that drove my research, to begin with, to provide dual outcomes with links between improvements in engine maintenance and reduced exposure and costs" see <https://www.aioh.org.au/static/uploads/files/aioh2017-proceedings-1-wfryvsmgnhv.pdf>

Jennifer said the next phase of her research was to make emissions-based maintenance more sustainable.

"To this end, further research is in progress to investigate centralised real-time emissions-based maintenance (EBM) data management for diesel fleets that will reduce worker exposure to diesel emissions (and continue to provide a cost-saving in fuel and other costs)."

She said the research that she has completed to date has demonstrated that a significant amount of data is generated and this needs to be evaluated in a time-efficient, consistent manner to be beneficial as an intervention to reduce worker exposures.

"This research will develop and validate an automated system to interpret and manage the engine emission data in near real-time and establish if such a system can be sustainable on a large scale (three mines with small to large diesel fleets) across different mining sectors (coal and metalliferous) in different countries (Australia and South Africa)."

"By using an automated centralised computer hub servicing three underground mining operations in NSW, Queensland and South Africa, engine emission data can be interpreted in near real-time by specialist software whose algorithms are based on the experiences of the researchers."

Jennifer said maintenance issues could then be highlighted to operating personnel for immediate correction.

"The application of this approach to monitoring, interpreting and managing diesel exhaust emissions remotely is innovative and world best practice."

"Improvements in engine performance which lower emission outputs and avoids unnecessary use of fuel is of immense value for health, safety, the environment, and productivity."

"This model could provide a process to bring about behavioural change in the way maintenance engineers maintain engines (emissions-based maintenance). This system is translatable to other industries operating diesel fleets bringing significant synergies in terms of emissions management."

Jennifer said the application of this system for worldwide benchmarking between mine sites of their diesel exhaust emissions based on diesel fuel type being used, engine performance, fuel savings and workers' exposures was truly transformational for the industry.

"An additional benefit of this research program is the minimal implementation cost to the industry as the entire system will be implemented for use globally. The benefits of this research program will be reduced exposure of workers to carcinogenic diesel exhaust emissions, improved fuel efficiency which translates to fuel cost savings, reduced carbon footprint and increased productivity and long-term sustainability of maintenance practices that reduce exhaust emissions."

The title of Jennifer's PhD thesis is 'The Role of Emissions-Based Maintenance to Reduce Diesel Exhaust Emissions and Increase Productivity'. Jennifer is currently a Lecturer in the Occupational Health and Safety Academic Program, School of Health and Society. She is also a consultant occupational hygienist with EHS Solutions and a Member of the Coal Industry Standing Committee on Airborne Contaminants and Occupational Hygiene (formerly the Standing Dust Committee). She is Certified by the Australian Institute of Occupational Hygienists and a member of their Certification Board.

Jennifer enjoys conducting on-site monitoring and working with site personnel to evaluate engine emissions and analyse problems.

"The workers' insights to improve sampling equipment and their use of the equipment has been rewarding. Their interest in their own health, and how they can improve their workplace to provide cleaner air for their workmates has been gratifying."

Jennifer said it was only recently that mining regulators have provided an exposure standard for diesel exhaust and SafeWork Australia is currently investigating this as well.

"The provision of these standards will create more urgency around implementing higher order controls such as emissions-based maintenance. My research informs and influences industries to reduce the risk of worker exposure to this carcinogen."

**BYRON KEMP**

## Interdisciplinary lens used to study decline in physical activity

Physical activity is prone to decline during the period from childhood to adolescence.

PhD candidate from the School of Health and Society, Byron Kemp, is seeking to explore changes in domain-specific physical activity participation during this transition. His research is trying to provide a better understanding of the nature of this change.

He is using an interdisciplinary lens to explore this topic from the perspectives of public health and social marketing. Reflecting this, Byron's research is being conducted with the support of supervisors, Dr Anne-Maree Parrish (School of Health and Society) and Dr Dylan Cliff (School of Education).

To date, he has provided a better understanding of the decline in physical activity between childhood and adolescence by highlighting the importance of non-organised physical activity. Non-organised physical activity includes activities that are spontaneous, freely-chosen, unstructured and that occur for their own sake --such as playground games and informal sporting games.

His systematic literature review highlighted that very few studies have examined longitudinal changes in non-organised physical activity between childhood and adolescence.

Following this review, Byron analysed data from the Longitudinal Study of Australian Children (LSAC) and found that almost the entire decline in physical activity between 11 and 13 years occurred in the domain of non-organised physical activity. [See Kemp, B. J., Parrish, A., Batterham, M. & Cliff, D. P. (in press). Participation in Domains of Physical Activity Among Australian Youth During the Transition From Childhood to Adolescence: A Longitudinal Study. *J Phys Act Health*. doi: <https://doi.org/10.1123/jpah.2018-0705>]. This indicates that non-organised physical activity may be an appropriate behavioural target for public health interventions aimed at promoting physical activity in the transition to adolescence.

Byron is currently building on his previous research by using LSAC data to explore the potential predictors of non-organised physical activity at 13 years. This information may be used to target social marketing interventions toward priority groups of children who are less likely to participate in non-organised physical activity during early adolescence.

He is also conducting a qualitative investigation of potential social normative factors related to the decline in non-organised physical activity participation between childhood and adolescence. Initial analysis has highlighted a complex interplay of potential factors such as parental influence, puberty,

transitioning to high school, identity development, peer group changes, organised sport and media influence.

Byron is a member of the International Society of Behavioral Nutrition and Physical Activity (ISBNPA). He was one of only two students selected to deliver an invited presentation at the ISBNPA conference in 2019.

"I have enjoyed the opportunity to apply statistical analysis skills to provide a better understanding of human behaviour and support the promotion of healthy lifestyles," he said.

His honours thesis in Marketing was awarded the University Medal for Studies in the Faculty of Commerce.



