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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 two projects, a recently completed PhD, CHASE events held so far this year, as well as staff news and provide a summary of publications for the previous year, 2018.

2018 RESEARCH OUTPUTS SUMMARY

- 5 PhD completions
- 1 major research monograph
- 3 research-based books
- 15 research-based book chapters
- 75 refereed journal articles

Details of publications appear on pages 5 to 9 of this issue.

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.

Following on from the publicity on our apartment design research described in the last CHASE newsletter, Fiona has been invited to present this work at a panel discussion at the third Annual Australian Smart Skyscrapers Summit in Melbourne in June this year. They also presented the following paper on the social health aspects of raising children in new, private apartments in Melbourne at the 2019 Australasian Housing Research Conference in Adelaide: Warner E & Andrews FJ “Surface acquaintances”: How parents in Melbourne’s newer high-rise developments experience social connectedness. The paper which is currently being prepared for publication, describes some of the barriers and enablers of social connectedness for families raising children in these new settings.

We are pleased to announce that our two Master of Public Health theses students from 2018 were awarded writing scholarships by the School of Health & Social Development to prepare their research for publication as follows:

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

We have two new students starting this year who are completing theses researching new models of affordable housing for families:

- Emma Sutton - Cohousing as a means to promote social inclusion.
- Julia Landy - New models of affordable housing provision: Implications for health and social inclusion.

These projects will feed into research Fiona is undertaking as part of the HOME Deakin Research Hub on a project recently funded by the Lord Mayors Charitable Foundation; *“Grey nesters”: Can Tiny Houses provide an affordable housing model for retirees and others on low income?*

Pet support programs and pets for the elderly

In 2018, Honours student Steph Cryer completed her research on: *‘Pawsitive Connections: The role of Pet Support Programs and Pets on the Elderly’*. CHASE member Dr Claire Henderson Wilson supervised her research.



While elderly Australians generally experience good health, they are at an increased risk of social isolation and loneliness, which can be alleviated by pets. Literature on Animal Assisted Therapy, Animal Assisted Interventions, pet ownership and the elderly, describes the health benefits of pets, however, there is a gap in the research on how programs allow the elderly to keep their pet at home. As a result, this study describes the experiences of Pet Support Program (PSP) clients in Melbourne, Australia and how these programs reduce the social isolation and loneliness of the elderly. The study also describes the role of pets and associated health benefits of pet ownership. This Qualitative Description study was guided by Attachment Theory and comprised two phases: a secondary data analysis of interviews with 14 PSP clients, and Key Informant interviews with four PSP providers. The semi-structured interviews were thematically analysed which resulted in four interconnected themes being developed: Attachment, Support, Social Isolation, and Loneliness. Within these themes, the attachment between pet and owner, as well as client and volunteer was discussed, as well as the benefits of the PSP to the client, such as reducing loneliness and social isolation, and to the pet, such as weight loss. Social isolation and loneliness were found to be reduced by the PSP through access to social support groups, as well as the provision of a regular visitor who provides meaningful conversation and companionship. These results align with the international literature on pet ownership, Animal Assisted Therapies and Animal Assisted Interventions. The results also add to the literature on Attachment Theory and offer an insight into how PSPs allow the elderly to maintain pet ownership and age in place.

CHASE EVENTS 2019

So far this year, CHASE has facilitated two events, a conference held in February 2019 and a seminar in March 2019. Short reports appear on these below.

Respect. Prevent. Respond Conference – Preventing and Responding to Sexual Harm in the Tertiary Education Sector

With more than 60,000 students and thousands of staff, Deakin University has a population that rivals many of Australia's major regional cities. Like many cities of that size, there are concerns which members of the community believe need to be addressed. One such issue is to how to prevent, and respond to, incidents of sexual harm in the tertiary education sector.

Deakin University is not alone in recognising the need to address this issue. Over the last three years, all of Australia's universities, large and small, individually and collectively, have developed policies and programs as part of the Respect. Now. Always (RNA) initiative. In February 2019, Deakin sponsored the inaugural two-day Respect. Prevent. Respond Conference, which brought together a wide range of stakeholders to share ideas, broaden understanding and to create opportunities for sector wide collaboration in the elimination of sexual harm in the Higher Education, VET and TAFE sector.

