<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Centre overview</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Background and aims</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Staff</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Centre Advisory Committee</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Director’s report</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research program</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Understanding sexual health</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Optimising sexual health outcomes</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Informing policy and health systems</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Publications</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Refereed journals</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Refereed journals (in press)</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Papers under review</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Book reviews</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-refereed journals</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Books</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chapters in books</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chapters in books (in press)</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reports</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Conference presentations 22
International 22
Australian 23
Research grants and scholarships 25
New project grants received during 2000 25
Continuing research grants 25
Project grants awarded during 2000 26
Fellowships 26
Scholarships and postgraduate support 27
Research consultancies 28
The community development and education unit 29
Awards 31
Visiting scholars 31
International activities 32
International committee membership 32
International visitors to the centre 33
Seminars, forums and workshops 34
Educational activities 36
Postgraduate students 36
Continuing education 37
Other staff activities 40
Conferences, seminars and workshops attended 40
Committee membership 40
Assessors/reviewers 41
Thesis examiners 42
Funding 43
BACKGROUND AND AIMS

The Australian Research Centre in Sex, Health & Society opened in February 1993 as an independent unit within the Faculty of Health Sciences at La Trobe University. The Centre is funded by the Victorian Health Promotion Foundation, La Trobe University and research project grants from external agencies, notably the Commonwealth Department of Health & Aged Care. ARCSHS is a Collaborating Centre to the National Centre in HIV Social Research and is affiliated with The University of Melbourne.

The aims of this multidisciplinary research Centre are to:

• undertake research into social, psychological and cultural aspects of human sexuality and sexual health;
• provide research leadership at State, National and International levels;
• provide knowledge, skills, and resources to assist other organisations in health promotion, service delivery and the formulation of public policy.

STAFF

The Centre has a multidisciplinary team of researchers with qualifications and expertise in psychology, anthropology, sociology, public health, health promotion, methodology, epidemiology, education, women's health, consumer advocacy and health policy.

Research Staff

Marian Pitts, BA(Hons), PhD, AFBPS
Professor/Director
Gary Dowsett, BA, DipEd, PhD
Assoc. Prof/Deputy Director
Anne Kavanagh, BMBS, PhD, FAFPHM
Senior Research Fellow
Anthony Smith, BSc(Hons), PhD
Senior Research Fellow
Michael Bartos, BA(Hons), MEd*
Research Fellow
Murray Couch, BA**
Research Fellow
Jeffrey Grierson, BPsych(Hons), PhD
Research Fellow
Michael Hurley, BA(Hons), DipEd, MLitt*
Research Fellow
Kelley Johnson, BA(Hons), Dip Ed, MA, PhD**
Research Fellow

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Liz McDonnell, BA(Hons), MA, GradDipCrWrtg
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Mary O’Brien, BA, PhD
Research Fellow
Joe Thomas, BSc, MSc, PhD**
Research Fellow
Jon Willis, BA(Hons), MLitt, PhD
Research Fellow
Clive Aspin, BA, DipT, MA**
Research Officer
Richard de Visser, BSc, GradDipHlthPsych, PhD
Research Officer
Colleen Hall, BA, MA*
Research Officer
Benjamin Haste, BA**
Research Officer
Liam Leonard, BA, BSc**
Research Officer
Angela Melder, BAppSc*
Research Officer
Kate Morris, BA(Hons)**
Research Officer
Kirk Peterson, BA, MA**
Research Officer
Mark Saunders*
Research Officer
David Wain, BA, DipEd**
Research Officer

Postdoctoral Fellows

Lynne Hillier, TPTC, TLTC, BSc(Hons), PhD
Jo Lindsay, BA(Hons), PhD

Community Liaison Officers

Anne Mitchell, MA, DipEd
Philomena Horsley, BA, DipEd, GradDipCrWrtg&Edtg**
Belinda Mawby, AssDipSocSci, BSc**
Kirk Peterson, BA, MA**
Ben Rossiter, BA(Hons), PhD**
Mark Saunders*
Jenny Walsh, DipTeach, GradDipAdultEd*
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Debbie Ollis, MA*

Executive Officer
Diane Shannon, BA, GradDipOfficeAdmin

Administrative Officers
Georgi Cahill, BA*
Mellissa Kavenagh, BA*
Kess Dovey, BA*.
Jenny Sykes*

Computing Officer
Craig Vale, AssocDipAppElec*

Research Assistants
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Judy Edwards, BAppSci(Hons)++
Mel Irenyi, BA(Hons)++
Peta Malins, BA*
Karalyn McDonald, BA, MA
Sebastian Misson, BSc, GradDipAppPsych*
Katrina Newnham, BSc, GradDipHlthProm* *
John Ryan, BA, LLB++
Stephen Scott++
*part-year, +part-time

Seminar Series Coordinator
Mary O’Brien

Postgraduate Coordinator
Anne Kavanagh

Postgraduate Elective Convenor
Jeffrey Grierson

Honorary Research Associates
Professor Sandy Gifford, BA, MA, MPH, PhD,
School of Nutrition and Public Health, Deakin University
Professor Doreen Rosenthal, BA, PhD, FASSA,
Associate Dean (Research), La Trobe University

CENTRE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
The Advisory Committee assists the Director in matters pertaining to the Centre, and its membership reflects a broad range of academic and community interests.

Members
Professor Stephen Duckett [Chair]
Dean, Faculty of Health Sciences, La Trobe University
Associate Professor Ian Anderson
Centre for the Study of Health & Society,
The University of Melbourne
Mr Alan Brotherton
Education Manager, South Australian AIDS Council
Mr Peter Clark
Australian National Council on AIDS, Hepatitis C & Related Diseases
Professor Christopher Fairley
Department of Epidemiology & Preventive Medicine,
Alfred Hospital
Dr William Hart
Chief, Health Intelligence & Disease Control,
Department of Human Services
Professor Susan Kippax
Director, National Centre in HIV Social Research
Professor David de Kretser
Director, Institute of Reproduction & Development,
Monash University
Mr Eamonn Murphy/Paul Lehmann
Director, HIV/AIDS & Hepatitis C Section,
Commonwealth Department of Health & Aged Care
Professor Lenore Manderson
Director, Key Centre for Women’s Health in Society,
The University of Melbourne
Dr Cathy Mead
Director, National Public Health Partnerships
Ms Colleen Murphy
Student Welfare Support Branch,
Department of School Education
Ms Jacqui Randall
Research Project Officer,
Victorian Health Promotion Foundation
Professor Chris Pratt
Head, School of Psychological Sciences,
La Trobe University
2000 was an important year in the history of ARCSHS. The Founding Director, Professor Doreen Rosenthal, resigned at the end of 1999 to extend her part-time position as Associate Dean, Research, in the Faculty of Health Sciences at La Trobe. Doreen’s tremendous contribution to the establishment and development of this Centre is widely recognised. We look forward to working closely with Doreen as she puts her boundless energy to work for the Faculty in her new role.

For nearly eight months, the Deputy Director, Associate Professor Gary Dowsett was Acting Director and provided able leadership before the Centre welcomed me as its new Director, in August. On behalf of the staff, I would like to thank Gary for his hard work. The Centre was certainly in an excellent state when I arrived from the UK where I had been Professor of Psychology at Staffordshire University. I hope that I can add to the Centre an international perspective that comes with having worked in the UK, USA and Southern Africa. In particular, I hope my disciplinary speciality in health psychology and my work in the psychology of preventive health will add to the Centre’s already impressive range of activities.