**HELEN SIMPSON**

## Domestic violence studies result in positive changes

PhD student Helen Simpson's main research focus is criminology especially in the areas of policing and domestic violence and she is already seeing the results of her study being adopted by the NSW Police Force.

Helen, who is undertaking her PhD through the School of Health and Society, is currently working on the efficacy of Domestic Violence Evidence-in-chief (DVEC).

"The previous research into the way officers conduct complainant interviews was foundational in my research," Helen said.

Helen said that she was especially pleased that her research was making practical changes to the application of DVEC -- in particular, where these changes have reduced the trauma to those reporting Domestic and Family Violence.

Her research is centred on policing, with particular projects focusing on community attitudes towards domestic and family violence in the Lake Illawarra and Warilla areas along with

triggers for complex needs offending.

In addition to her main criminology research, she has co-ordinated IPROWD (Indigenous Police Recruitment Our Way) which is an Indigenous entry program for the NSW Police Force over 10 years for the NSW South Coast (she resigned last year).

Helen was responsible for getting IPROWD Schools off the ground in this area as she ran one of the two pilot programs for NSW of IPROWD Schools.

Her career choices have seen Helen take divergent pathways.

She has had more than 25 years' experience in journalism and writing. Helen was a producer and scriptwriter on Sydney's top talkback radio stations and Trisha Goddard's television program *Live It Up*. Helen was responsible for both the compilation of business documents and the scripting of programs.

Following the writing and publication of a best-selling true crime novel under the name of Helen Reade, she turned her hand to teaching business writing at various universities and at TAFE.

She currently is a session staff member at UOW where she lectures in academic writing and provides one-on-one tuition to students. Helen also holds academic contracts for a variety of roles at UOW. She also worked with Engineering Education Australia (EEA) to facilitate tailored professional development in writing for a number of multi-national organisations.

Helen has a Masters (hons IIA) in Criminology and Criminal Justice, a BA in English, Linguistics and Communications and a Diploma in Training and Assessment.





CHERYL TRAVERS

## Emergency responders and pet owners in natural disasters

The importance of human-animal relationship in disasters has been one of the focal points as Australia battles devastating bushfires this 2019-20 summer season.

This relationship is a key area of research interest for PhD candidate Cheryl Travers from the Australian Centre for Health Engagement, Evidence and Values (ACHEEV).

Her main areas of research target emergency services and pet owners -- assigning and taking responsibility for pets in natural disasters.

An important topic of interest for Cheryl is the relationship between emergency responders and pet owners in natural disasters, and the concept of more-than-human solidarity to sharing responsibility for companion animals (pets) in natural disasters.

Emergency services consider owners responsible for their pets in a disaster.

Cheryl said it was vital for people to be prepared for fires, floods and other disasters by having a plan for all their family, including pets.

“Make sure you can identify your pets to help reunite you if separated. Plan where you can take your pets -- preferably to family or friends, and how you will get there. Have a plan B for when you are not home. Know your triggers for when to leave (preferably, leave early) and take your pets on leads, each in its own cage, or otherwise suitably and safely contained.”

Cheryl points out that there is good evidence that people cope better in disasters when companion animals are protected alongside their human families. Studies show that separation from companion animals or their death during a disaster can cause people deep psychological distress, depression and posttraumatic stress disorder.

As part of her studies, Cheryl has conducted semi-structured interviews with 27 emergency service and support agency responders from the Blue Mountains and Central Coast regions of New South Wales exploring their views and shared experience of fires and floods with pet owners.

These interviews helped to hone semi-structured interviews with 11 owners who experienced the October 2013 Blue Mountains bushfires with their animal companions.

Overall, her findings show that pet owners take a more-than-human solidarity approach in ‘being there’ for their companion animal family, which can take priority over obedience to authorities during a disaster.

She found that emergency frontline responders describe a commitment to ‘being there’ for their teammates, framed by a



strong sense of their place in their community and connection to family, friends, and neighbours, including the neighbourhood pets. Yet, there are challenges with owners when the situation demands that human lives take priority, causing conflicts in their commitments, which are not easily resolved.

Cheryl said despite the presence of significant public health issues, health promotion is largely absent from discourse on community preparedness for extreme weather events and disasters.

“My PhD explores how a health promotion approach could help support emergency management in its efforts to build community capacity for self-reliance and disaster resilience. First, in acknowledging the societal norm of multi-species families and communities, both services should re-orient toward a more-than-human structure. In so doing, we can better integrate nonhuman animals into emergency management policies and plans, for the health and well-being of all.”

Cheryl particularly enjoys conference presentations and other forums that offer the opportunity to spread the word and highlight the importance of the human-animal relationship in disasters, and to develop international connections and potential future collaborative research. [See -- Travers, C., Degeling, C., & Rock, M. (2017). Companion Animals in Natural Disasters: A Scoping Review of Scholarly Sources. *Journal of Applied Animal Welfare Science*, 20(4) 324-343, doi:<http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/10888705.2017.1322515> Travers, C., Degeling, C., & Rock, M. (2016). The cat's cradle of responsibility: Assigning and taking responsibility for companion animals in natural disasters. *Australasian Journal of Disaster and Trauma Studies*, 20(2), 61-68.

Cheryl is also involved in integrating the human-animal bond into patient-centred care (Central Coast Local Health District research). This work-related research involves a trial of personal pet visits to patients experiencing long stays in hospital.

At an international level, Cheryl has connections with the Human-Animal Studies and Health Promotion Team, Department of Community Health Sciences, University of Calgary, Alberta, Canada; the American Psychological Association, Human-Animal Interaction (HAI), Section 13, Division 17 of APA; the Australasian Women in Emergencies Network (AWEN); and the Australasian Animal Studies Association (AASA).

**FAYSAL SHUVO**

## PhD project linking public health with urban planning

When it comes to active ageing, PhD student Faysal Kabir Shuvo's research has a clear focus on the inequitable distribution of urban green space quantity and quality.

