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### ABOUT CHASE

CHASE brings together a group of over 30 academic staff, located mainly in the School of Health and Social Development, across both Burwood and Waterfront campuses. We also have a large number of honours, masters and PhD students under our supervision.

The group is multidisciplinary and multiprofessional, including public health, health promotion, health sciences, social work, occupational science and therapy, sociology, anthropology, disability studies, and psychology.

The CHASE vision is working collaboratively with communities, organisations and governments to promote social inclusion and to enhance the health and wellbeing of all, particularly those populations, communities and individuals who experience social exclusion.

In this newsletter we report on a range of projects, as well as staff news in terms of promotions and movements, and provide a summary of publications for the previous year, 2017.

### UPCOMING EVENTS

#### *Being Frank*

Public showings of new theatre based education program on trans and gender diverse issues, 14 and 29 May, see page 5

#### Respect, Prevent Respond

Deakin University is proud to be hosting the inaugural national conference, Respect, Prevent and Respond: Preventing and Responding to Sexual Harm in the Tertiary Education Sector. The conference will be held 5 - 6 February 2019 at Deakin Downtown, Melbourne, Australia.

Further information: <http://www.deakin.edu.au/RPRconference>

## HOME



HOME members, L to R: Dr Nicole Johnstone (Business & Law), Associate Professor Richard Tucker (Architecture & Built Environment), Dr Fiona Andrews (CHASE, Health & Social Development), Professor Louise Johnson (Arts & Education)

HOME is a new Deakin-funded multi-disciplinary research team that includes several members of CHASE. In February we successfully pitched for Stage 2 of the Deakin University Research Network funding which will enable us to establish a sustainable research hub at Deakin exploring new research approaches to housing and health.

The research group focuses on four themes, depicted in the Figure below.

HOME is a group of 25 researchers from across the disciplines of public health, occupational therapy, disability studies, human geography, anthropology, law, finance, architecture and urban design at Deakin University. We have come together in a commitment to understanding and ameliorating the Australian housing crisis.

HOME looks beyond the remit of other national research groups through: regional and local government connection and focus, broadening urban research to include a far wider range of disciplines, connecting spatial and built environment issues with health and well-being, and combining bottom-up as well as top-down approaches to directing change. HOME will provide evidence-based community-tailored housing strategies to government and NGOs through systems thinking and action research approaches.

For more information please see our website:  
<http://www.deakin.edu.au/architecture-built-environment/research/home>

Or contact one of the core HOME leaders:

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## HOME is more than a house



**Home for life:** designed to be adaptable and universally accessible, meeting our various needs, enabling us to engage in personally meaningful activities, safe and securely ours, and so home for all stages of life;



**Home we can afford:** designed to minimise energy use, constructed to minimise negative environmental and health impacts, matching our means, available to all, and so home that is sustainable collectively and individually;



**Home where we know neighbours:** designed for social connectivity, encompassing diversity, and so a home where we can strengthen relationships across difference;



**Home that is connected:** linked to occupations, services, education, nature, transport, play, food, and to the wider community.



**HOME has a single core aim: A Home for all.**

## OTHER PROJECT UPDATES

### A good place to raise a family

This program of research is led by CHASE member Dr Fiona Andrews. It aims to explore the experiences of parents raising children in different urban settings in Australia. The research is being undertaken in collaboration with several local government partners.

They recently presented the following papers at the 2017 State of Australian Cities Conference in Adelaide:

- Andrews, FJ, Warner E & Robson B. Using Photovoice to research the experiences of parents raising children in new, inner-city, higher density housing developments.
- Volders, S & Andrews FJ. Designing high density, inner city residential developments for families with young children: A review of evidence for best practice.
- White, J & Andrews, FJ. Facilitators of social connectedness in new outer suburban communities – a review of the evidence.

Fiona has also been invited to present the first paper above to the Victorian Department of Environment, Land Water and Planning as well as Infrastructure Victoria.