In other staff moves in 2000, ARCSHS farewelled: Clive Aspin, Michael Bartos, Murray Couch, Kess Dovey, Belinda Mawby, Katrina Newnham, John Ryan and David Wain. We welcomed Georgi Cahill, Judy Edwards, Colleen Hall, Philomena Horsley, Peta Malins, Angela Melder, Kate Morris, Shelley Mallett, Kirk Peterson, Ben Rossiter, Mark Saunders, Jenny Sykes and Joe Thomas.

ARCSHS was highly successful in attracting external funds in 2000 being second across the University in national competitive grants awarded. New grants included a large ARC, a SPIRT, two VicHealth project grants, and a VicHealth Senior Research Fellowship awarded to Anne Kavanagh. These new research grants have broadened ARCSHS’ research profile and the Centre is now well positioned to respond effectively to a changing political and social environment.

Innovative means of disseminating research findings and building relationships with researched communities continue to be features of ARCSHS’ work. The Centre’s community liaison function expanded with the appointment of project-specific staff in the areas of homeless young people, male sex workers and indigenous communities. In addition to community reports and broadsheets, journal articles, conference papers and posters from our research, a number of forums and training programs were initiated during the year. The Researcher-in-Residence program, which placed researchers at the Australian Federation of AIDS Organisations (AFAO), enabled issues of practice to inform a different kind of research agenda. It’s been a very fruitful collaboration. ARCSHS’ Talking Sexual Health project continues to develop resources and training for the teaching of sex and sexuality in schools. There has been a high demand for these materials nationally. We were pleased to receive a commendation in the Victorian Public Health awards for a research initiative in partnership with the Shire of Mount Alexander in Central Victoria; the ‘Safe Audit’ project was a first in rural Australia.

ARCSHS staff continue to inform policy and provide community service through committee membership and advisory roles: I have been appointed to the Victorian Ministerial Advisory Committee on AIDS, Hepatitis C and Related Diseases; Gary Dowsett and Anne Mitchell were appointed to the new Victorian Ministerial Advisory Committee on Gay and Lesbian Health, Anne Mitchell as Deputy Chair; and Anthony Smith is the Victorian President of the Public Health Association. Anne Kavanagh serves on National Advisory Committees to BreastScreen and the National Cervical Cancer Screening Program.

Teaching and supervision of PhD candidates expanded during the year and the quality of the students’ work was recognised in awards, prizes and scholarships. The Centre welcomed two new full-time PhD candidates: Rebecca Bentley and Phil Entwistle. Richard de Visser submitted his PhD this year, and took up his NHMRC postgraduate scholarship awarded this year and also won a scholarship to attend the 13th International AIDS Conference in Durban to present her research on women’s experiences of living with HIV.

Research highlights of the year included the completion of the Living Safer Sexual Lives Project, exploring how men and women with an intellectual disability see themselves as sexual beings and as partners in sexual relationships. The groundbreaking study helped tell their stories and offered people with intellectual disabilities a voice about sexuality. Workshops based on the research outcomes were trialed and evaluated and a range of workshops and training materials have been developed and will be offered in 2001. The results of the HIV Futures II survey were published this year. The HIV Futures study is the biggest of its kind in Australia, and is designed to provide HIV, health and funding bodies, as well as the affected community, with an overall picture of what life is like for people living with HIV/AIDS across Australia. At the Victorian launch of HIV Futures II, the Assistant Director of Victoria’s Drugs and Health Protection Services confirmed that its data...
would be invaluable in the development of Victoria’s first HIV/AIDS Strategy. Hepatitis C is a significant public health problem in Australia and it is essential that information about the virus and associated risks be provided to the community. Two ARCSHS research projects addressed this issue in looking at awareness amongst secondary school teachers and preventive strategies for gay men who are injecting drug users.

A major new research project now based at ARCSHS is the Australian Study of Health and Relationships which involves a survey of a representative national population-based sample of 15,000 Australian adults. It will document the prevalence of sexual behaviours among Australian adults, identify the frequency and extent of STI and HIV risk practices, and the socio-demographic and behavioural characteristics associated with these sexual practices. It will also identify the attitudes, values and current levels of knowledge regarding STIs and AIDS, as well as the social contexts of sexual encounters in Australia.

As part of our ongoing collaboration with the National Centre in HIV Social Research in Sydney, a number of ARCSHS staff attended the HIV/AIDS and Related Diseases Conference and the HIV/AIDS Gay/Positive Educators Conference. Internationally, ARCSHS’ work was strongly represented at the 13th International AIDS Conference in Durban, South Africa. International links continue to develop through research projects in Vietnam and Fiji. Two new international collaborative partnerships were forged during 2000. We are working with the Neuropsychiatric Institute, UCLA Centre for Community Health, on Project I, a five-year comparative study of homeless young people ages 12 to 17 years in Melbourne and Los Angeles, and with MRC Social and Public Health Sciences Unit, University of Glasgow, on an ARC-funded project ‘Male Sex Work as Cultural Practice’. In December, the Centre was the recipient of the AusAID funded Indonesia/Australia Specialised Training Program (Phase II) tender with assistance from the Key Centre for Women’s Health in Society at The University of Melbourne. The thirteen-week STD/HIV/AIDS surveillance and social research short course will take place in Australia in early 2001.

This report surveys a productive and successful year for ARCSHS. My thanks and congratulations to all those who supported, advised, collaborated and worked to achieve these outcomes.

Marian Pitts
1. UNDERSTANDING SEXUAL HEALTH

Health care and risk in the juvenile justice system
Mary O’Brien
Katrina Newnham (Research Assistant)

This study investigates the perspectives of a broad cross section of workers who have responsibility for the care and supervision of juvenile justice clients. The study focuses on workers experiences and perspectives of dealing with juvenile justice clients, with a particular emphasis on the issues related to health risks including STDs and blood borne viruses. A primary objective of the study is to document the perspectives of workers in different roles and different institutional contexts in regard to the health care needs of their clients. A comparison of core health staff experiences and views with those of non-health staff as well as looking at issues for workers in both institutional and community settings will be undertaken.

Funding: CARG Collaborating Centre Grant, Commonwealth Department of Health & Aged Care
Status: In progress

Hepatitis C prevention among gay men who inject drugs in Melbourne’s gay community
Gary Dowsett and David Wain, with the Victorian AIDS Council/Gay Men’s Health Centre
John Ryan and Kirk Peterson (Research Assistants)

This project developed an ethnography of gay men who inject drugs and who are part of the Melbourne gay community. The project aims to assist VAC/GMHC in its Hepatitis C prevention efforts among gay men in Melbourne and undertook a series of workshops in late 2000 to start the development of educational programs.

Funding: National Health & Medical Research Council and the Australian National Council on AIDS & Related Diseases, Victorian AIDS Council/Gay Men’s Health Centre
Status: Complete

HIV Futures II
Jeffrey Grierson and Michael Bartos
Karalyn McDonald and Richard de Visser (Research Assistants)

This project has a sample size of approximately 950 PLWHA. Data collection in this study is undertaken every two years using a self-completed questionnaire. Two major reports have been produced from the HIV Futures II survey, ‘HIV Futures: The health and well being of people with HIV/AIDS in Australia’ and ‘A Complex Uncertainty: Women on health, hope and living with HIV in Australia’. The first report was launched in Sydney and Melbourne in March 2000 and the second was launched in Melbourne and Adelaide in June/July. Briefings accompanied the launches. Papers have been presented on the data at national and international conferences including the International AIDS Conference in Durban. A series of State-specific reports (NSW, VIC, QLD, SA, WA) were released in November 2000. A report on people with Haemophilia and HIV was released in October 2000. Reports on heterosexual men with HIV and recreational drug use among PLWHA will be produced in 2001. A full comparative analysis of 1997 and 1999 data is being undertaken to identify trends.