He is a researcher at the Population Wellbeing and Environment Research Lab (Powerlab) in the School of Health and Society.

Faysal scores the quality of urban green spaces on a unique scale. He is skilled in the use of Geographic Information Systems (GIS), Remote Sensing (RS) and statistical analysis.

His overall interests are in urban green space planning, promotion of active ageing, and environmental justice in a contrasting international setting. He is currently working on an international comparison of the association between urban green space and active ageing.

Faysal has conducted an individual research project in Dhaka, Bangladesh. It is the first of such research that has investigated the relationship between green space use behaviour and the public health aspect. Dhaka has continued to lose its share of green space as it develops into a megacity.

Faysal holds a Master of Science (Environmental Management) degree from the National University of Singapore and a Bachelor of Urban and Regional Planning from the Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology.

Faysal has an international linkage with the Bangladesh Institute of Planners.

He has working experience in both research and professional urban planning jobs. Before undertaking his PhD, he worked as a built environment researcher in the National University of Singapore. Faysal has also worked as a member of the consultant team for the Dhaka Master Plan (2016-35) and as a deputy manager in a leading housing company in Dhaka, Bangladesh.

"I find the favourite aspect of my research is linking public health with urban planning. It's a unique combination of two diverse fields."

Faysal's PhD supervisor is Professor Thomas Astell-Burt. The title of Faysal's thesis is 'Green space provision, quality and use in diverse international settings'.



# Funding 2018/2019

## EXTERNAL FUNDING

**Project Title:** The algorithm will see you now: ethical, legal and social implications of adopting machine learning systems for diagnosis and screening

**Investigators:** Stacy Carter, Nehmat Houssami, Christopher Degeling, Bernadette Richards, Annette Braunack-Mayer, Wendy Rogers, Lei Wang, Khin Win Maame Esi Wood, Chris Semsarian, Gang Chen, Helen Frazer, Enrico Coeira

**Funding body:** National Health and Medical Research Council, Ideas Grant

**Year:** 2019

**Amount:** \$823,476

**Project Title:** Artificial intelligence (AI) to enhance breast cancer screening: Early detection of interval cancers, economic impact and women's perspectives.

**Investigators:** Luke Marinovich, Nehmat Houssami, Elizabeth Wylie, Bill Lotter, Alison Pearce, Stacy Carter.

**Funding body:** National Breast Cancer Foundation Investigator-Initiated Research Scheme.

**Year:** 2019

**Amount:** \$822,561

**Project Title:** Co-designing dementia diagnosis and post-diagnostic care (COGNISCANCE)

**Investigators:** Henry Brodaty, Lee-Fay Low, Yun-Hee Jeon and Lyn Phillipson

**Funding Body:** NHMRC Boosting Dementia Research

**Year:** 2019

**Amount:** \$736,000

**Project Title:** Exploring the Public Interest in and Social Licence for the Use of Linked Administrative Data in Therapeutic Development through a scoping review, survey of community attitudes, case studies and community juries

**Investigators:** Annette Braunack-Mayer, Stacy Carter, David Roder, Jacqueline Street, Kylie Sproston

**Funding body:** Public Health Research Network (PHRN), General Grant

**Year:** 2019

**Amount:** \$80,000

**Project Title:** Alternative Reporting Options for Sexual Assault Survivors: An Exploration of their Purpose, Use and Potential in Australia

**Investigators:** Georgina Heydon, Rachel Loney-Howes, Nicola Henry

**Funding body:** Australian Institute of Criminology, Criminology Research Grants

**Year:** 2019

**Amount:** \$90,124

**Project Title:** Can urban greening help to eliminate child health inequality? Enhancing the quality of evidence with multilevel longitudinal analyses in Australia and Germany

**Investigators:** Xiaoqi Feng, Ahm Anwar, Thomas Astell-Burt, Iana Markevych, Marie Standl, Joachim Heinrich

**Funding body:** Deutscher Akademischer Austausch Dienst (DAAD), Australia Germany Joint Cooperation Scheme

**Year:** 2019

**Amount:** \$24,990

**Project Title:** TB elimination: a qualitative investigation of the perspectives of South Asian migrant communities in the Illawarra.