The 130 participants comprised academics, researchers, primary prevention practitioners, sexual response personnel, university managers and executives as well as students from 32 universities and TAFEs from both Australian and overseas, and 15 government, community and not-for-profit agencies. Although the scope of the conference was limited to the tertiary education sector, feedback from participants was that many of the research, policy and practice presentations also had applicability in other settings.

Over the two days of the conference, participants had the opportunity to hear from 30 presenters, including eight keynote presentations from Australia, UK, Canada and New Zealand. CHASE members Professor Ann Taket and Professor Beth Crisp were both involved in the organising committee and gave keynote presentations, with other CHASE members attending the conference. Several of the presentations are available at https://deakin365-my.sharepoint.com/:f/g/personal/ryan_hsu_deakin_edu_a_u/EuQ8Gi2JiKZFk9jHTGLkK8BE21leYHib9GldpNWy_ivvQ?e=T9hjb6.

Whereas many conferences replicate the siloes or divisions within communities, one of the remarkable features of the Respect. Prevent. Respond Conference was that it brought together representatives from across universities who often don't work together, e.g. student services and academic staff, or vice chancellors and students. As such, the conference modelled how bringing together all the different stakeholders both enables new dialogues to develop and rapid exploration of the feasibility of new ideas given the wide range of stakeholders present. This made for a conference which was not only stimulating but enabled participants to leave feeling that something worthwhile had been achieved. We hope that a second conference will be held in early 2020.

Go WILD: Bush adventure Therapy in Action

This CHASE seminar was held on 6 March, when around 50 participants came together to hear findings on *how* Bush Adventure Therapy has a transformative effect on mental health recovery, based in research into the programmes delivered by the WILD team within EACH. Participants heard stories first-hand from practitioners, consumers and researchers in a variety of presentations and a panel discussion moderated by Professor Ann Taket. The WILD research findings were described in the previous newsletter.

If anyone is interested in contacting the WILD team, they can be reached on 03 8878 3800 or WILD@each.com.au.



RECENTLY COMPLETED PHD

Caroline de Moel Mandel: Towards a nurse-led model of care for medication abortion provision in regional and rural Victoria

Supervisors: Professor Ann Taket and Associate Professor Melissa Graham

In the case of an unwanted pregnancy, access to abortion services should be easily available, regardless of a woman's

residence, age, socio-economic status, or cultural and religious background. Nevertheless, in Victoria, one of the three Australian jurisdictions where abortion is legalised, abortion provision is mostly confined to major cities and remains sparse in regional and rural areas. While the medication abortion method has the potential to expand the pool of abortion providers in underserved regions, the uptake among general practices in Victoria remains low. A key strategy to improve abortion access is to increase the involvement of primary health care nurses in the medication abortion provision process, an approach that is already successfully and effectively implemented in many countries all over the world.

The aim of this research was to develop a nurse-led model of care for medication abortion provision in the primary health care setting of regional and rural Victoria to improve abortion access. Additionally, the research explored the current and potential future involvement of general practitioners and primary health care nurses in regional and rural Victoria in the delivery of medication abortion services, as well as the factors that might hinder or enable medication abortion provision uptake or implementation of the nurse-led model.

The research used a mixed-method approach consisting of two separate but interconnected studies. The first study was a cross-sectional survey. A convenience sample participated, consisting of 69 general practitioners and primary health care nurses from regional and rural Victoria. For the second study, the Delphi technique was used and a total of 24 experts took part in three iterative survey rounds.

While only a small percentage (11%) of the surveyed participants were currently involved in medication abortion provision, there was quite a high overall interest (61%) in receiving medication abortion training. Participants, however, perceived a range of barriers for medication abortion provision uptake, such as a lack of training opportunities, a lack of supportive systems, uncooperative colleagues, legal uncertainties and social stigma. The Delphi findings showed great support for nurse-led medication abortion provision and data analysis led to the formation of three nurse-led models. The first and preferable model is a fully autonomous nurse-led model. However, due to federal government restrictions on abortion medication prescriptions, the health care system, and the lack of financial remuneration for nurse-led medication abortion provision, the extent of the primary health care nurse's involvement in medication abortion provision is currently limited. Therefore, a second, legally feasible, nurse-led medication abortion model was constructed. The third model is relevant for primary health care nurses in

situations when a non-supportive general practitioner is present.