One of our students, Sameer Barkat Ali, recently completed his minor Masters thesis – ‘Healthy living in high-rise apartments’ which he hopes will inform his future work in his home country of Pakistan. We also have two new students commencing minor Masters theses:

- Caitlin Hall - Designing socially connected urban built environments.
- Adriane Heaperman - Neighbourhood and wider form of support for new parents. What is useful and what supports new parents’ health and wellbeing?

### PrEP in Australia: Are there challenges facing sexual health promotion?

CHASE member Dr Matthew Dunn, together with Anthony Barnett and Prof Richard Osborne have completed a study that examined: What implications does the introduction of PrEP have for how we advocate for safer sex practices? This study aimed to explore whether PrEP had caused any challenges for organisations undertaking sexual health promotion activities in Australia. We conducted in-depth, semi-structured interviews with 17 participants (15 male, 2

female) who were purposively sampled from a range of HIV advocacy and health promotion settings.

One pill, once a day, can eliminate HIV. Pre-exposure prophylaxis, or PrEP, refers to the use of anti-HIV medication by people who are HIV-negative to prevent HIV transmission. Recommended by the World Health Organisation, PrEP is one of the most promising biomedical interventions in HIV prevention and is approved in a number of countries, including France, Canada, and the United States. In Australia, it was approved by the Therapeutic Goods Association (TGA) in May 2016, and was recently approved to be included on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS). Prior to this, access to PrEP was limited to either self-importation or through one of the demonstration studies occurring in selected states and territories.

PrEP has been found to be highly efficacious in preventing the transmission of HIV. Despite this success, there have been concerns about its real-world implementation, particularly as there has been low uptake in countries where PrEP is available. The introduction of PrEP has sparked community discussion about its role in HIV prevention. The main concern has been that it may undermine traditional safer sex messages; will people stop using condoms, and will this lead to an increase in sexually transmitted infections? There are also concerns about willingness and acceptability to use PrEP, and how that intersects with stigma. Put simply, someone needs to recognise that they are engaging in high-risk sexual activities and then seek medical advice to go on PrEP, and there is a suggestion that some see the use of PrEP as a marker of engaging in socially unacceptable behaviour. The term ‘PrEP whore’ has been used on social media as a form of slut shaming, where those using PrEP are shamed for being sexually active and viewed as using PrEP as a substitute for condom use.

PrEP had, to an extent, changed how organisations were designing and delivering health promotion campaigns. For example, one organisation had developed and was running a campaign specifically focusing on serodiscordant couples (where one partner is HIV-positive and one partner is HIV-negative). The messages that organisations were providing about PrEP differed, though the common analogy was the ‘toolkit’: PrEP was one tool in the toolkit, alongside condom use, regular testing, and undetectable viral load. In this analogy, people used whichever tools worked best for them.

There were challenges for sexual health promotion. Negative attitudes about PrEP could be a barrier for some people to access it. Further, most of the messaging around PrEP focused on men who have sex with men, with little focus on women, the trans community, or CALD communities. One challenge was the burden that PrEP placed on existing health infrastructure – more people

getting tested more often meant there were often long waiting times to access sexual health clinics.

Overall, though, PrEP meant that people could have more control over their sexual health, and there had been a social benefit in that there was a shift in responsibility for HIV prevention – people living with HIV were no longer held as being solely responsible for HIV prevention, and participants talked about how this biomedical technology was reducing the positive/negative divide that existed in some communities and further decreasing the stigmatization of people living with HIV.

### **Analysing the depiction of transgender children in print media**

This is the title of the study being carried out by honours student Kara Montoneri, supervised by Dr Matthew Dunn and Dr Fiona McKay

In a society that is becoming increasingly safe for LGBTIQ + people to be visible, we are seeing many young people 'come out' earlier than ever before. This is especially true of transgender children, who for the first time in recent history are being recognised and validated by their families and by mainstream medicine.