**Investigators:** Christopher Degeling, Stacy Carter, Patti Shih

**Funding body:** Australian Respiratory Council, Harry Windsor Grant

**Year:** 2019

**Amount:** \$20,000

**Project Title:** Safe and Just Futures for People living with Dementia in Residential Aged Care

**Investigators:** Linda Steele, Richard Fleming, Lyn Phillipson, Kate Swaffer

**Funding Body:** Dementia Australia Research Foundation

**Year:** 2018

**Amount:** \$50,000

**Project Title:** Integrated Futures for the use of Motorised Mobility Devices

**Investigators:** Gordon Waitt, Thomas Birtchnell, Stacy Carter, David Sinclair

**Funding body:** Australian Research Council (ARC), Linkage Projects

**Year:** 2018

**Amount:** \$356,000

**Project Title:** Seating, mobility and health: Towards a Pro-mobility community

**Investigators:** Vinodkumar Gopaldasani, Robyn Coman, Carlo Caponecchia

**Funding body:** NSW Department of Family and Community Services, Liveable Communities Grants program

**Year:** 2018

**Amount:** \$29,700

**Project Title:** Supporting Type 2 Diabetes (T2D) self-management in the context of multi-morbidity: A pilot project

**Investigators:** Hassan Hosseinzadeh, Nicholas Zwar, Marzieh Niknami

**Funding body:** Agency for Clinical Innovation, Research Grant

**Year:** 2018

**Amount:** \$24,491-

**Project Title:** Emerging Health Researcher - Commendation Award

**Investigators:** Bridget Kelly Gillott

**Funding body:** Bupa Foundation, Emerging Health Researcher Award

**Year:** 2018

**Amount:** \$1,000-

**Project Title:** A survey of community attitudes to domestic violence in Shellharbour

**Investigators:** Natalia Hanley, Catherine MacPhail

**Funding body:** Illawarra Shoalhaven Local Health District (ISLHD), General Grant

**Year:** 2018

**Amount:** \$41,000

**Project Title:** Family Violence Initiative

**Investigators:** Natalia Hanley, Catherine MacPhail

**Funding body:** Murrumbidgee Primary Health Network

**Year:** 2018

**Amount:** \$30,000

**Project Title:** Exploring the experience of compassion fatigue and vicarious trauma in SESLHD hospital social workers

**Investigators:** Ben Birrell, Patrick Dunn, Elisabeth Murphy, Mim Fox

**Funding body:** NSW Health, South Eastern Sydney Local Health District

**Year:** 2018

**Amount:** \$9,812

**Project Title:** Exploring the experience of compassion fatigue and vicarious trauma in hospital social workers

**Investigators:** Peggy Yeomans, Elisabeth Murphy, Mim Fox, Jenni Graves

**Funding body:** Prince of Wales Hospital Foundation, Novice Research

**Year:** 2018

**Amount:** \$31,984

**Project Title:** Investigating current international practices in prevention of trespass and self-harm incidents on urban rail systems

**Investigators:** Anjum Naweed, Janine Chapman, Karen Klockner, Gregoire Larue, Alison Bell, Lesley Cooper

**Funding body:** Australasian Centre for Rail Innovation

**Year:** 2018

**Amount:** \$68,683

## COMMERCIAL RESEARCH AND CONSULTANCY

**Project Title:** Community Consultation Service on Latent TB Infections

**Project lead:** Chris Degeling

**Funding body:** Melbourne Health

**Year:** 2019

**Amount:** \$57,672

**Project Title:** Citizen Juries - Initial Pandemic Influenza Vaccination Target Groups Project

**Project lead:** Chris Degeling

**Funding body:** Office of Health Protection, Department of Health, Commonwealth Government of Australia

**Project Partner:** University of Melbourne

**Year:** 2019

**Amount:** \$101,944

**Project Title:** Influences and barriers to responsible use of antibiotics: The 21st century health challenges

**Project lead:** Chris Degeling

**Funding body:** Warrigal Care

**Year:** 2019

**Amount:** \$30,000

**Project Title:** Family Violence Initiative

**Project lead:** Natalia Hanley, Catherine McPhail

**Funding body:** Murrumbidgee Primary Health Network

**Year:** 2019

**Amount:** \$30,000

**Project Title:** Conducting a systematic review on the effectiveness of nutrition labelling policies on outcomes of interest

**Project lead:** Bridget Kelly-Gillott

**Funding body:** World Health Organization

**Year:** 2019

**Amount:** \$131,404

**Project Title:** Bachelor of Social Work Monitoring visits to Whitiareia, New Zealand

**Project lead:** Jioji Ravulo

**Funding body:** New Zealand Qualifications Authority

**Year:** 2019

**Amount:** \$6,201

**Project Title:** Mental Health Talanoa

**Project lead:** Jioji Ravulo

**Funding body:** Wentwest Ltd

**Year:** 2019

**Amount:** \$155,000

**Project Title:** Building Resilience in Children (BRIC) Evaluation

**Project lead:** Joanne Spangaro

**Funding body:** Sutherland Shire Family Services

**Year:** 2019

**Amount:** \$93,854

**Project Title:** Muscular Skeletal Disorders Patient Handling

**Project lead:** Robyn Coman

**Funding body:** SafeWork NSW

**Year:** 2018

**Amount:** \$45,610

**Project Title:** Trek for Timor: Supporting social housing and education for young students from Remexio

**Project lead:** Lynne Keevers

**Funding body:** Kangaroo Valley East Timor Assistance Fund

**Year:** 2018

**Amount:** \$7,060

**Project Title:** Preparation of a scoping review of existing evidence on nutrition labelling

**Project lead:** Bridget Kelly-Gillott

**Funding body:** World Health Organization

**Year:** 2018

**Amount:** \$12,340

**Project Title:** Development of a WHO Health Evidence Network Evidence Synthesis report on front-of-pack labelling systems

**Project lead:** Bridget Kelly-Gillott

**Funding body:** World Health Organization

**Year:** 2018

**Amount:** \$13,952

**Project Title:** Preparation and development of a regional action framework on protecting children from the harmful impact of food marketing in the Western Pacific Region

**Project lead:** Bridget Kelly-Gillott

**Funding body:** World Health Organization

**Year:** 2018

**Amount:** \$21,031

**Project Title:** Building capacity to assess outcomes for Older People in the Commonwealth Home Support Program

**Project lead:** Lyn Phillipson

**Funding Body:** Community Industry Group

**Year:** 2018

**Amount:** \$27,000

**Project Title:** Carers NSW Try, Test and Learn Young Carers Program

**Project lead:** Lyn Phillipson

**Funding Body:** Department of Social Services

**Year:** 2018

**Amount:** \$120,000

## INTERNAL FUNDING

**Project Title:** The Social Work Stories Podcast

**Project lead:** Mim Fox

**Funding body:** UOW Faculty of Social Sciences, Impact & Engagement grant

**Year:** 2019

**Amount:** \$10,000

**Project Title:** Antimicrobial Resistance

**Investigators:** Christopher Degeling, Mitchell Byrne, Antonius van Oijen, Martina Sanderson-Smith, Spyridon Miyakis, Sebastien Mielle, Shahla Meedya, Faisal Hai, Ping Yu, Nina Reynolds, Judy Mullan, Simeon Crawford, Peter Newton, Bostjan Gomiscek, Janaye Fish