Funding: CARG Collaborating Centre Grant, Commonwealth Department of Health & Aged Care
Status: In progress

HIV Futures: Qualitative component
Michael Bartos, Jeffrey Grierson and Mary O’Brien
Richard de Visser, Karalyn McDonald and Katrina Newnham (Research Assistants)

This component of the HIV Futures study examines specific emerging issues in depth. Subjects are recruited through the HIV Futures survey. These projects involve semi-structured interviews with a small sample of PLWHA in at least 2 states or territories per study. The design of the interview schedule for the studies allows for the exploration of overarching themes as well as a more specific focus on particular aspects of the lived experience of HIV. Thus the qualitative studies will enable analysis over time of some key questions, including optimism/scepticism about treatments and its impact on sexual practice, and changing HIV identities in relation to illness trajectories. Three themes were identified; sex and relationships, recreational drug use and return to work.

Funding: CARG Collaborating Centre Grant, Commonwealth Department of Health & Aged Care
Status: In progress

HIV=Community? The structure and meaning of HIV-positive community and HIV social identity among HIV positive gay men in two Australian cities
Jeffrey Grierson and Anthony Smith
Anton Mischewski (Research Assistant)

This study interrogates the notions of HIV community and HIV identity and examines the role of social networks in PLWHA’s sense of self. In particular the study examines the importance and centrality of an HIV or AIDS social identity to PLWHA. This project has a particular resonance with the current debates around the re-configuration of community AIDS organisations as gay and lesbian health services and with the emphasis on community attachment.

Funding: CARG Collaborating Centre Grant, Commonwealth Department of Health & Aged Care
Status: In progress

Photo: Courtesy the ALSO Foundation
paradigms in the provision of education and support services for PLWHA.

Funding: La Trobe University Faculty of Health Sciences Research Grant, CARG Collaborating Centre Grant, Commonwealth Department of Health & Aged Care
Status: In progress

HIV Futures: Indigenous cohort report

Jon Willis, Jeffrey Grierson, Mark Saunders and Michael Bartos
Karalyn McDonald and Richard de Visser (Research Assistants)

This study is based on data collected in HIV Futures II, a core project of the Living with HIV program. Survey data was collected in 1999, using a self-completed questionnaire. Core modules of the questionnaire include health status, treatments, service utilisation, social support, information management, sexual practice, mental health, drug use, treatment interruptions and social support. Indigenous respondents to the survey represent about 20% of indigenous people in Australia known to be HIV positive.

Funding: CARG Collaborating Centre Grant, Commonwealth Department of Health & Aged Care
Status: In progress

Indigenous gay men and the experience of homophobia and sexual violence

Jon Willis and Mark Saunders
Katrina Newnham (Research Assistant)

The report of the Second National Indigenous Australian Gay Men and Transgender Peoples Conference (Anwernekenhe II) includes the recommendation, in relation to sexual abuse, that “Indigenous men and transgender people be given resources and support to research, develop, implement and evaluate social, emotional and spiritual healing programs, including training and skills development”. This project has begun this process by employing and training an Indigenous researcher to collect the stories and ideas of Indigenous gay men and Sista Girls whose lives have been affected by homophobia or sexual violence.

Funding: CARG Collaborating Centre Grant, Commonwealth Department of Health & Aged Care
Status: In progress

Into the net: Community, information and intimacy in cyberspace

Lynne Hillier with Chyloe Kurdis

The 1998 national project with same-sex attracted youth (SSAY) documented the extent to which young people are denied information and support from the usual trusted sources (parents and schools) and the risks they take when seeking such support from friends and peers. Given this knowledge and support vacuum, the Internet provided an important space within which young men and women could more freely explore sexuality issues. Specifically, the Internet provided a means of access to a lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) community, a forum for knowledge exchange and a rehearsal space for ‘coming out’ to significant others in the ‘real’ as opposed to the ‘virtual’ world. In this project we explore further the ways these young people use the Internet, and how it addresses the issues they face in their daily lives. We are particularly interested in relationships (sexual and other) which are established on the Net and their difference from, and contribution to, real life, as well as adult fears and young people’s experiences of the Net. This is a two-stage project beginning with focus groups followed by a mainly qualitative Internet-based questionnaire. The data collection phase has ended with 210 young people having completed questionnaires. Qualitative and quantitative data is being organised and analysis will begin early in 2001.

Funding: CARG Collaborating Centre Grant, Commonwealth Department of Health & Aged Care
Status: In progress

Knowledge, attitudes and practices concerning sex and sexual health among secondary students in Vietnam

Anthony Smith and Doreen Rosenthal

Vietnam is likely to experience a very significant HIV epidemic over the next 10 to 15 years. At present little is known about the HIV-related knowledge, attitudes and practices of Vietnam’s young people and there is no mechanism in place to determine the affects of any HIV-related interventions with this population group. The present proposal is to refine a survey instrument, used in 1997 in Australia to provide data on knowledge, attitudes and practices of secondary students concerning HIV/AIDS and related diseases, for use with a comparable population in Vietnam. The project will be conducted in collaboration with the Institute of Sociology [IOS], Vietnam National Centre for the Social Sciences and Humanities, Hanoi, and will contribute to the development of school-based educational interventions in relation to sexual health.

Funding: La Trobe University Faculty of Health Sciences Research Grant
Status: Complete
Male sex work: Health, culture and masculinity

*Jon Willis and Kirk Peterson
Katrina Newnham (Research Assistant)*

Apart from minor research in HIV risk in recent years, there is only minimal understanding of the physical and mental health problems faced by a growing number of men engaged in male sex work. This study will examine some of the mental health risks and consequences of male sex work, particularly industry-specific forms of occupational stress. It will indicate sectoral (street vs off-street) differences in exposure to mental health risk for male sex workers in the sex industry, and the influence of masculinity and sex-work culture on exposure to mental health risk.

Funding: La Trobe University Faculty of Health Sciences Research Grant
Status: In progress

People with intellectual disabilities: Living safer sexual lives - Phase Two

*Lynne Hillier and Kelley Johnson with Lyn Harrison (Deakin University) and Patsie Frawley (Consultant)*

In Phase One of this research, 12 men and 13 women labeled with an intellectual disability contributed personal experiences of sex, love and relationships. In Phase Two, the narratives were edited and a short and long version created. These formed the basis of a range of materials produced for service providers, families and men and women with an intellectual disability, including: A video of three of the stories read by actors with an intellectual disability, eight booklets containing 16 stories in themes, workshops for families, workers, community visitors and people with intellectual disabilities, a workshop training manual with the above materials is in the development stage. Further workshop modules are planned for 2001. Work from this project has been presented at conferences in Iceland, Ireland, Australia and the USA, and is being incorporated into Department of Human Services training. An evaluation report was completed this year. A forum was held at The Office of the Public Advocate from which a discussion paper was generated and distributed to key bodies. A report of the entire project will be completed early in 2001.