Transgender children have become a point of focus for the western media in recent years. The heavily debated postal survey for marriage equality, a renewed interest in the Safe Schools program (designed to support young LGBTIQ + people in schools), and some landmark legal cases regarding hormone treatment in Australia, have seen trans children take the spotlight in our own media like never before. Despite there being clear, evidence-based shifts in the medical understanding of this cohort of children, they are still often viewed as 'the queerest of the queer' by sections of the general public. Major peak health bodies including the APS, WHO and The Royal Children's Hospital advocate for the acceptance, affirmation, 'normalisation' and support of these young people (at home and in society) in the gender they identify with, and to help them achieve best possible health outcomes. Despite this, these affirmed and thriving children are still framed by some as sick, mentally disturbed, in need of 'help' (conversion); even victims of child abuse.

There is overwhelming literature examining the influence of print media. It has the power to sway the opinion of individuals and broader society, to create and give weight to narrative and to even shape the development of government policies. Media can unite or divide communities on any given subject. This study aims to determine themes and patterns in the reporting of selected Australian media

articles written about transgender children. This may include the use and validity of research being cited, religious ideology, or calls to value systems that construct the basis for the position of the articles. In parallel, the project will also conduct an analysis of the themes and attitudes presented by the public engaging with the same media articles when republished to social media platforms.

This Honours project is a media analysis, and is being conducted to establish whether the Australian media and the Australian public engaging with that media are demonstrably reflecting the paradigm shifts in the literature pertaining to transgender children in their positions/attitudes.

Given that the wellbeing of young transgender people is strongly linked to their acceptance in wider society, an analysis of what the media is contributing to the narrative in the Australian space is incredibly important. For these young people to have the best chance of social inclusion, the public narrative needs to reflect world best standards of care. Reducing stigma around transgender children will be a much easier process if the general public are being correctly informed on the subject.

### **Feasibility of a community garden program for tenants of the Ashwood Gateway social housing development**

Nkoli Mmako's MPH major project was supervised by Claire Henderson-Wilson and Teresa Capetola. In addition to food, physical activity, mental health and environmental benefits, community gardens (CG) provides opportunities for social inclusion and increased social capital. These are particularly important to the socially isolated residents of Social Housing Developments (SHD). In her study, Nkoli explored the feasibility of a CG program for tenants of Port Phillip Housing Association (PHHA) Ashwood- Chadstone Gateway SHD by assessing their demand and acceptability of CG and responses to inclusive design principles. This phenomenological inquiry employed photo-elicitation and focus group discussion with self-selected participants representing the two dominant linguistically distinct groups of tenants; English speaking tenants and Mandarin speaking tenants.

From the findings, the high demand for CG by the English-speaking participants emerged in five dominant themes related to needs for: networking, social connectedness and inclusion; food security and improved access to fresh produce; connection with nature; physical activity; and finally mental well-being. However, the Mandarin speaking tenants cited that aging, language difficulty and



neighbourhood insecurity posed significant barriers to their participation. These barriers can be addressed within a socially inclusive CG.

As this study was guided by Ottawa Charter, social inclusion and community development theories, it recommends an understanding of the dynamic relationship of the design principles of a CG be coupled with the socio-ecological determinants of health in developing new CGs for social housing residents. Existing CGs must address the broader determinants of health and the key action areas of the Ottawa Charter.

Nkoli is interested in exploring ecotherapy, social sustainability, domestic violence and built environments and physical health for her PhD.

### ***Being Frank – a new theatre-based education program on trans and gender diverse issues***



*Being Frank* is our new theatre-based education program on trans and gender diverse issues, developed in partnership with Transgender Victoria. The first 2018 season runs from 14 May to 1 June inclusive.

*Being Frank* has been deliberately designed to complement the RRRR (resilience, rights and respectful relationships) program in schools. It is also suitable for presentation in tertiary education settings and workplaces or communities.