**Funding body:** University of Wollongong, Global Challenges Keystone Funding

**Year:** 2019

**Amount:** \$200,000-

**Project Title:** A Smart Shoe System Enabling Sedentary Older Adults to Walk More Steps and Walk Safely

**Investigators:** Chiu Chun Winson Lee, Gursel Alici, Rahim Mutlu, Mark Allen, Robyn Coman, Sheikh Solaiman, Giraldo Alexandra, Gilbert Lam, Rezaul Begg

**Funding body:** University of Wollongong, Global Challenges Project Funding

**Year:** 2019

**Amount:** \$50,000

**Project Title:** The ethical, legal and social implications (ELSI) of using artificial intelligence (AI) in health and social care

**Investigators:** Stacy Carter, Scarlet Wilcock, Tam Ha, David Steel, Nina Reynolds, Khin Win, Christopher Degeling, Annette Braunack-Mayer, Jacqueline Street, Patti Shih, Kathleen Prokopovich, Belinda Fabrianesi, Pauline O'Shaughnessy, Sebastian Isbanner, Lei Wang

**Funding body:** University of Wollongong, Global Challenges Project Funding  
**Year:** 2019

**Amount:** \$49,239

**Project Title:** Next Generation Sunscreens: Designed and tested for Australian conditions, with global implications for sun safety

**Investigators:** Konstantin Konstantinov, Philip Barker, Xu-Feng Huang, Michael Lerch, Vitor Gomes da Silva Sencadas, Shahnaz Bakand, Jennifer Ann Algie, Md Neaz Sheikh, Ronald Sluyter

**Funding body:** University of Wollongong, Global Challenges Project Funding  
**Year:** 2019

**Amount:** \$28,800

**Project Title:** Age Friendly Illawarra, What Does It Look Like? A Scoping Study

**Investigators:** Ping Yu, Lorna Moxham, Annette Braunack-Mayer, David Hailey, Jacqueline Street, Bo Du, Ting Song, Mark Jones, Rod Young

**Funding body:** University of Wollongong, Global Challenges Seed Funding  
**Year:** 2019

**Amount:** \$14,944

**Project Title:** From 'Open Sesame' to accessible hospital meals for all: measuring satisfaction, costs and nutrition

**Investigators:** Alison Bell, Karen Walton, Alastair Yoxall, Glen Salkeld

**Funding body:** University of Wollongong, Global Challenges Project Funding  
**Year:** 2018

**Amount:** \$29,750

**Project Title:** Healthy Ageing and Active Transport: Exploration of the 'Gong' Shuttle's contribution to older people's quality of life.

**Investigators:** Luke Molloy, Delia Rambaldini-Gooding, Anne-Maree Parrish, Pascal Perez, Rodney Clarke, Michal Strahilevitz.

**Funding Body:** Global Challenges Seed Funding  
**Year:** 2018

**Amount:** \$5000

**Project Title:** PIECES

**Investigators:** Lyn Phillipson, Lisa Kervin, Christopher Brennan-Horley, Sarah Howard, Cathrine Neilsen-Hewett, Irina Verenikina, Kara Cappetta, Victoria Traynor, Richard Fleming, Phillippa Burns, Louisa Smith, Luise Lago, Simon Eckermann, Paul Cooper, Timothy McCarthy, Clayton McDowell, Steven Beltrame, Jun Ma, Jie Yang, Christian Ritz, Cole Hendrigan, Montserrat Ros, Wanqing Li, Christopher Cook, Gregor Cullen, Paul Van Den Dolder, Karen van Woudenberg, Toby Dawson

**Funding body:** University of Wollongong, Global Challenges Keystone Funding  
**Year:** 2018

**Amount:** \$200,000

**Project Title:** New generation sunscreens optimized for Australian extreme UV exposure and development of reliable in-vitro test protocols for UV protection

**Investigators:** Konstantin Konstantinov, Philip Barker, Xu-Feng Huang, Michael Lerch, Vitor Gomes da Silva Sencadas, Shahnaz Bakand, Jennifer Ann Algie, Sheikh Solaiman, Ronald Sluyter

**Funding body:** University of Wollongong, Global Challenges Project Funding  
**Year:** 2018

**Amount:** \$27,900

**Project Title:** Smart Limb Rehab: Enhancing Recovery and Rehabilitation

**Investigators:** Rahim Mutlu, Emre Sariyildiz, Chiu Chun Winsen Lee, Jonathan Shemmell, Elizabeth Mayland, Robyn Coman, Sheikh Solaiman, Gursel Alici

**Funding body:** University of Wollongong, Global Challenges Seed Funding  
**Year:** 2018

**Amount:** \$15,000

**Project Title:** Protective Wear Resistant and Antibacterial Coating for Teeth

**Investigators:** Dan Yang, Paul Molino, Michael Higgins, Susan McInnes, Bushra Khan, Martina Sanderson-Smith

**Funding body:** University of Wollongong, Global Challenges Seed Funding  
**Year:** 2018

**Amount:** \$15,000

**Project Title:** Sustainable Development Goal actions at a local level: A case study of cross-sectoral engagement involving multi-stakeholder partnerships (MSPs)

**Investigators:** Belinda Gibbons, Justin Placek, Vera Mackie, Heather Yeatman, Warwick Shanks, Scarlett Lesley

**Funding body:** University of Wollongong, Global Challenges Seed Funding  
**Year:** 2018

**Amount:** \$14,991

**Project Title:** Innovative connections in CFS construction: Feasibility study

**Investigators:** Aziz Ahmed, Lip Teh, Tillmann Boehme, Alberto Escibano, Vinodkumar Gopaldasani, Leanne Treadwell

**Funding body:** University of Wollongong, Global Challenges Seed Funding  
**Year:** 2018

**Amount:** \$10,000

**Project Title:** The Milky Way

**Investigators:** Shahla Meedya, Elizabeth Halcomb, Khin Win, Heather Yeatman, Karen Walton, Kathleen Fahy, Lois Burgess