The models can inform and guide key players who want to become involved with nurse-led medication abortion provision. However, the study identified that a lack of training opportunities and support services, as well as the influence of stigma, can deter the implementation of nurse-led medication abortion provision. Further, there is an urgent need for general and specialised education on medication abortion provision and for an independent reimbursement of primary health care nurses' medication abortion-related activities. Finally, to implement a fully autonomous nurse-led model, prescription rights policy change is required as well as health care reform to end current health care system rebate constraints.

This study provides insight into the current roles of general practitioners and primary health care nurses from regional and rural Victoria in medication abortion provision and the perceived barriers for medication abortion provision uptake. Further, the study findings suggest that in the legal and social climate of Victoria, implementation of a nurse-led model of medication abortion provision is feasible. However, to facilitate this process, the perceived lack of medication abortion awareness, knowledge and training needs to be addressed.

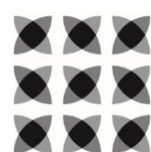
Caroline's thesis is available at <http://dro.deakin.edu.au/view/DU:30117553>

CHASE NEWS

Congratulations to Associate Professor Erin Wilson on her promotion to an exciting new appointment as a Professor at Swinburne, see below. We'll miss her greatly at Deakin, but look forward to working with her in her new role.

New Uniting Kildonan Chair in Community Services Innovation, Centre for Social Impact, Swinburne University

CHASE member Erin Wilson has taken up the newly created Uniting Kildonan Chair in Community Services Innovation, at Swinburne University.



CENTRE
for **SOCIAL**
IMPACT



The Kildonan Uniting Chair activates a partnership between Uniting Vic Tas and Swinburne University of Technology.

Such a position has significant strategic value: in the first instance it connects to the significant expertise of the Centre for Social Impact and its partners, and then extends out to resources, expertise and influencing power of the wider University and Swinburne's significant partnerships with philanthropics and industry. Swinburne University of Technology has a focus on translating research for applied, practical benefit and a focus of this position is also on knowledge translation – translating evidence (from both community services and the research community) to influence practice and policy. The collaboration with Uniting Vic Tas also offers the potential to work across a large and multi-sector NGO, as Uniting VT operates in the areas of Aged and Carer Services; Alcohol and Other Drugs; Business and Social Enterprises; Child, Youth and Families; Disability; Early Learning; Employment Services; Mental Health; and Resilient Communities. This breadth of focus sits well with the activities and vision of CHASE, and so Erin will continue to collaborate with CHASE as an external member.

The community services sector is one of the most important sectors in the lives of people who are marginalised and experiencing disadvantage. However, the sector is always challenged by short term and limited funding, high workloads and ongoing structural and systemic barriers. In this role, Erin will pursue a focus on how to create and embed social change, finding ways to identify 'what works' and expand these actions and programs in relevant ways to maximise the benefit for a larger population. This doesn't necessarily mean running large scale programs, but does mean sharing the ingredients of successful activities so that other areas and groups can embed these in their own localised responses. Erin will continue her interest in exploring avenues for collective action and influencing through expanded alliances across sectors.

As the position evolves, Erin will work with Uniting Vic Tas to identify its priorities for actions. These are likely to include: a focus on co-production and consumer engagement; outcomes measurement (i.e. collecting evidence that has value to inform practice and policy); and on investigating place-based community development and the role of a large cross sector organisations such as Uniting VT. Erin will also continue her focus on disability and inclusion practice – in the first instance continuing her work with Spinal Life Australia (and AQA and Polio Network Victoria) in relation to identifying the priorities for capacity building to improve the inclusiveness of mainstream services for people with spinal cord injury or post polio syndrome. In addition, Erin will continue her work with Mind Australia to better understand and support the 'labour of choice' for people with psychosocial disability in the

NDIS. The position is also supported by research personnel and scholarships for PhD candidates.