During this season there will be two public showings of the play that forms the first part of the program, each followed by a short Q and A, with the producer, director, actor and Transgender Victoria member. Eventbrite links for reserving a place (there is no charge for these showings) are as follows:

- Monday 14 May  
<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/being-frank-public-showing-tickets-43875454666>

- Tuesday 29 May  
<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/being-frank-public-showing-tickets-45009650075>

Feedback from the preview shows last year included:  
*"I have been to a number of training sessions on sexuality and gender diversity, but seeing this performance I experienced something far more emotional and impacting. I found that, even though you included a few glossary items, the 'play' tended to steer clear of jargon and instead focused on the emotional impact of discovery (for Frank) but also some of the experiences of those people around him, which I feel is really important. I feel like this is such an innovative and provocative way to provide education to kids and adults, that isn't 'dumbed' down."* -Health professional

*"It made me think about toilets, uniforms, relationships with others, their name, providing support and how I would support transgender students in my classroom."* - Student teacher

*"I also would like to send a thanks for the guest that came in and shared his trans-journey with us. He was very patient, open minded and honest with us and we really appreciated that."* - School student

## **RECENTLY COMPLETED PHD**

### **Marina Lewis: Transitioning Towards an Ecological Paradigm: A Role for Public Health**

Supervisor Associate Professor Lisa Hanna

The inextricability of humanity and environment has been recognised as a cornerstone of world health policy, for example in the Ottawa Charter for Health Promotion. However, collective behaviour towards the environment remains problematic, with international scientific consensus being that the planetary ecosystem is damaged and poised for greater harm, with attendant health, wellbeing, economic and security risks to present and future generations. Cultural theorists and researchers, including those from public health, are calling for widespread cultural shifts towards a more eco-centric understanding/worldview or paradigm. What is uncertain, however, is the nature of the cultural transitioning required, the means of doing so, and appropriate cultural agents likely to engage in such an effort.

This thesis explores the facilitators of, and barriers to, greater socio-cultural transitioning towards an ecological paradigm. It also considers the implications of the findings for the field of public health. A grounded theory approach was adopted to explore, via individual semi-structured

interviews, the perspectives of eighteen eminent people of profound socio-cultural influence whose commentary and/or actions indicated recognition of, and responsiveness to, the inextricability of humans and environment.

The findings from this research propose that transitioning towards an ecological paradigm will be supported by: 1) re-awakening recognition of human-nature inextricability; 2) renewing the cultural discourse regarding human-nature relations; 3) promoting holistic approaches which impact human-nature relations; and 4) challenging the power of those invested in the environmentally damaging 'business as usual' status quo. Features evident in the Ottawa Charter provide a basis for considering the critical role of public health in supporting an eco-centric transitioning and emergent propositions for change. For example, this research indicates that awakening a sense of connection with nature would be supported by experiences in the natural world, especially in childhood. A sense of connection with nature is associated with an eco-centric worldview and action to protect the environment. Public health's wide view of causation embraces the notion of the impact and importance of worldview, indicating a crucial role for public health in supporting more widely a sense of connection with nature.

The findings emergent from this study indicate the holistic nature of the cultural changes required for society to transition towards an ecological paradigm. Four theoretical propositions for change contribute further insight into the direction of ecological public health initiatives, and strengthen the rising calls from cultural theorists, researchers and public health experts for an eco-centric transitioning. This thesis argues that future planetary flourishing, inclusive of human health and well-being, depends on a re-orientation of cultural norms which prioritises above all else the inextricability of humanity and the environment.

## CHASE NEWS

### Staff news: farewells

Towards the end of 2017 Dr Georgia Babatsikos left Deakin to manage local sexual assault counselling and education services in Cairns for True Relationships and Reproductive Health. We wish her all the very best in this new role.

In March 2018 Associate Professor Jane Edwards left Deakin for a new role and promotion. Jane has been appointed Associate Dean Research in the Faculty of Humanities, Arts, Social Sciences and Education at the

University of New England in Armidale. It is a newly created executive position with responsibility to develop greater research capacity across the Faculty. We wish her all the very best in her new role, and congratulate her on a well-deserved promotion.