**Funding body:** University of Wollongong, Global Challenges Challenge Funding  
**Year:** 2018

**Amount:** \$5,000

**Project Title:** Connections for Life With Dementia

**Investigators:** Lyn Phillipson, Lisa Kervin, Christopher Brennan-Horley, Sarah Howard, Cathrine Neilsen-Hewett, Irina Verenikina, Kara Cappetta, Victoria Traynor, Richard Fleming, Phillippa Burns, Louisa Smith, Luise Lago, Simon Eckermann, Paul Cooper, Timothy McCarthy, Clayton McDowell, Steven Beltrame, Jun Ma, Jie Yang, Christian Ritz, Cole Hendrigan, Montserrat Ros, Wanqing Li, Christopher Cook, Gregor Cullen, Paul Van Den Dolder, Karen van Woudenberg, Toby Dawson

**Funding body:** University of Wollongong, Global Challenges Keystone Funding  
**Year:** 2018

**Amount:** \$410,000

**Project title:** Exploring perspectives of older Australians around food packaging and the implications of those on food choice and dietary intake

**Funding body:** University of Wollongong, SOC ECR Research Grant

**Investigators:** Anne McMahon, Joanna Russell, Alison Bell

**Year:** 2019

**Amount:** \$5000

**Project Title:** Bowel cancer – time for targeting more effective screening strategies in those who benefit

**Investigators:** Tam Ha, Eleonora Feletto, Simon Echerhmann, Jenny Mc Donald, Amit Kapur

**Funding body:** University of Wollongong, SOC Faculty grant

**Year:** 2019

**Amount:** \$17,925

**Project Title:** Perceptions of nurses about their roles in appropriate antibiotic use

**Investigators:** Shahla Meedya, Antonius van Oijen, Ritin Fernandez, Mitchell Byrne, Christopher Degeling, Laura Ellwood, Pamela Konecny, Suman Adhikari, Valerie Wilson

**Funding body:** University of Wollongong, SMAH Research Partnership Grant

**Year:** 2019

**Amount:** \$23,000

**Project Title:** Smart Ageing: The social and ethical considerations in using smart technologies for ageing in place

**Investigators:** Jacqueline Street, Lyn Phillipson, Robyn Coman, Alison Bell, Kishan Kariippanon

**Funding body:** University of Wollongong, Social Sciences Seed Grant

**Year:** 2019

**Amount:** \$15,557

**Project Title:** Direct-to-consumer wearable heart monitors and atrial fibrillation risks: Consumers' conceptualisation and experience of using Apple Watch Electrocardiogram for disease prevention

**Investigators:** Patti Shih, Chris Degeling, Jacqueline Street

**Funding body:** University of Wollongong, Social Sciences Early Career Researcher Start-Up

**Year:** 2019

**Amount:** \$10,216

**Project Title:** Experiences of refugee and migrant families whose children are transitioning into high school in the Illawarra region

**Investigators:** Jacob Mugumbate, Vinodkumar Gopaldasani, Paul Kidson, Monique Ferguson, Michael Stanizzo

**Funding body:** University of Wollongong, SOC Partnership Grant

**Year:** 2019

**Amount:** \$10,000

**Project Title:** Developing an International Collaboration on Wildlife Conservation and Crime Prevention

**Investigators:** Katarina Mikac, Natalia Hanley

**Funding body:** University of Wollongong, International Links Grants

**Year:** 2019

**Amount:** \$18,000

**Project Title:** Exploring perspectives of older Australians around food packaging and the implications of those on food choice and dietary intake

**Investigators:** Anne-Therese McMahon

**Funding body:** University of Wollongong, Social Sciences Early Career Researcher Start-Up

**Year:** 2019

**Amount:** \$5,000

**Project Title:** Understanding Moral Distress in Providers Working in Refugee and Migrant Maternal Health Services

**Investigators:** Katarzyna Olcon, Delia Rambaldini-Gooding, Chris Degeling

**Funding body:** University of Wollongong, Social Sciences Early Career Researcher Start-Up

**Year:** 2019

**Amount:** \$4,000

**Project Title:** Drug and Alcohol (D&A) health perspectives of Middle Eastern and Burmese young people in the Illawarra

**Investigators:** Jioji Ravulo, Dianne Woods

**Funding body:** University of Wollongong, SOC Partnership Grant

**Year:** 2018

**Amount:** \$20,000

**Project Title:** Youth attitudes to family violence: harnessing their voices for primary prevention

**Investigators:** Rachel Loney-Howes, Catherine MacPhail, Natalia Hanley, Sally Stevenson

**Funding body:** University of Wollongong, SOC Partnership Grant

**Year:** 2018

**Amount:** \$20,000

## INTERNAL TEACHING & LEARNING FUNDING

**Project Title:** Consolidating research methods subjects across the School of Health and Society

**Investigators:** Vinod Gopaldasani, Catherine MacPhail, Tam Ha, Joanna Russell, Natalia Hanley, Hassan Hosseinzadeh, Heike Schütze, Emily Purser

**Funding body:** University of Wollongong, LTC Project Grant

**Year:** 2019

**Project Title:** User experiences of UOW teaching and learning environments

**Investigators:** Lina Engelen, Alisa Percy, Katharina Kariippanon, Dave Righter, Maree Neary

**Funding body:** University of Wollongong, LTC Project Grant

**Year:** 2018

**Amount:** \$11,500

**Project Title:** In subject learning partnerships for academic success – a student as partners approach

**Investigators:** Tam Ha, Melissa Zaccagnini

**Funding body:** University of Wollongong, Educational Strategies Development Fund (ESDF) grant

**Year:** 2019

**Amount:** \$15,379

**Project Title:** Work-integrated learning (WIL) through digitally-enhanced simulations in social work: exploring perspectives of service users, students and staff