Funding: Victorian Health Promotion Foundation
Status: Nearing completion

Project i: Homeless young people in Melbourne and Los Angeles

*Doreen Rosenthal and Shelley Mallett with Mary-Jane Rotheram-Borus, Norweeta Milburn, Ron Brooks and George Ayala (Neuropsychiatric Institute, Centre for Community Health, UCLA), Gary Dowsett and Jeffrey Grierson
Ben Rossiter (Community Liaison Officer)
Colleen Hall (Research Officer)
Jude Edwards (Research Assistant)*

Project i is a five year comparative study of homeless young people in Melbourne and Los Angeles. This project combines three inter-related areas of quantitative and qualitative research. Firstly, a longitudinal study of newly homeless young people between the ages of 12 and 20 years. We are interested in learning about young people’s pathways into homelessness, their cultures of homelessness and the associated risks to their health and social well-being, particularly the risk of HIV. The quantitative research with homeless young people began in October 2000 and will continue for three years. The qualitative research will commence in July 2001. The second component of the research involves quantitative and qualitative interviews with service providers, learning about the funding, design and delivery of programs to homeless young people, as well as documenting service providers’ views about homelessness and homeless service provision. An initial service provider survey was undertaken from June and December 2000 and quantitative interviews will commence in July 2001. The third component of the research will examine local, state and federal government policies that impact on homeless young people, through a critical analysis of policy documents and key informant interviews in the fields of mental health, child protection, juvenile justice and housing. It is the broad aim of the Project i research program to contribute to both policy debate relating to homeless young people and related service design and development.

Funding: National Institute of Mental Health, USA
Status: In progress

Australian study of health and relationships

*Anthony Smith with Chris Rissel (Central Sydney Area Health Service), Juliet Richters (National Centre in HIV Social Research) and Andrew Grulich (National Centre in HIV Epidemiology and Clinical Research)*

This project involves a survey of a representative national population-based sample of 15,000 Australian adults. It will document the prevalence of sexual behaviours and injecting drug use among Australian adults, identify the frequency and extent of STD and HIV risk practices and the socio-demographic and behavioural characteristics associated with these sexual practices. It will also identify the attitudes, values and current levels of knowledge regarding STDs and AIDS, as well as the social contexts of and interactions of sexual encounters in Australia.

Funding: National Health & Medical Research Council and Commonwealth Department of Health & Aged Care
Status: Ongoing
Positive health

Jeffrey Grierson with Garret Prestage (National Centre in HIV Epidemiology and Clinical Research), Kane Race, Susan Kippax (National Centre in HIV Social Research), and Andrew Grulich (National Centre in HIV Epidemiology and Clinical Research)

Mel Irenyi, Mathew Calvert (National Centre in HIV Epidemiology and Clinical Research) and Angela Song (National Centre for HIV Social Research) (Research Assistants)

This is a collaborative project with the NCHSR (University of NSW) and the NCHECR (University of NSW) and is a cohort study of HIV positive people with particular emphasis on the social aspects of treatments, side effects, dosing and drug interactions (2000-2003). Data from the positive Health and HIV Futures instruments will be linked for a subset of study participants in both Melbourne and Sydney. Supplemental recruitment each year will ensure an optimal size for the cohort. The positive Health cohort currently consists of 425 participants (55 in Victoria). The second pH interview instrument has been finalised. Additional recruitment and re-interviewing began in October 2000. Two community reports and a set of briefing papers have been produced and are currently being printed for early 2001 release. Community briefings will accompany the release of these documents. A number of conference presentations have been made from the data.

Funding: CARG Collaborating Centre Grant, Commonwealth Department of Health & Aged Care
Status: In progress

Sex, drugs and drinking: An investigation of health risks in the sexual and social lives of young workers

Jo Lindsay

We know that excessive drug, alcohol and tobacco consumption are major health risks for young people and they are also at high risk of contracting sexually transmissible diseases. This research examines the context of young people’s social and sexual lives and the interaction between risk practices. Almost 400 young people working in the hospitality, manufacturing, sales and service industries have participated in the survey. Baseline data has been reported and more detailed analysis is currently being undertaken. Three major patterns of socialising have emerged from the data; the ‘party hards’ who socialise often at a range of venues such as pubs and clubs, the ‘party sometimes’ who go out less often and the ‘shoppers’ who mainly socialise in shopping centres and cafes. The ‘party hards’ are engaging in more sexual health and drug and alcohol risk taking than their counterparts in the other groups. This analysis identifies new locations for health promotion with young people in the workforce.

Funding: National Health & Medical Research Council Postdoctoral Fellowship
Status: In progress

Social and psychological impacts of viral rebound and treatments failure

Michael Bartos and Jeffrey Grierson
Karalyn McDonald and Richard de Visser (Research Assistants)

In order to assess the impact on individuals with HIV/AIDS of sub-optimal experience of anti-viral treatments, an analytic frame has been established, initially using data from the HIV Futures I survey and refining it in HIV Futures II. It enables comparison between those whose viral load has responded to anti-viral treatment and has been sustained at levels below detection, those whose viral loads have failed to respond to therapy, and those whose viral loads have reduced to below detection but have since rebounded. Each of these groups has been analysed in relation to demographic, illness-history, self-reported treatment compliance and service use variables. Data from the HIV Futures II survey has been analysed to identify the correlates of ARV failure and success. These analyses were presented at the International AIDS Conference in Durban and are currently being prepared for publication. A quasi-cohort analysis of the HIV Futures II data is being undertaken to examine the correlates of ARV success/failure over time. This analysis will be completed in 2001.

Funding: CARG Collaborating Centre Grant, Commonwealth Department of Health & Aged Care
Status: In progress

Sexual subcultures and HIV/AIDS prevention in the Western Pacific: An ethnographic study of men who have sex with men

Gary Dowsett and Murray Couch

This small qualitative project was undertaken in collaboration with the AIDS Task Force of Fiji and the University of the South Pacific, Suva. The project consists of a set of twenty in-depth interviews with men who have sex with men in Suva and supplements a larger study of such men undertaken by the AIDS Task Force to assist in the development of its HIV prevention education activities.

Funding: La Trobe University Faculty of Health Sciences Research Grant
Status: Completed
Supportive cultures and the sexual and emotional health of same sex attracted youth (SSAY)

Lynne Hillier

Earlier work with SSAY has revealed the existence of a number of cultures which, while not necessarily being gay/lesbian identified, appear to provide a safe and affirming environment for these young people. This research aims to explore and document these cultures, their histories, their dynamics and the ways in which they support SSAY. It is hoped that these examples will be emulated in other areas. The project has three stages: key informant interviews, an audit and in-depth study of safe spaces.

Funding: National Health & Medical Research Council Postdoctoral Fellowship
Status: In progress

The impact of premature mortality on Aboriginal men's constructs of risk and health

Michael Bartos, Jon Willis and Mark Saunders with Ian Anderson (VicHealth Koori Research & Community Development Unit, The University of Melbourne) and Susan Kippax (National Centre in HIV Social Research)

This study is investigating the impact of the community experience of premature mortality among Aboriginal men on their constructs of risk and health. It extends the previous project on 'Mortality, Masculinity and Risk' which compared gay men as members of a community where AIDS has caused high levels of premature mortality with heterosexual, middle-aged and middle-class men, mainly from Anglo backgrounds, where premature mortality is uncommon.

Funding: Australian Research Council Large Grant
Status: In progress

Identifying the social, personal and health needs of women living with hepatitis C

Sandy Gifford and Gabriel Bammer (Deakin University) with Mary O'Brien

This survey of 622 women in Melbourne and Canberra focused on the social and personal impact of living with hepatitis C and examined: health status; service and treatment utilisation; finances; work; family and relationships; quality of life and social issues such as stigma and discrimination.