### A well-deserved promotion



In February, CHASE Deputy Director Melissa Graham commenced as an Associate Professor in Public Health at La Trobe University. However, she will continue to work with CHASE and further develop her program of research exploring the lives of women who do not have children, the role of policy on reproductive health, reproductive decision-making, and the experiences of social in/exclusion and how these impact health and wellbeing.

In her new role, Associate Professor Graham is coordinating the La Trobe Master of Public Health program which provides opportunities for students to undertake a research or a practice based project. The practice based project is undertaken in collaboration with a sponsor organisation and is completed over two semesters of study. If you are interested in finding out more or have a potential project, please contact Associate Professor Graham on 9479 3792 or M.Graham3@latrobe.edu.au.

## 2017 CHASE PUBLICATIONS

Names of CHASE members, and researchers, and students supervised by CHASE members appear in bold.

### Major Research Monographs

**Taket, A** and **Crisp B R** (2017) Bystanders for Primary Prevention: a rapid review. Vic Health Knowledge Paper, can be downloaded from: [www.vichealth.vic.gov.au/media-and-resources/publications/bystander-research-project](http://www.vichealth.vic.gov.au/media-and-resources/publications/bystander-research-project)

**Authored and Edited Books**

**Taket AR and Crisp BR** (2018) *Eliminating gender-based violence*. London, Routledge. (Available from 5 September 2017)

**Crisp, B. R.** 2017. *The Routledge handbook of religion, spirituality and social work*. London, Routledge.

**Book Chapters**

**Capetola, T and Pallotta-Chiarolli, M** (2017) "Let's Face It: tertiary students consuming, producing and critically appraising media representations of contemporary health issues" in Rebecca Goldstein and Laura Nicosia (eds) *Through a Distorted Lens: Media as Curricula and Pedagogy in the 21st Century*. New York, Sense Publishers.

**Coady, L., A. Taket, and B. R. Crisp.** 2017. "Working with parents and young families." In *Eliminating Gender-Based Violence*, 25-39.

**Crisp, B. R.** 2017. "Australia: It's complicated." In *The Routledge Handbook of Religion, Spirituality and Social Work*, 17-25.

**Crisp, B. R.** 2017. "Developing the agenda for religion and spirituality in social work." In *The Routledge Handbook of Religion, Spirituality and Social Work*, 371-378.

**Crisp, B. R.** 2017. "Faith communities as a setting for the prevention of gender-based violence." In *Eliminating Gender-Based Violence*, 124-137.

**Crisp, B. R.** 2017. "Religion and spirituality in social work: Creating an international dialogue." In *The Routledge Handbook of Religion, Spirituality and Social Work*, 3-14.

**Crisp, B. R., and A. Taket.** 2017. "Asset-based approaches for preventing gender-based violence in the workplace." In *Eliminating Gender-Based Violence*, 151-162.

Nolan A, **Stagnitti K, Taket A and Casey SA** (2017) *Supporting resilience*. In: S. Garvis and D. Pendergast (eds) *Health and Wellbeing in childhood*. Port Melbourne, Cambridge University Press.

**Robinson, K., and L. Williams.** 2017. "Asylum rejected: 'Appeal rights exhausted' Afghan care leavers facing return." In *Youth Marginality in Britain: Contemporary Studies of Austerity*, 144-157.

**Taket AR** (2017) *The use of mixed methods in health research*. In: Liamputtong, P (ed) *Research Methods in Health: Foundations for Evidence-Based Practice* (second edition). Oxford University Press: Melbourne.

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**Taket, A., and B. R. Crisp.** 2017. "Power, progress and pink pussy hats: Rising resistance." In *Eliminating Gender-Based Violence*, 163-175.

**Taket, A., and B. R. Crisp.** 2017. "The potential contribution of health and social care professional practice to primary prevention." In *Eliminating Gender-Based Violence*, 138-150.

**Taket, A., and C. Plourde.** 2017. "Engaging bystanders in violence prevention." In *Eliminating Gender-Based Violence*, 111-123.

**Townsend, M., and C. Henderson-Wilson.** 2017. "Greening the City: The Health Evidence of Urban Nature." In *Healthy Cities: The Theory, Policy, and Practice of Value-Based Urban Planning*, 375-394.