**Investigators:** Jacob Mugumbate, Katarzyna Olcon, Nandini Ray, Mim Fox, Lynne Keevers, Joanne Spangaro

**Funding body:** University of Wollongong, Educational Strategies Development Fund (ESDF) grant

**Year:** 2019

**Amount:** \$20,993

**Project Title:** A cross-faculty approach to understanding international student transitions: strategies to reduce attrition and poor performance

**Investigators:** David Hastie, Catherine MacPhail, Seenvi Kiridena, Neaz Sheikh, Hassan Hosseinzadeh, Oriana Price, Amanda Baker

**Funding body:** University of Wollongong, Educational Strategies Development Fund (ESDF) grant

**Year:** 2018

**Amount:** \$29,963

**Project Title:** Supporting student transition into and through the BSS: an effective retention strategy?

**Investigators:** Alison Bell

**Funding body:** University of Wollongong, Educational Strategies Development Fund (ESDF) grant

**Year:** 2018

**Amount:** \$8,220

# HDR Students 2018/2019

NAME	THESIS TITLE
Tanveer Abbas	Using the Health Belief Model (HBM) to address racial and ethnic disparities in access and utilization of dental services among children in Islamabad, Pakistan
Iyouch Abdallah	Western Influence on the Shaping of Attitudes Towards Mental Health Issues in Australian-born Muslims in Australia
Nurhira Abdul Kadir	The Capacity of Public Health Lecturers in Indonesia's Medical Faculties to Contribute in the Preparation of Socially Responsive Physicians
Selin Akaraci	Does neighbourhood green space promote better perinatal health outcomes? Investigating mechanisms, differential effects by green space type, and potential effect modifiers by other features of the built environment.
Buthaina AL Bussar	Refugee Social Integration in Australian Society and the Role of Digital Media
Nasser Almutairi	Type 2 diabetes prevention program in Saudi Arabia - implementation and evaluation
Mohammad Alotaibi	Smartphone Use and Smartphone Addiction among Saudi Adolescents
Catherine Andrew	Exploring Employee Experiences of retirement due to signs and symptoms of dementia
Kristen Burriel	The lived experience of Mothers with mental illness: an exploration of mother's narratives in supported playgroups
Jessica Cerni	The role of residential greenspace in the prevention and care of chronic respiratory diseases in middle-to-older aged adults. A longitudinal study of 53,078 Australian adults aged >45 years
Nyamragchaa Chimedtseren	Consumer perspectives on food and nutrition labelling and use of food label information in Mongolia to inform food labelling policy
Susan Cragg	The Lived Experience and Support Needs of Kinship Carers: Informing Practice for Birth Family Contact
Tashi Dendup	Understanding the influence of the environment on Type 2 diabetes Mellitus Risk and Prevention

NAME	THESIS TITLE
Catherine Duncan	What is the impact of the marketisation of the commonwealth home care packages on the lived relational experience of informal carers?
Joseph Edwards	Can Structured Physical Activities Normalise Glucose Intolerance (Avert or Delay the Onset of D2M) Among Prediabetes Patients in Primary Care Setting
Holly Fletcher	Improving health and safety outcomes in Chilean mine workers: Standardised methods to characterise the social, environmental and cultural factors that influence nutrition and physical activity-related behaviours
Ross Girdler	Occupational Identity and Its Effect on Career Re-Direction Investigating the relationship between occupational Identity and vocational re-Direction work related injuries
Joanne Graydon	Is teaching work: An Heuristic study of the views of teachers employed in NSW schools
Laura Grozdanovski	Empowering vulnerable youth through participatory action research
Jennifer Hines	The Role of Emissions Based Maintenance to Reduce Diesel Exhaust Emissions, Worker Exposure and Fuel Consumption
Judith Hopwood	The narrative of being houseless: lived experiences of cave dwellers
Jessie Hunt	"No Justice, No Peace, No Peace of Mind": Collaborating with Young People on Transformative Models of Justice
Janet Jackson	Management of Train Driver Psychosocial Risk
Eme John	Green space and healthy ageing
Muhammad Kabir	Pharmacy led intervention to support Type 2 Diabetes Self-Management in Community Pharmacy Settings of Pakistan
Katharina Kariippanon	Getting up for the glue stick: An examination of the conceptualisation and implementation of school flexible learning spaces and their effect on student sedentary behaviour, movement, teaching and learning
Bianca Kinnear	Physical Therapies as an Adjunct to Botulinum Toxin - A Treatment.

NAME	THESIS TITLE
Eugene Laloo	An investigation into leadership and its impact on psychosocial safety climate in a public sector setting
Jodie Lawer	Measuring the Impact of the Built Environment of Residential Colleges on Student Wellbeing
Jiangmei Liu	The contribution of dietary indicators to overall and cause-specific mortality in China during a period of rapid economic development: prospective study of more than 10,000 men with 25 years of follow-up
Zhuzhu Liu	Social Workers' Response to Natural Disaster
Samantha Lukey	Exploring the implementation of a culturally situated trauma informed therapeutic approach for supporting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in the Illawarra living in Out of Home Care or being restored to their family.
Joanna McIlveen	Meeting the Psycho-Social Needs of Patients and Families in an Acute Hospital: Evaluating Social Work Intervention During End of Life Care
Rachael McMahon	The Silenced Manifesto: An Autoethnography of Living with Schizoaffective Disorder
Gideon Meyerowitz-Katz	Eliminating The 'Staircase' Effect: Enhancing Integrated Care of Type 2 Diabetes in Western Sydney Through Improving Patient Retention and Preventing Inequities in Patient Drop-Out of Clinical Care Pathways
Mina Motamedi	A critical analysis of transvaginal mesh procedures in Australia
Shumirai Mushangwe	Multilevel Longitudinal Analyses of Green Space and Healthy Ageing
Carmen Naylor	Development of quantitative skin exposure limits to metals
See Hoe Ng	Mapping the Implementation of Priority Food Environment Policies to Tackle Diet-related Non-communicable Diseases (NCDs) in Malaysia: A Situational Analysis
Alexander Nicoletti	An Investigation into The Impact On Human Factors where Workers Interact with Intelligent Autonomous Collaborative Robotic Systems (IACRS) in Australian Industry.

