



School of
Health and
Society
Profile 2017



UNIVERSITY
OF WOLLONGONG
AUSTRALIA



Faculty
of Social
Sciences



This is who we are

Social Science is about empowering people – particularly those in the community who are most vulnerable – to help them develop their capabilities and live happy, healthy, secure and sustainable lives. Our students learn about human behaviour, the way we interact with our environments, our institutions and with each other. With this understanding they can act to bring about fundamental social change that has a lasting impact of such significance that it can transform the lives of individuals, families and communities for the better.

The Faculty of Social Sciences is a community of academics, students and professional staff who are all dedicated to making a difference through high quality teaching and learning, research and public debate. Our partnerships, community engagement and advocacy are integral to what we do.

Our outstanding Social Science scholars are of national and international standing, renowned for their passion and high performance in undergraduate and postgraduate courses and research excellence.

Our Schools of Education, Psychology, Health and Society and Geography and Sustainable Communities offer degrees and courses that are informed by the latest research, are relevant to contemporary practice and in the case of education, psychology, social work and work health and safety, our degrees are accredited by professional bodies.

Our Early Start initiative aims to give children the best possible start in life through cutting-edge interdisciplinary research, innovative educational programs, experiences and networks that enrich the way we understand and interact with children, families and communities.

Our higher degree research training attracts Australian and international candidates who are keen to work in research centres and schools where students are encouraged to think critically, act and reflect upon their impact. Our researchers are connected to eminent Social Science academics and centres throughout the world, leading global efforts to achieve the betterment of society.

Our graduates are making a difference to the lives of people through social understanding, action and change. I invite you to join us in this pursuit.

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Glenn Salkeld
Executive Dean, Faculty of Social Sciences

School of Health and Society



Social and Public Policy, Public and Population Health, Work Health and Safety, Social Sciences, Social Work, Health Promotion and Criminology are study areas for students wishing to join UOW's School of Health and Society.

They are available as undergraduate, postgraduate and higher research degree programs.

Students will gain valuable knowledge and experience on societal and health issues that will make them highly sought after by employers.

The school's aim is to guide students on a path of education and self-discovery.

Students can discover their passions such as learning about the science and art of preventing diseases and promoting health in the wider community, or how to address social inequity and disadvantage.

The School of Health and Society comprises innovative programs that offer students flexible subject combinations to meet their personal interests, with a multi-disciplinary approach to learning and research.

The school's vision is to develop highly skilled graduates, passionate about creating better communities and transforming lives.

Overall, the school comprises leading social and health researchers and professional leaders who are often featured in national print and digital media as experts, providing insight on key societal issues.

The school prides itself on its extensive research strengths with recent projects examining issues such as impacts of our environments on health, food marketing and social media, physical activity, juvenile justice, work related illness and injury, and food security.



Head of School

SCHOOL OF HEALTH AND SOCIETY, FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES

Professor Heather Yeatman

Professor Yeatman's expertise in the area of public health is recognised nationally and internationally through the various leadership roles she has held.

She is the immediate Past President (2012-2016) and currently Vice President (Development) of the Public Health Association of Australia (2016-2018).

Professor Yeatman has experience working in government, academia and with community organisations. She has been involved in food and nutrition policy across the spectrum of local, state, national and international levels and has held leadership positions on numerous government and non-government boards and committees. These have included childhood obesity reduction, food standards, complementary medicines, animal welfare, agricultural chemicals and Tick criteria.

Her research focus is in the areas of school based food programs, food and nutrition knowledge, local food issues, food policy analysis, health professional competencies and program evaluation.

Over much of Professor Yeatman's research career she has lobbied to support Australians' capacities to make informed decisions about food. Food literacy and food communications play a significant role, as do appropriate food labelling, supportive food environments and recognition of the key social and cultural roles that food plays in people's daily lives. In her view, the subject is under-researched in Australia and undervalued as an important contributor to public health outcomes. She believes it is important to support Australians to make informed decisions about food that are affordable, enjoyable and culturally appropriate.

Professor Yeatman is currently responsible for overseeing the work of about a dozen higher degree research students who will themselves be working in the area of public health in Australia and overseas. Their research covers a vast array of topics from food and nutrition knowledge of pregnant women, helping parents navigate the shopping experience with young children, the impact of social marketing on energy drink consumption, food education in schools, to food labelling in Mongolia and food policy processes in Malaysia.