Funding: NHMRC Strategic Reserve Fund on Hepatitis C Social & Behavioural Research, Deakin University
Status: Complete

False positive recall in the BreastScreen Victoria Program – time trends and determinants

Anne Kavanagh with Dorota Gertig (The University of Melbourne), Alison Amos (BreastScreen Victoria), Jill Evans (Monash BreastScreen) and Damien Jolley (Deakin University)

Rates of recall to assessment for mammography have increased since the introduction of the mammographic screening program in Victoria. If women are recalled to assessment and do not have cancer this is classified as a false positive recall. This study will examine factors associated with false positive recall (such as age, HRT use, family history and characteristics of mammographic films) in approximately 1 million separate screening episodes at BreastScreen Victoria between 1994 and 1999. We will model the cumulative risk of having false positive mammography using data from this five-year period.

Funding: BreastScreen Victoria
Status: In progress

Reader experience and accuracy of breast cancer screening

Michael Krieser (St Vincent's BreastScreen), Anne Kavanagh, Alison Amos (BreastScreen Victoria) and Jennifer Cawson (St Vincent's BreastScreen)

A national accreditation requirement of the BreastScreen Australia program is that radiologists read more than 2000 mammograms per year. It is not known, however, whether this is an adequate number to acquire and maintain an adequate level of skill in breast cancer screening. This study of approximately 2 million mammographic reads will evaluate whether the number of mammograms read annually by readers predicts the accuracy of reading (cancer detection rate and recall rate).

Funding: BreastScreen Victoria
Status: In progress

Socio-economic status and self-assessed health

Gavin Turrell (QUT) with Anne Kavanagh

Overseas studies have shown variations in the relationships between health outcomes, including self-assessed health, and different SES measures (income, occupation and education). Using data from the Australian National Health Survey, this study will examine the effect of the different measures of SES on self-assessed health in an Australian context.

Funding: None
Status: In progress
Trends and predictors of large breast cancers

Dorota Gertig (The University of Melbourne), Anne Kavanagh and Graham Giles (Anti-Cancer Council of Victoria)

Despite the introduction of mammographic screening age-adjusted rates of large breast cancer (tumours greater than 20mm in diameter) have not decreased. Women with large breast cancer have a poorer prognosis than women with smaller diameter tumours at diagnosis. This study will evaluate age and time trends in the size breast cancer and will investigate predictors of large cancers in the BreastScreen Victoria program.

Funding: None
Status: In progress

Dealing with homophobia in schools - teachers structural & personal barriers

Lynne Hillier with Lyn Harrison & Diana Langmead (Deakin University)

Research indicates that sexual minorities are subject to high levels of physical and verbal abuse at school. School programs are overwhelmingly heterosexist, providing little or no information on the sexual health needs of this group. This is the case even though each State and Territory in Australia has equal opportunity legislation and education departments in each State also have policies on equal opportunity and anti-discrimination. The project aims to identify the reasons for the gap between policy and practice in schools through information from teachers and policy documents in three schools which in some way are addressing heterosexism and homophobia in their school community.

Funding: Australian Research Council
Status: In progress

Evaluation of VACCHO well person’s health check

Jon Willis with Bev Greet (Victorian Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation)

Stephen Scott (Research Assistant)

This is an evaluation of the Victorian Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation's Well Person's Health Check program. The evaluation was based on an analysis of responses from 419 exit questionnaires completed by clients of the program when it was implemented at Aboriginal Community Cooperatives in Mildura, Lake Tyers, Robinvale and Swan Hill during 2000.

Funding: CARG Collaborating Centre Grant, Commonwealth Department of Health & Aged Care
Status: In progress

2. OPTIMISING SEXUAL HEALTH OUTCOMES

Community based health promotion in HIV/AIDS and related diseases and National Public Health Partnerships

Gary Dowsett and David McInnes (University of Western Sydney) with Liz McDonnell (Research Fellow) and Sebastian Misson (Research Assistant)

This two-year project is undertaking the first national workforce study of community-based educators in HIV/AIDS and related diseases. Stage one is a national survey of the community-based educator workforce. A series of Information broadsheets have been completed for dissemination to the sector. Stage two involves six action-research projects working with these educators to examine their educational practices and processes. The project is due for completion in April 2001.

Funding: National Health & Medical Research Council
Status: In progress

Legal responses to claims of negligence in cervical screening

Anne Kavanagh with Linda Hancock (The University of Melbourne)

Kate Morris (Research Officer)

In the area of cervical cancer screening, the clinical practices of pathologists and general practitioners are more cautious than recommended in the NHMRC guidelines. Their defensive practices have occurred in response to their perceived threat of litigation and the possibility of incurring high costs. We will document national and international legal responses to claims of negligence in cervical screening and will identify the components of the program that leave clinicians vulnerable to claims of negligence.

Funding: La Trobe University Faculty of Health Sciences Research Grant
Status: In progress

Researchers in Residence Program

Michael Hurley, Clive Aspin, Michael Bartos and Gary Dowsett

The findings of the HIV Treatments Project have been circulated widely in the community sector through AFAO Committee meetings (4), the Treatments Officers Network, the Indigenous Gay and Transgender Project and state AIDS Councils, Positive Living, the AFAO website and Briefs, the Gay/Positive Educators conference, 2000, and the Positive Education Workshop, 2001. Various reports and discussion papers from the project were tabled at the HIV and Indigenous Sexual Health sub-committees of the Australian National Council on AIDS, Hepatitis C and Related Diseases, at National Association of People Living with HIV/AIDS Executive and
Committee meetings and cited in the NSW HIV/AIDS Health Promotion Strategy. A paper and poster were accepted for the annual conference of the Australasian Society for HIV Medicine and refereed articles are in preparation. The Advocacy Project had a paper and poster accepted for presentation at the Durban International AIDS Conference, 2000, and a final report is in progress.

**Funding:** CARG Collaborating Centre Grant, Commonwealth Department of Health & Aged Care

**Status:** Complete

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**Using breast density to improve the accuracy of mammographic screening**

Anne Kavanagh with Jennifer Cawson (St Vincent's BreastScreen), Graham Giles (Anti-Cancer Council of Victoria), John Hopper (The University of Melbourne), John Heggie (The University of Melbourne) and Dallas English (Anti-Cancer Council of Victoria)

Georgina Marr (Research Assistant)

Use of hormone replacement therapy increases the amount of fibroglandular tissue in the breast. This tissue looks white on mammography (high breast density) which theoretically makes it harder to detect abnormalities on mammography and are also more likely that women on HRT will be recalled for assessment even if they do not have cancer. In this study we will scan over 14,000 mammograms to examine the effect of high breast density on mammographic sensitivity and specificity. We will also examine to what extent the reduction in sensitivity and specificity of mammography found with HRT use can be attributed to increases in breast density. This study is expected to inform policies for the screening of women on HRT or with high breast density.

**Funding:** Victorian Health Promotion Foundation, Kodak Australia, Department of Human Services and Health

**Status:** Data collection

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**World Health Organization – Quality of Life Study**

**WHOQOL HIV/AIDS Module**

Michael Bartos and Marian Pitts

Karalyn McDonald (Research Assistant)

In 1997 WHO commenced the development of an HIV-specific quality of life assessment module to sit alongside the generic quality of life assessment instrument developed by the WHO Program on Mental Health. Eight sites are participating in the HIV/AIDS module development: Australia, Brazil, Hong Kong, India (2 sites), Thailand, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

**Funding:** CARG Collaborating Centre Grant, Commonwealth Department of Health & Aged Care

**Status:** In progress

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**World Health Organization – Quality of Life Study**

**WHOQOL Spirituality Module**

Michael Bartos and Marian Pitts

Karalyn McDonald (Research Assistant)

In 1998 the World Health Organization commenced development of a module concerning spirituality, religiousness and personal beliefs in relation to quality of life. Fifteen sites around the world participate in the study. The Centre is assisting in the development of the module through the conduct of focus groups, followed by pilot and field testing of the instrument. Focus group data were completed during 2000 and a draft instrument has been compiled. The English version of the instrument will require pilot testing. It is anticipated that pilot and field testing will take place in early 2001.