NAME	THESIS TITLE
Soo Jin Park	Food cultures and urban food strategies- South Korean case study
I Gusti Ngurah Edi Putra	Green Space and Children's Health
Zubair Ahmed Ratan	Discovering the structure-function relations of clusterin, the first known secreted mammalian chaperone.
Nandini Ray	Structural Responses to Food Insecurity
Dalia Rozsa-Brown	Deaf Consumers and Mental Health Service Delivery
Mahmmoud Shnaigat	Motivational Interviewing Techniques to Improve Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) through Health Literacy and Self-management in Primary Care Settings in Australia
S M Faysal Kabir Shuvo	Do the features of urban green spaces that promote social and active ageing vary by international context?
Helen Simpson	An Exploration of the Success of Domestic Violence Evidence in Chief (DVEC) Recordings
Barry Smith	Parental Attitudes to Toothpaste Use in Children, and Investigation of Factors Involved in the Selection of Fluoridated and Non-Fluoridated Toothpaste
Kim Stanham	Does the Content, Ability and Time Taken to Open Pre-packaged Food Items Impact Break Time Physical Activity Levels of Foundation and Stage 1 Primary School Children?
Cheryl Travers	Front-line Responders and Animal Owners During Civil Emergencies: Assigning Responsibility and Accommodating Vulnerability in Managing Animals in Natural Disasters.
Sumantla Varman	Using experiential learning for children's healthy nutrition and movement
Iksheta Verma	Peer Coaches to Improve Diabetes Outcomes through patient activation and self-management in general practices
Karen Waller	Preventive Health Initiatives
Kurnia Wijayanti	Parents Attitudes towards Preventing Cervical Cancer through Human Papillomavirus Vaccination

# School Staff 2018/2019

Name	Email (@uow.edu.au)	Name	Email (@uow.edu.au)	Name	Email (@uow.edu.au)
<b>PROFESSORS</b>		Jennifer Hines	jenhines	<b>RESEARCH ASSISTANTS</b>	
Thomas Astell-Burt (POWERLAB)	thomasab	Sam Ivancsik	ivancsik	Kara Cappetta	karac
Annette Braunack-Mayer (Head of School)	abmayer	Mrs Katharina Kariippanon	kathkar	Lucy Carolan (ACHEEV)	lengland
Stacy Carter (ACHEEV)	stacyc	Kishan Kariippanon	kishan	Belinda Fabrianesi (ACHEEV)	belindaf
Brian Davies	bdavies	Bushra Khan	bkhan	Tewodros Hailemariam (POWERLAB)	
Jo Spangaro	spangaro	Kenny Kor	kennyk	Julie Hall (ACHEEV)	juliehal
Heather Yeatman	hyeatman	Rachel Loney-Howes	rlhowes	Sebastian Isbanner	isbanner
<b>ASSOCIATE PROFESSORS</b>		Samantha Lukey	slukey	Keryn Johnson	kerynj
Lynne Keevers	lkeevers	Elizabeth Mayland	bmayland	Philip Kosiak (POWERLAB)	pkoisak
Bridget Kelly-Gillott	bkelly	Jacob Mugumbate	jmugumbate	Karen Larsen-Truong	karenlt
Catherine Mac Phail	cmacphai	Nadia Neal	nadian	Kathleen Prokopovich (ACHEEV)	kprokopo
Lyn Phillipson	lphillip	Katarzyna Olcôn	kolcon	Helen Simpson	helensim
Jioji Ravulo	jioji	Delia Rambaldini-Gooding	deliarg	Kim Spurway	kspurway
<b>SENIOR LECTURERS</b>		Nandini Ray	nray	Renin Toms (POWERLAB)	renin
Shahnaz Bakand	sbakand	Charlotte Smedley	csmedley	Chye Toole-Anstey	chye
Alison Bell	abell	Leanne Treadwell	leannet	<b>PROFESSIONAL STAFF</b>	
Robyn Coman	rcoman	Jo Walker	walkerj	Manuela Abrantes	mabrante
Mim Fox	mfox	Cammi Webb-Gannon	camellia	Jane Annett	jannette
Tam Ha	tamha	Jane Whitelaw	jwhitela	Debbie Barling	dbarling
Natalia Hanley	nhanley	<b>ASSOCIATE LECTURERS</b>		Lori Duffey	lduffey
Hassan Hosseinzadeh	hassanh	Cathy Duncan	cduncan	Monique Ferguson	ferguson
Anne McMahon	amcmahon	Robyn Gillespie	robyng	Tory Hayward (ACHEEV)	vhayward
Jodie Park	jpark	Belinda Margetts	belindam	Rachael Lloyd	rlloyd
Anne-Maree Parrish	aparrish	<b>SENIOR RESEARCH FELLOW</b>		Kathryn Postill	kpostill
Joanna Russell	jrussell	Walt Davis (POWERLAB)	walterd	Tamara Raso (POWERLAB)	traso
Heike Schütze	hschutze	Chris Degeling (ACHEEV)	degeling	Bianca Rizzo	brizzo
<b>LECTURERS</b>		<b>RESEARCH FELLOWS</b>		Tania Vannitamby	vtania
Linda Apthorpe	laphorpe	Michael Alexander Navakatikyan (POWERLAB)	mnavakat	Roxie Weaver	roxannew
Susan Cragg	susancr	Patti Shih (ACHEEV)	pshih		
Summer Finlay	sfinlay	Louisa Smith	louisas		
Rashid Flewellen	rashidf	Jacqueline Street (ACHEEV)	streetj		
Vinod Gopaldasani	vinodkum				



## CONTACT INFORMATION

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