Dr Xiaoqi Feng, Senior Lecturer, School of Health and Society

Dr Xiaoqi Feng uses the power of epidemiology to build evidence for environmental interventions that advance population wellbeing, with a special focus on child development and health inequity.

She is a Founding Co-Director of PowerLab, a thriving group of biostatisticians, spatial data analysts, undergraduate students and PhD researchers who are training to be Australia’s next generation of social epidemiologists and environmental health scientists. Her links with major public health institutions in Australia, the US, western Europe and China means that she is able to conduct research that has value for decision-making around the world.

Xiaoqi’s work is informed by her diverse academic background, drawing together elements of public health theory and multilevel statistics with sociology, economics and quantitative geography to view the world from multiple angles.

She seeks to explain why social and spatial inequities in child health and development emerge from different perspectives, and blends theory with advanced quantitative analyses of ‘big data’ to innovate, think critically and develop big-picture solutions that could benefit entire communities.

Her early life in Beijing provided her with an understanding of how large groups of people interact with their social, cultural and physical environments. She applies this understanding while considering how our towns and cities shape experiences during childhood that can lead to major health problems later in life, such as type 2 diabetes and heart disease.

Some of her research suggests that mental health among children growing up in Australia is significantly better for those who live in suburbs with at least 1 fifth of land-use dedicated to some form of green space. She also found the quality of green space matters too, especially as children get older and become more independent. This study was especially selected by the American College of Preventive Medicine to be part of their Continuing Medical Education program, increasing the international impact of these findings.

The blending of different academic backgrounds has enabled Xiaoqi to also reveal that many often taken-for-granted notions are not always what they seem. It is usually seen in Australia, for example, that people with fewer educational qualifications have a higher risk of being overweight or obese. Xiaoqi’s recent study conducted with the Center for Disease Control and Prevention in China, however, has shown that in some areas of the country people with higher education are heavier than their less educated counterparts.

Xiaoqi’s research is showing that where children grow up and live as adults matters greatly for their chances of leading long, healthy and happy lives.



Dr Juan Tauri, Lecturer, School of Health and Society

Dr Juan Tauri is a member of the Ngati Porou iwi (tribe) of New Zealand and has a special interest in criminology and the associated experiences on Indigenous youth.

Dr Tauri is a critical commentator on Indigenous peoples issues with settler colonial criminal justice systems.

He has carried out a number of research projects in New Zealand, Canada and Australia on a diverse range of topics including youth gangs, domestic violence, Indigenous experiences of prison, and the globalisation of restorative justice.

Dr Tauri has published widely and recently co-edited a special issue of the *African Journal of Criminology and Justice Studies* on ‘Indigenous Perspectives and Counter Colonial Criminology’.

He has also published a book on *Indigenous Criminology*, the first of its kind, with Professor Chris Cunneen from the University of New South Wales.

Dr Tauri is currently carrying out research on the intersection of race, ethnicity and the development of restorative justice programs, and on Indigenous youth experiences of criminal justice in New Zealand, Australia and the US. It is part of a joint UOW and University of Auckland grant-related project.

Dr Tauri, who is now a Lecturer in Criminology in UOW’s School of Health and Society, spent a number of years working in the policy sector of New Zealand government from 1999 to 2009. During that time, he worked at the Ministry of Maori Development, the Department of Corrections and the Ministry of Social Development. From this time in government he gained experience of the development of policy, project management, and the development and completion of a range of research projects.



Dr Shahnaz Bakand, Senior Lecturer, School of Health and Society

As an occupational hygienist and toxicologist, Dr Shahnaz Bakand’s work has resulted in policy changes at an international level.

In recent years she has become a world leader in the areas of Inhalation Toxicology, Nanotoxicology and Nanosafety, acting as a reviewer of research projects and publications such as those from the US National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health and World Health Organisation. She is currently involved with a team of researchers on a Global Challenges Research program investigating nanosafety and nanoparticles in sunscreen products.

Dr Bakand developed her work health and safety experience over 25 years of working in the academic sector of Work Health and Safety (WHS) both in Australia and Iran.

She worked for the Department of Occupational Health Engineering of the University in Iran for much of this time. Her work has led to the establishment of Occupational Exposure Limits (OELs), Biological Exposure Indices (BEIs) and Guideline of Hazardous Chemicals within Iran.