**Funding:** CARG Collaborating Centre Grant, Commonwealth Department of Health & Aged Care

**Status:** In progress

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### 3. INFORMING POLICY AND HEALTH SYSTEMS

**How research methods shape public health knowledge and practice**

Anne Kavanagh, Angela Melder, Jeanne Daly (Palliative Care Unit) with Damien Jolley (Deakin University)

This project aims to explore the processes which influence the choice of research methods in public health research and the way in which this choice then shapes public health knowledge and practice. In this research we describe the patterns of use of different research methods (across health issues and settings), assess their contribution to public health knowledge, establish which methods are not well represented and consider the consequences of their exclusion for public health knowledge. This will enable us to identify possible strategies for change so that we better utilise the full-range of methods and broaden public health research. It is anticipated that these changes will flow on to public health practice.

**Funding:** Victorian Health Promotion Foundation

**Status:** In progress
Impact of condom use promotion on unintended pregnancy
Anthony Smith with Julia Shelley (Centre for the Study of Mothers' and Children's Health)

This study aims to determine the extent to which the promotion of condom use has had unintended public health consequences, both positive and negative. We will investigate whether: 1) there has been a shift away from highly effective methods of contraception such as the oral contraceptive pill (OCP) towards use of less effective condoms, and if so, whether this has been followed by a rise in the rate of unintended pregnancies and terminations of pregnancy, and 2) whether there has been an increase in the number of women using dual methods (condoms and OCP) for contraception and disease prevention. This will be accomplished by: 1) examining differences in women's contraceptive practices between 1986 and 2000; 2) estimating the number of unintended pregnancies in 1986 and 2000 from estimates of the efficacy of the contraceptives used; and 3) comparing these estimates to the observed patterns of fertility and pregnancy termination in Australia between 1986 and 2000 to determine the impact of changed contraceptive practices on fertility management.

Funding: Victorian Health Promotion Foundation (2000-2001)
Status: Ongoing

Mental health and HIV
Jeffrey Grierson
Karalyn Mc Donald and Richard de Visser (Research Assistants)

The project consists of an analytic framework applied to data from HIV Futures II, HIV Futures qualitative studies, and other research conducted in Australia. The inclusion of items in these research projects specifically addressing mental health issues has reduced the recruitment pressure on the target population.

Funding: CARG Collaborating Centre Grant, Commonwealth Department of Health & Aged Care
Status: In progress

Research gaps in indigenous sexual health: Establishing evidence based best practice for social and behavioural interventions
Jon Willis with Ian Anderson (VicHealth Koori Health Research & Community Development Unit, The University of Melbourne)
Katrina Newnham (Research Assistant)

There has to date been no systematic review of evidence in relation to primary care programs which aim at the reduction of STI prevalence through either screening and education programs, or health promotion programs in Indigenous Australian settings. This project aims to identify best practice through a review of existing evidence in this area so that priorities for future funding of and research into cultural, social and behavioural interventions can be legitimately set on the basis of existing evidence.

Funding: Office of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health and CARG Collaborating Centre Grant, Commonwealth Department of Health & Aged Care
Status: In progress
**REFEREED JOURNALS**


de Visser R & Smith AMA (2000). When always isn’t enough. Implications of the late application of condoms for the validity and reliability of self-reported condom use. AIDS Care, 12(2), 221-224.


**REFEREED JOURNALS (IN PRESS)**


Kirman M, Harrison L, Hillier L & Pyett P. ‘I know I’m doing a good job’ narratives from teenage mothers. Culture, Health and Sexuality.


Papers Under Review


Harrison L, Johnson K & Hillier L & Strong R. Nothing about us without us: The ideals and realities of participatory action research with people with an intellectual disability.

Hillier L & Harrison L. Discovering the fault lines: Same-sex attracted youth, resistance and change.

Kirkman M, Rosenthal DA & Feldman SS. Freeing up the subject: Tension between traditional masculinity and involved fatherhood revealed through communicating about sexuality with adolescents.

Mischewski A. Fluid Fantasias: A question of ejaculation in gay male pornography.

Perlesz A & Lindsay J. Methodological triangulation in researching families: Making sense of dissonant data.

Rosenthal DA, Senserrick T & Feldman SS. A typology approach to describing parents as communicators about sexuality.

Book Reviews


Non-Refereed Journals


Rossiter B (2000). The place of research. Parity, 13(9), Insert


Books


Chapters in Books


**CHAPITERS IN BOOKS (IN PRESS)**


Dowsett GW. HIV/AIDS and homophobia: Subtle hatreds, severe consequences and the question of origins. In G Herdt & T Van der Meer (Eds), Beyond Homophobia: Rethinking homophobia and anti-gay and lesbian violence in multiple perspective. Duke University Press.


**REPORTS**


Grierson J, Misson S & Horsley P. (2000). HIV Futures II Regional Reports: Western Australia, Monograph Series Number 25. Australian Research Centre in Sex, Health & Society, La Trobe University, Melbourne.


McDonald K & Grierson J (2000). HIV Futures II: People with Haemophilia. Monograph Series Number 26. Australian Research Centre in Sex, Health & Society, La Trobe University, Melbourne.


Misson S, McDonnell E, Dowsett GW & McInnes D. Who are the Community-based HIV/Hepatitis C Educational Workforce? CEWT Broadsheet #1. Australian Research Centre in Sex, Health & Society, La Trobe University, Melbourne.


Conference Presentations

INTERNATIONAL


Bartos M, Opening up the space of the clinic. Third European Conference on the Methods and Results of Behavioural Research into AIDS, Amsterdam, February 2000.


Pitts MK, The role of traditional healers in diagnosing and treating STIs. Sixth International Congress on Behavioural Medicine and Public Health in the New Millennium, Brisbane, November 2000.

**AUSTRALIAN**


Kavanagh AM, Mitchell H & Giles G. Use of hormone replacement therapy and the sensitivity of screening mammography. Invited Speaker. Breast Radiology


Pitts MK. Sexuality and ageing. Ageing in the 21st Century Conference, La Trobe University Faculty of Health Sciences, Melbourne, December 2000.


Wain D. Hobby or Habit?: Preliminary results from the Hepatitis, Injecting and Gay Health Project. New Work, New Word: A conference exploring current practice and research around Lesbian and Gay Bisexual and Transgender Young People, Melbourne, October 2000.


Willis J. This site is under construction: Men’s health policy in Australia, the current state of play. Boy Zone: A Conference on Masculinity, Sex and Health, Melbourne, October 2000.
**NEW PROJECT GRANTS RECEIVED DURING 2000**

**EXTERNAL**

**Australian Research Council**

The impact of premature mortality on Aboriginal men’s constructs of risk and health

*Michael Bartos, Jon Willis with Ian Anderson (The University of Melbourne) and Susan Kippax (National Centre in HIV Social Research)*

2000: $47,000

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Dealing with homophobia

*Lynne Hillier with Lyn Harrison (Deakin University)*

2000: $19,000

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**INTERNAL**

**La Trobe University Faculty of Health Sciences Research Grant**

Knowledge, attitudes and practices concerning sex and sexual health among secondary students in Vietnam

*Anthony Smith and Doreen Rosenthal*

2000: $12,360

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HIV=Community?