**Journal Articles**

**Andrews, F.J., L. Johnson, and E. Warner.** 2017. "A tapestry without instructions." Lived experiences of community in an outer suburb of Melbourne, Australia." *Journal of Urbanism*: 1-20.

Berg, K., T. Askim, **S. Balandin**, E. Armstrong, and M. B. Rise. 2017. "Experiences of participation in goal setting for people with stroke-induced aphasia in Norway. A qualitative study." *Disability and Rehabilitation* 39 (11): 1122-1130.

**Cheng, C., and M. Dunn.** 2017. "How well are health information websites displayed on mobile phones? Implications for the readability of health information." *Health Promotion Journal of Australia* 28 (1):15-20.

**Crisp, B. R.** 2017. "The challenges in developing cross-national social work curricula." *International Social Work* 60 (1):6-18.

Dabiri Golchin, M., N. Mirzakhani, **K. Stagnitti**, M. D. Golchin, and M. Rezaei. 2017. "Psychometric properties of persian version of "child-initiated pretend play assessment" for Iranian children." *Iranian Journal of Pediatrics* 27 (1).

Dahm, M. R., A. Georgiou, **S. Balandin**, S. Hill, and B. Hemsley. 2017. "Health Information Infrastructure for People with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (I/DD) Living in Supported Accommodation: Communication, Co-Ordination and Integration of Health Information." *Health Communication*:1-9.

**De Moel-Mandel, C, Graham, M, Taket A** (2017) Medication abortion provision in the primary health care setting of regional Victoria, Australia. *European Journal of Public Health*, Volume 27, Issue suppl\_3, 1 November 2017

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- Edwards, J.** 2017. "Trauma-informed care in the creative arts therapies." *Arts in Psychotherapy* 54:A1-A2.
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- Gregory, A., G. Feder, **A. Taket,** and E. Williamson. 2017. "Qualitative study to explore the health and well-being impacts on adults providing informal support to female domestic violence survivors." *BMJ Open* 7 (3).
- Griffiths, S., R. Henshaw, **F. H. McKay,** and **M. Dunn.** 2017. "Post-cycle therapy for performance and image enhancing drug users: A qualitative investigation." *Performance Enhancement and Health* 5 (3):103-107.
- Griffiths, S., S. B. Murray, **M. Dunn,** and A.J. Blashill. 2017. "Anabolic steroid use among gay and bisexual men living in Australia and New Zealand: Associations with demographics, body dissatisfaction, eating disorder psychopathology, and quality of life." *Drug and Alcohol Dependence* 181:170-176.
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Milner, A., K. Witt, M. J. Spittal, M. Bismark, **M. Graham**, and A. D. Lamontagne. 2017. "The relationship between working conditions and self-rated health among medical doctors: Evidence from seven waves of the Medicine in Australia Balancing Employment and Life (Mabel) survey." *BMC Health Services Research* 17 (1).

Mukoya, M. N., **F. H. McKay**, and **M. Dunn**. 2017. "Can Giving Clients a Choice in Food Selection Help to Meet Their Nutritional Needs?: Investigating a Novel Food Bank Approach for Asylum Seekers." *Journal of International Migration and Integration* 18 (4):981-991.

Noy, S., R. Patrick, **T. Capetola**, and J. McBurnie. 2017. "Inspiration from the Classroom: A Mixed Method Case Study of Interdisciplinary Sustainability Learning in Higher Education." *Australian Journal of Environmental Education* 33 (2):97-118.

Østvik, J., B. Ytterhus, and **S. Balandin**. 2017. "So, how does one define a friendship?: Identifying friendship among students using AAC in inclusive education settings." *European Journal of Special Needs Education*:1-15.

Østvik, J., **S. Balandin**, and B. Ytterhus. 2017. "A "Visitor in the Class": Marginalization of Students Using AAC in Mainstream Education Classes." *Journal of Developmental and Physical Disabilities* 29 (3):419-441.

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