After completing her bachelors and masters degrees in Iran, Dr Bakand moved to Australia to complete a PhD in occupational toxicology. In completing her dissertation, she developed methods for in vitro toxicity assessments of workplace air contaminants which earned her an Australian Museum Eureka Award.

Dr Bakand has also published many peer reviewed journal articles and a number of books and book chapters, and serves as an editorial board member of several WHS related peer-reviewed journals.

She is currently teaching both postgraduate and undergraduate students at UOW designing high quality subjects in the area of Workplace Health and Safety. She draws on years of experience as a past laboratory manager and academia including as a Research Fellow and school research co-ordinator.



Associate Professor Kate Senior, School of Health and Society

Medical anthropologist Associate Professor Kate Senior's work with young women and their decisions regarding relationships and parenthood was pioneering in its study of contemporary gender politics in remote Indigenous communities.

Motivated to understand the continuing disparities in health between Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities, Professor Senior's research highlights how complex health problems require deep consideration, culturally nuanced understanding and sensitive communication.

She set out to understand how people think and behave regarding their health and well-being and to position these understandings within a framework which encompasses, culture, history, opportunity and the social determinants of health.

Her research began in the community of Ngukurr, in South East Arnhem Land, Northern Territory, nearly 20 years ago. Professor Senior explored people's understandings of health and illness and the nexus between these and the health services available to them.

Over time, she became increasingly interested in the lives and decisions of Indigenous young people. Her work with young women and their decisions regarding relationships and parenthood led to an Australian Research Council (ARC) funded study of young people's sexual decision making in communities in the Northern Territory, Western Australia and South Australia.

This was followed by ARC Future Fellowship funding to explore young people's lived understandings of the social determinants of health. Under this project, Professor Senior has worked with a new generation in communities across the Northern Territory, and in the local Illawarra region, which has rounded out a view of health and well-being spanning three generations.

Professor Senior's recent paper, *'Young, clean and safe'*, which explored young people's perceptions of safe sexual relationships, found their understandings were very different to those contained in standard public health messages.



Dr Kishan Kariippanon, Lecturer, School of Health and Society

As an important aid to future graduates, Dr Kishan Kariippanon is currently helping to build a Social Innovation and Entrepreneurship program for the School of Health and Society.

He is collaborating on the project with Professor Heather Yeatman from Health and Society and Professor Joe Steensma from the University of Washington. The team is using real world experiences through its own projects to deliver a curriculum that will prepare students to take on social innovation challenges in the health and not-for-profit industries.

Dr Kariippanon is the Academic Program Director of Social Marketing/Social Innovation and Entrepreneurship.

His research interests include the socio-economic impact of emergent technology in marginalised youth and communities. He is also an advocate for the use of ethnographic films as a means of intracultural and cross cultural discourse. Dr Kariippanon is experienced in Indigenous health, ethnographic filmmaking and qualitative research methods.

He completed his Doctor of Medicine in 2004 and Master of Public Health in 2008. His doctorate was an ethnographic study of the social life of mobile phones and social media in a remote Aboriginal community in the Northern Territory.

Dr Kariippanon has undertaken an ethnographic film on the 'Tobacco Story of Arnhem Land' and an 'Engagement & Qualitative Interviewing: An ethnographic study of the use of social media and mobile phones among remote Indigenous youth'.

Among current projects he is working on is the intersection of modernity, Indigenous consumerism and public health online communication. In addition, he is the Team Leader for the Second Chance Project for Suicide Prevention and the CSIRO program grantee of the HipSafe Team.



Dr Lyn Phillipson, NHMRC-ARC Dementia Fellow, School of Health and Society

Multi-award winning public health academic Dr Lyn Phillipson began her career as a physiotherapist working in aged and dementia care.

Driven by a passion for community empowerment, Dr Phillipson returned to study over a decade later, culminating in her PhD research which explored the factors influencing the use of respite services by carers of people with dementia.

She is focused on pursuing action-research projects which achieve immediate benefits for research participants and promote learning to improve health and social care policy.

For example, her latest grant success – a National Health and Medical Research Council-Australian Research Council Dementia Research Fellowship received late last year – will explore the impact of Australian aged-care policy reform on people with dementia in receipt of a Home Care Package.

Among her achievements, Dr Phillipson published the first national research regarding dementia stigma in Australia in 2012, which underpinned Alzheimer's Australia's Fight Dementia campaign. She is currently working with Kiama Council and Alzheimer's Australia to develop and evaluate Australia's first dementia-friendly community.