The structure and meaning of HIV-positive community and HIV social identity among HIV positive gay men in two Australian cities

*Jeffrey Grierson*

2000: $10,000

---

Legal responses to claims of negligence in cervical screening.

*Anne Kavanagh with Linda Hancock (The University of Melbourne)*

2000: $10,837

---

Male sex work: Health, culture and masculinity

*Jon Willis*

2000: $10,000

---

Blood, football and risk: And examination of the implementation and significance of blood borne virus prevention policy in Australian Rules football

*Mary O’Brien*

2000: $10,000

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The policies of strategic development of HIV/AIDS policy in Australia

*Clive Aspin*

2000: $9,711

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**CONTINUING RESEARCH GRANTS**

**National Health and Medical Research Council and Population Health Division, Department of Health & Aged Care**

**Australian Study of Health and Relationships**

*Chris Rissel (Central Sydney Area Health Service) with Anthony Smith*

1999: $106,942 (NHMRC)

2000/02: $603,056 (PHD)

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Community-based health promotion in HIV/AIDS and related diseases and the National Public Health Partnership

*Gary Dowsett with David McInnes (University of Western Sydney)*

1999: $89,751

2000: $97,310

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**Victorian Health Promotion Foundation**

Impact of condom use promotion on unintended pregnancy

*Anthony Smith with Julia Shelley (Centre for the Study of Mothers’ and Children’s Health)*

2000: $64,789

2001: $67,878
**PROJECT GRANTS AWARDED DURING 2000**

### EXTERNAL

**Australian Research Council - Large Research Grant**

Male sex work as cultural practice: An examination of the structure, workforce and practices of Melbourne’s male sex work industry  
*Jon Willis and Gary Dowsett with Graham Hart (MRC Social and Public Health Sciences Unit, University of Glasgow)*

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Individualised service delivery: Theory, principles and practice  
*Anna Yeatman and Michael Fine (Macquarie University) with Gary Dowsett, and Di Gursansky (University of South Australia)*

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**National Health & Medical Research Council**

Identifying the social, personal and health needs of men living with hepatitis C  
*Sandy Gifford (Deakin University) Mary O’Brien and Anthony Smith*

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Bad blood, bad livers: An ethnographic study of South East Asian women living with hepatitis C  
*Sandy Gifford, Mary O’Brien and Maria Pallota-Chiarolli (Deakin University)*

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### INTERNAL

**La Trobe University, Faculty of Health Sciences Research Grants**

Urethral symptoms and sexually transmissible infections: understanding men’s experience of disease  
*Marian Pitts and Anthony Smith*

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Strategies of resistance to condom use among heterosexual and homosexual young adults  
*Richard de Visser*

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### FELLOWSHIPS

**Victorian Health Promotion Foundation Senior Research Fellowship**

Understanding the importance of place in health inequalities  
*Anne Kavanagh*

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**National Health & Medical Research Council Postdoctoral Fellowship**

An investigation of health risks in the sexual and social lives of young workers  
*Jo Lindsay*

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Multiple risk youth, sexual and emotional health: Supportive cultures and same sex attracted young people  
*Lynne Hillier*

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**SCHOLARSHIPS AND POSTGRADUATE SUPPORT**

Australian Research Centre in Sex, Health & Society PhD Scholarship  
The socio-cultural determinants of contraception use  
*Rebecca Bentley*

Sex work, the family and society: Structural factors inhibiting HIV interventions for commercial sex workers in urban Cambodia  
*Phil Entwistle*

Australian Postgraduate Priority Research Awards  
Queer Family Values in Australia, 1980-2000  
*Deborah Dempsey*

La Trobe University, Postgraduate Research Scholarship  
Dominant and contesting discourses in sexuality education  
*Deana Leahy*

National Health & Medical Research Council-CARG (ANCARD) Research Scholarship  
HIV-positive women, pregnancy and motherhood  
*Karalyn McDonald*

XII International AIDS Conference Student Scholarship  
*Karalyn McDonald*

Postgraduate Support Grant, Faculty of Health Sciences  
*Awarded to Rebecca Bentley, Deborah Dempsey and Deana Leahy*

**NEW SCHOLARSHIPS TO BE TAKEN UP IN 2001**

National Health & Medical Research Council Public Health Postgraduate Research Scholarship  
Cancer screening: Is there a coherent ethical framework?  
*Kate Morris*

Victorian Health Promotion Foundation  
Affirming diversity in health and sexuality education: From research to policy to practice  
*Debbie Ollis*

National Health & Medical Research Council Public Health Postgraduate Research Scholarship  
Making babies: Social, economic, cultural contexts of reproductive decisions  
*Liz McDonnell*
Research Consultancies

Centre for Sexual Health Research, University of Southampton, UK
Workshop on safe passages to adulthood: Enabling young people to improve their sexual and reproductive health
Brighton, UK, 24-28 May 2000
Gary Dowsett

Commonwealth Department of Health and Aged Care, Office of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health
Evaluation of the TriState HIV/STD project
Jon Willis, Anthony Smith and Doreen Rosenthal with Gai Wilson (Australian Institute for Primary Care, La Trobe University) and Christopher Fairley and Ian Anderson (The University of Melbourne)
The aim of this project was to review the ongoing operation of the TriState HIV/STD project, which is funded by the Commonwealth government in association with the South Australian, Western Australian and Northern Territory governments to coordinate the control of STDs and HIV in Central Australia. The evaluation both reviewed the progress of the project towards achieving its objectives in the period 1996-2000, and made recommendations on the future directions of the project.

Aboriginal Legal Rights Movement, South Australia
De Rose Hill Native Title Claim Expert Report
Jon Willis
The aim of this consultancy was to provide expert evidence to the Federal Court in relation to anthropological matters relevant to the native title claim over De Rose Hill pastoral lease in north west South Australia, ostensibly limited to men’s restricted information.

BreastScreen Victoria
Consultant Epidemiologist
Anne Kavanagh
Providing advice on data collection and coding, reporting and interpretation of data, analysis and research and evaluation activities. Also providing input to external researchers seeking advice about research projects.
Community liaison and education

The Community Liaison Unit at the Centre in 2000 consisted of Anne Mitchell, Philomena Horsley, Debbie Ollis and Jenny Walsh (maternity leave). In the course of the year they were joined by Ben Rossiter, Kirk Peterson and Mark Saunders, all of whom are supplying community liaison services to specific projects at the Centre.

Building relationships with researched communities

In 2000 the new members of the Unit were engaged in establishing links into new communities and establishing interest in, and ownership of, research projects. Kirk Peterson has been working in the community of male sex workers, Mark Saunders building links with indigenous gay men, and Ben Rossiter has been working with organisations providing services to homeless young people. Most of this Community Liaison Officer (CLO) work is carried out face to face, but a website developed for Project i overseen by Ben Rossiter has also provided a useful tool for keeping services informed of new developments.

Ongoing relationships were also maintained and developed in the HIV positive community around the ongoing HIV Futures study of the health and well-being of PLWHA in Australia and around other research proposals. Work continued in relation to young people who are same sex attracted with the Community Liaison Unit (CLU) convening a regular reference group to oversee and advise on several research projects as well as on issues of research dissemination and education for relevant professional bodies. Philomena Horsley has also been involved in developing collaborative relationships with the network of lesbian health workers with a view to developing research projects in that under-researched area.

Research dissemination

The community reports from the biennial HIV Futures study were launched in 2000. In addition to the full report, reports of the data specifically on women and people with haemophilia, and state-specific reports were produced and distributed with the help of the CLU. Research exploring the education workforce in HIV/AIDS community based organisations was completed in 2000 and the first of a series of briefsheets reporting on the findings was developed also with the help of the CLU.