Erin can be contacted at: ewilson@swin.edu.au or 03 92148477. Erin retains an Honorary role at Deakin as Honorary Professor of Disability and Inclusion, and can be contacted also on her Deakin University email: erin.wilson@deakin.edu.au

***Being Frank* – a 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. Now available for booking in 2019.

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.

Contact ann.taket@deakin.edu.au for enquiries or bookings.

***You the Man* – a theatre based education program on domestic violence and sexual assault**

Now in its seventh year, *You the Man* is available for booking throughout 2019. It is suitable for delivery into schools, sports clubs, tertiary education institutions, workplaces and community settings.

Contact book-ytm@deakin.edu.au for enquiries or bookings.

2018 CHASE PUBLICATIONS

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

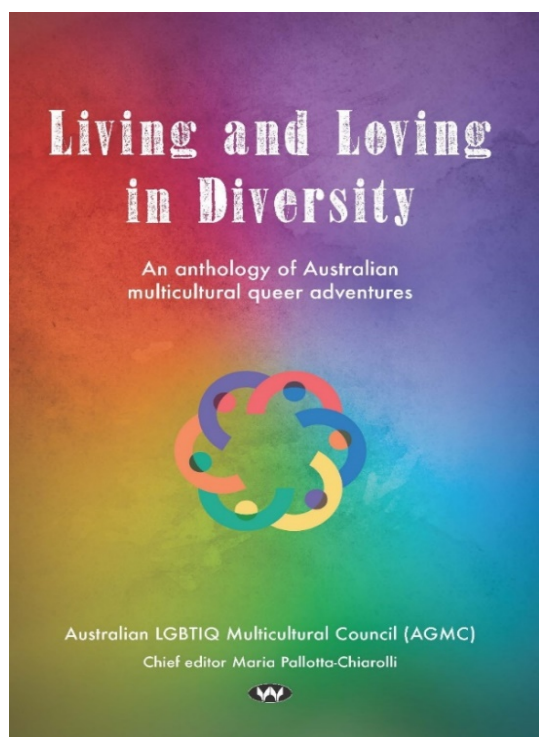
Major Research Monographs

Pallotta-Chiarolli M (2018) *'Safe spaces, inclusive services': support service access and engagement by LGBTIQ+ Muslims*, Melbourne: Muslim Collective.

Authored and Edited Books

Baker C, **Crisp, BR** and Dinham A eds (2018) *Re-imagining Religion and Belief for 21st Century Policy and Practice*. Bristol: Policy Press.

Pallotta-Chiarolli M ed (2018) *Living and Loving in Diversity: An Anthology of Australian Multicultural Queer Adventures*. Adelaide: Wakefield Press.



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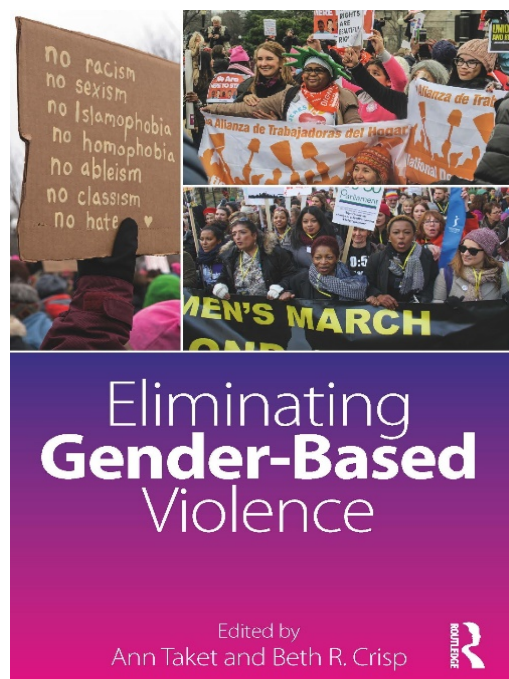
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improving the health of a population, Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Turnbull E, Graham M, Taket A (2018) 'Understanding the employment experience of women with no children', in Sappleton N, Voluntary and involuntary childlessness the joys of otherhood? Emerald Group Publishing.

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