In addition, Dr Phillipson has contributed to the development of the Cancer Institute's NSW Multicultural Strategic Plan through the conduct of both a commissioned systematic review of the Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) Cancer literature (2013) and her participation in an expert consultancy panel (2015).

She is the recipient of two National Multicultural Marketing Awards for her work in promoting organ donation and cancer screening in CALD communities, and a winner of the Vice-Chancellor's Interdisciplinary Research Award 2015 for the Dementia-Friendly Communities project.

Motivated by a commitment to achieve better outcomes for the communities she works with, Dr Phillipson has been a pioneer in her use of participatory and inclusive research approaches as well as the involvement of consumer and stakeholder panels.



Associate Professor Thomas Astell-Burt, School of Health and Society

Built and natural environments play a crucial role in keeping people healthy and out of hospital.

Better clinical management of type 2 diabetes mellitus (T2DM) is crucial but is no panacea for improving the prevention of cardiovascular disease events and related comorbidities such as hypertension and Alzheimer’s disease, nor the development of type 2 diabetes in the first place.

In most people, some degree of, weight loss, stress management and behavioural change is necessary to prevent and control T2DM. Sustaining these changes is likely to be more difficult for people living in an unsupportive built environment, which could then undermine the efforts of the health sector to provide effective clinical management.

Understandings of the types and mixes of home built environment that provide the most, or least support, for sustained health benefit can be harnessed to identify where multi-sector initiatives should target interventions aiming to address (or overcome) unsupportive built environments and to enhance the prevention and management of chronic disease.

This is the aim of a project led by Associate Professor Thomas Astell-Burt who is the Founding Co-Director of the Population, Wellbeing and Environment Research Lab (PowerLab) at UOW. [Dr Xiaoqi Feng is co-lead investigator]. More information on the PowerLab is available online at: <https://socialsciences.uow.edu.au/powerlab>

The research is linking existing data sources to track a sample of more than 267,000 people, including 20,000 persons diagnosed with T2DM, over time and their risk of developing T2DM and co-morbidities (including Alzheimer’s disease) in relation to different types of built environment.

Researchers are using complex statistical models (e.g. cross-classified multilevel models) to disentangle and explain variation that is attributable to person-level factors (i.e. socioeconomic circumstances), neighbourhood factors (e.g. green space and built environment), and health service factors (e.g. metformin for treating diabetes and cholinesterase inhibitors and memantine for treating Alzheimer’s disease).

Partners in the research program are the Western Sydney Local Health District & Western Sydney Diabetes; Western Sydney Primary Health Network; Diabetes NSW and ACT; UNSW City Futures Centre; NHMRC CRE Healthy Liveable Communities; and NSW Office of Sport.

Funding over \$1.7 million has been provided through the NHMRC, National Heart Foundation, The Australian Prevention Partnership Centre, and Western Sydney Primary Health Network, including a 4-year NHMRC Boosting Dementia Research Leadership Fellowship; 1 of only 4 awarded in public health in Australia.



find your why



“

I've always been into health promotion ever since I was a little. I grew up around sport, playing basketball and netball and all different kinds of sports. It really gave me an outlet. I want to encourage young Indigenous people to participate in sport and physical activity.

—

Indi

Bachelor of Public Health (Health Promotion)(2016)

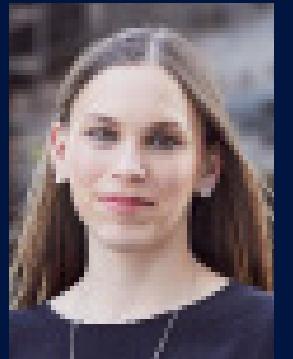
“

I've never met more passionate academics than the ones in the Master of Work Health and Safety program at UOW. They love the work that they do and that excites me about my career. The most valuable thing for me about postgrad has been the opportunities to network and build my professional connections.

—

Alisha

Master of Work Health & Safety



“

The world can be a painful endeavour for many people. I hope to help these people gain a footing and live life as they are able. I joined this program because I want to change lives.

—

Timothy

Bachelor of Social Work

“

In Year 12 I did a project on asylum seekers and refugees, and I think that started my passion for social justice and it led to other areas. I'm studying a social science degree because I want to have a positive impact on society and peoples' lives.

—

Maddison

Bachelor of Social Science (Criminology)(Dean's Scholar)



“

Originally I was going to do Engineering but I've also always had a passion for Indigenous Health. I grew up with a Torres Strait Islander family for much of my childhood. I saw some of the inequalities that were happening there and always knew that I wanted to assist Indigenous people. I like working in Public Health because I get the opportunity to help disadvantaged communities.

—

Will

Bachelor of Public Health (Indigenous Health)(2014)

Executive Officers

We are a community of academics, students and professional staff who are all dedicated to making a difference through high quality teaching and learning, research and public debate.



**EXECUTIVE DEAN,
FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES**
Professor Glenn Salkeld

Professor Glenn Salkeld has more than 30 years' experience in public health research and has held senior academic management positions in public health.

Glenn is a health economist with a particular interest in screening and diagnostic test evaluation based on the implementation of multi-criteria decision analysis. The latter has resulted in the creation of an online translation platform – a decision support program that combines the best available evidence with an individual's preferences to produce an opinion when comparing prevention or treatment options.

Professor Salkeld was a member of the Australian Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee Economic Subcommittee for six years, has been a consultant to the World Health Organisation on the Essential Medicines Program, a Member of the NHMRC Public Health Panel, a Member of the Bowel Cancer Implementation Committee and a Director of the Board of the Sax Institute.

He has also worked extensively for AusAID in teaching economics and evidence-based medicine to health professionals in numerous countries including South Africa, India, Iran, Estonia, China and Hungary.



**EXECUTIVE MANAGER,
FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES**
Katrina Gamble

Katrina has served in her current role as Executive Manager of the Faculty of Social Sciences at UOW since 2013.

She comes from a career background in business development and project management for organisations contracted by the World Bank, Asian Development Bank, AusAID and numerous governments around the world. They all shared a similar aim to deliver capacity development activities that have a sustainable impact.

Katrina has worked on projects in Kenya, Pakistan, Bangladesh, East Timor and Indonesia. These projects were in a range of sectors including education, public sector capacity development and health – particularly with a focus on public health.

She enjoys the fact that her work enables her to engage with people from across the world in an attempt to bring about social change that has an impact on the lives of others.

Katrina has been with UOW for almost seven years having initially been employed as the Business Manager for the Faculty of Education (now the School of Education).

A key factor about UOW which strikes a particular chord with Katrina is the University's international focus and real desire to engage in a meaningful way across the globe. A clear example she highlights is UOW being an Australian pioneer in establishing a presence in 1993 in Dubai – an education presence which has grown markedly in strength over the years.

Katrina holds a Bachelor of Arts in History and Politics and a Master of Arts (International Relations), both from the University of Wollongong.



**ASSOCIATE DEAN (RESEARCH),
FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES**
Associate Professor Lisa Kervin

Associate Professor Kervin is particularly interested in the ways children use language in their play, the ways they create text and how educators and families can support these practices.

Prior to academic appointment, Professor Kervin was employed as a primary-school teacher, with experience in school leadership. She graduated with her PhD in 2004, from UOW. In 2005, she was appointed to the then Faculty of Education. Beginning with an International Reading Research Fellowship (2006) her career has taken a research pathway. During her time at UOW she has held research governance roles including Honours Coordinator, Head of Postgraduate Studies, Head of Research (Education) and most recently, Associate Dean (Research).

Professor Kervin's research over the last decade has provided fresh perspectives to the role of technology in the lives of children. Typically, her research designs are qualitative, multi-site and ethnographic. Her research has been acknowledged through International awards including the Elva Knight Award in 2011. In 2016, she was awarded the Australia Literacy Educators' Association Medal for services to literacy education locally, nationally and internationally. Professor Kervin leads research focused on technology, pedagogy and curriculum in Early Start Research. She is regularly called upon to consult in literacy practices in educational contexts at service, school and system levels.

Professor Kervin has published more than 60 journal articles and has been successful in obtaining competitive internal and external grants (including five ARC Discovery grants and an OLT grant). She has graduated 15 Higher Degree Research students.



**ASSOCIATE DEAN (INTERNATIONAL),
FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES**
Professor Wilma Vialle

Professor Vialle's research has made an important contribution in improving the educational experiences of bright young minds on a global scale.

The Professor in Educational Psychology's research focuses on excellence, expertise and gifted education.

Her work has contributed to a broadened understanding of giftedness that is not restricted to IQ definitions. Originally a high school teacher of English and Speech and Drama in Tasmania, she completed her doctorate at the University of South Florida in 1991.

Professor Vialle is currently working on the educational and learning resources that support the development of talent. Another of her research projects is an investigation of the development of excellence in competitive Scrabble players.

Professor Vialle is the Chief Editor of the international journal, 'Talent Development and Excellence', and is on the Executive Board of the International Research Association for Talent Development and Excellence. She works collaboratively with colleagues at the University of Erlangen-Nuremberg and the University of Regensburg in Germany.

At UOW, she is Chair of the Academic Senate which is the peak body for advising the University Council and the Vice-Chancellor on academic matters and broad issues which affect and promote the academic excellence of the University.

In 2006, Professor Vialle was awarded the Eminent Australian Award by the Australian Association for Education of the Gifted and Talented to recognise her contributions to the field of gifted education in Australia.



**ASSOCIATE DEAN (EDUCATION),
FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES**
Dr Julie Kiggins

In her role as Associate Dean (Education), Dr Kiggins plays a central part in delivering excellence in learning and teaching across the Faculty to give effect to UOW's Strategic Goal, 'Learning and the Student Experience'.

It's a Strategic Goal that has certainly had its effect. *Education for Social Equity* began as an elective in 2009 with humble beginnings and an enrolment of 10 students. In 2017 more than 1,000 students have either completed or are near completion of this subject.

In *Education for Social Equity* students undertake a Service Learning placement that is designed to assist them gain a sense of social equity and justice. Students have reported very positively on the experiences that the subject has given them.

Dr Kiggins also introduced in 2010 a Capstone Task for students which provided them with opportunities to integrate their knowledge and experiences from their whole program in preparation for the next stage of their careers.

It enabled students to work collaboratively, and among other things, allowed them to understand and manage as novice teachers many of the issues surrounding the work of contemporary primary schools and students.

Dr Kiggins' work has been recognised with a range of teaching awards including a Vice-Chancellor's Outstanding Contribution to Teaching and Learning (OCTAL); Carrick Citation for Outstanding Contributions to Student Learning; Carrick Australian University Teaching Award for a program that Enhances Student Learning for the "Knowledge Building Community" Program; and an Australian College of Educators: Outstanding Achievement in Education.

Our Research Entity



EARLY START

Officially opened in July 2015, UOW's \$44 million Early Start initiative represents a new way of thinking about how universities can share their intellectual capital and research with the community, and how technology can bring about better outcomes for children.

Early Start is transforming lives through education to reduce current gaps in inequality. By 'investing' in the earliest years of life, Early Start is working to create a landscape for learning and social change that is markedly different to the image traditionally associated with higher education.

With state-of-the-art teaching, research and community engagement facilities, utilising enhanced technologies, the Early Start building acts as a hub connecting to a network of partner centres in regional, rural and remote communities across NSW.

Within the building is the Early Start Discovery Space, a public, hands-on creative learning space specifically designed for children from birth to 10 years and their accompanying families, carers, educators and teachers.

earlystart.uow.edu.au



Anita Kumar
Chief Operating Officer, Early Start

Anita Kumar is a passionate advocate for the rights of children and families, especially those dealing with complex life issues or living in vulnerable circumstances.

Anita began as the Chief Operating Officer of Early Start at UOW in March 2017.

In her previous role as CEO of The Infants' Home in Sydney, Anita was committed to developing quality services that support the wellbeing of children and their families, and building a socially cohesive community. She focused on strengthening the organisation's leadership in integrated service delivery for children and families through research, partnerships and engagement.

Anita brings to Early Start a strong track record of forging impactful strategic partnerships across government, corporate, philanthropic, agency and sector organisations as a means to build a sustainable social enterprise.

In May this year, Anita oversaw Early Start celebrate its second birthday. Early Start is an initiative that brings together early childhood researchers and educators with families and the community with the guiding aim of supporting all children to have a happy and healthy childhood, and become engaged citizens, especially those growing up in regional and remote Australia or living in vulnerable circumstances.

Anita said Early Start was delighted to contribute to children's development and their love for learning.

Early Start has built important links between UOW and the Illawarra community it serves, allowing carers, early childhood educators, childcare centres, schools and volunteers to benefit from the educational and research-based resources of a university.

Early Start has partnered with 41 early education and care centres in regional and remote Australia through face-to-face and virtual programs to build capacity, influence quality practice, connect and integrate services and support and strengthen community. It is committed to creating a socially and just civil society.

CONTACT

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