One of the most exciting areas for research dissemination in 2000 came at the completion of the Living Safer Sexual Lives project exploring the sexual relationships and education needs of people with intellectual disabilities. Innovative workshops which are based on the research findings were developed by Kelley Johnson and Patsie Frawley and trialed with service providers, people with intellectual disabilities themselves, and with some of their family members. These were extremely well-received and the CLU has been negotiating for their incorporation in the regular training provided through the sector. Funding is being sought for the development of a manual to enable sector trainers to take over the work long-term and a training calendar has been developed to be run through the CLU and to enable as many people as possible to have access to this material in 2001.

The national schools project Talking sexual health, funded by the Australian National Council on AIDS, Hepatitis C and Related Diseases, has been managed by the Unit since mid-1998. In 2000 it published a blueprint for best-practice evidence based HIV/AIDS, STI and blood-borne virus prevention education in secondary schools, and completed final revisions for the publication of a professional development manual for teachers which had been trialed throughout Australia. Groundwork on the final part of the project - teaching and learning activities for the secondary classroom - has also been completed in 2000. These materials cover HIV and blood borne virus prevention but also move into more critical areas for STI prevention such as exploring sexual diversity and issues of gender and power. The CLU will be conducting a large amount of training within the school sector in 2001, using these resources as a base. A resource on combating homophobia in the school environment is also under development and will be used in training programs.
Collaboration with the Venereology Society of Victoria

In 2000 the Unit worked on a research-based training package for GPs commissioned by the Venereology Society. Dr Ron McCoy developed these materials in conjunction with the Unit in order to help doctors better meet the sexual health needs of their young clients. This training will be piloted through the Victorian Divisions of General Practice Youth Issues Group. Meanwhile a waiting room poster to encourage young people to talk to their doctors about sexual health problems has been developed by Philomena Horsley and will be available for use in 2001.

Boy Zone Conference

The Unit organised a very successful one day conference held in October 2000. This day enabled Centre researchers to pool and present their diverse findings around men’s sexual health for the first time. The conference attracted a wide range of educators, researchers, health care providers and consumers who engaged in lively debate around the issues and suggested directions for future research.

Finally, the Unit was again delighted to conduct wide-ranging education sessions both within Victoria and interstate. New collaborations for this work in 2000 were with school nurses and with the Bouverie Family Therapy Centre. We were also pleased to work again with some of our regular collaborators including Teacher Education Unions and the Victorian Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation, to disseminate our research findings.

Awards

The Graduate Research Prize, Faculty of Health Sciences, La Trobe University
Community, Attachment, Structures and the Epidemic
Jeffrey Grierson
Research Progress Award, People Living with HIV/AIDS (Victoria)
HIV Futures II
Australian Research Centre in Sex, Health and Society
Commendation, Victorian Public Health Awards
Safe Audit’, Shire of Mount Alexander
Anton Mischewski and Anthony Smith

Visiting Scholars

Dr David McInnes from the School of Cultural Inquiry, University of Western Sydney, was a Visiting Fellow at the Centre from 20 March to 28 April 2000. Dr McInnes is Co Principal Investigator with Gary Dowsett on the two-year, NHMRC-funded Community Education and Training (CEWT) project. He has been involved in HIV/AIDS research working with Gary Dowsett since early 1994 and also with the AIDS Council of NSW in various action-research projects in HIV/AIDS education, particularly in Western Sydney.
The International Program of the Centre, coordinated by the Deputy Director, Gary Dowsett, has been gathering pace during 2000. Research collaborations with Fiji and Vietnam continued, and planning for collaborative work in Bangladesh was pursued successfully during the year.

Our collaborator in Fiji, the AIDS Task Force of Fiji, has completed the research on men who have sex with men in Suva and, in a workshop facilitated by Gary Dowsett in Suva in April, analysis of that project’s findings began. It is hoped that this successful relationship between ARCSHS and ATFF will continue in 2001.

In Vietnam, Anthony Smith and Doreen Rosenthal conducted a study of knowledge, attitudes and practices concerning sex and sexual health among secondary students in Vietnam in collaboration with Dr Khuat Thu Hong from the Institute of Sociology, Vietnam National Centre for the Social Sciences and Humanities, Hanoi. This work had been funded by a Faculty of Health Sciences Research Grant and utilises a survey instrument used in 1997 in Australia to provide data on knowledge, attitudes and practices of secondary students concerning HIV/AIDS and related diseases, for use with a comparable population in Vietnam.

The visit by Gary Dowsett to Dhaka at the request of CARE Bangladesh in 1999 has led to an invitation to become the research and training partner for the Bandhu Social Welfare Society, a non-governmental organisation undertaking HIV prevention work with male sex workers in that country. The eighteen-month program of work will commence in early 2001.

July saw the departure of Murray Couch, Research Fellow in International Health since 1998. During his time at the Centre, Murray was instrumental in establishing two research projects (in Fiji and Vietnam) and in assisting Gary Dowsett in further developing the successful Short Course in Research Design in Qualitative Social Inquiry, which this year attracted participants from around Australia and from the India and Cambodia. Murray also developed a number of ‘portable’ modules of the short course to teach in South Australia. The Centre wishes Murray well in his return to private consultancy work.

The short course was also presented in New York City at the invitation of the HIV Center in Clinical and Behavioral Studies, based at Columbia University and the State Psychiatric Institute of New York. The participants were from the doctoral and postdoctoral program at the HIV Center, working on a range of US-based and international studies of HIV/AIDS.

A consultancy was undertaken by Gary Dowsett for Centre for Sexual Health Research, University of Southampton, UK to assist in a Workshop on Safe Passages to Adulthood: Enabling young people to improve their sexual and reproductive health, Brighton, UK, 24-28 May 2000. This project is funded by the UK Department for International Aid.

Gary Dowsett also continues to sit as an international member on the Scientific Review Committee of the Ontario HIV Treatments Network in Toronto, Canada, and accepted the position of Chair, International Scientific Advisory Committee of the 6th International AIDS in Asia and the Pacific Conference to be held in Melbourne in October 2001.

Finally, Gary was invited to present the keynote address at a three-day seminar on Sexual Desire: A Dialogue between the Mind and the Body, held at Columbia University, New York. Gary also presented a paper in the opening panel of a four-day interdisciplinary and international workshop on Sexuality and Social Change: An Agenda for Research and Action in the 21st Century, held in Rio de Janeiro, and funded by the Ford Foundation as part of its re-assessment of the global sexual health and sexuality research.

In December, the Centre was the recipient of the AusAID funded Indonesia/Australia Specialised Training Program (Phase II) tender with assistance from the Key Centre for Women’s Health in Society. The thirteen-week STD/HIV/AIDS surveillance and social research short course will begin in early 2001.

**INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP**

American Psychological Association [Foreign Affiliate] (MP)

Associate Fellow and Chartered Psychologist with Practising Certificate, British Psychological Society (MP)

Health Psychology Division, British Psychological Society [Full Member with Practising Certificate] (MP)

International Scientific Committee, Track D, XII International Conference on AIDS, Durban, February 2000 (GD)

International Scientific Advisory Committee, 6th International Conference on AIDS in Asia and the Pacific [Chair] (GD)

Scientific Advisory Committee of the Ontario HIV Treatments Network, Toronto, Canada (GD)

Organising Committee, Sexconf 2001: Belief Systems and the Place of Desire, 3rd Conference of the International Association for the Study of Sex, Culture and Society (GD)

Zimbabwe Psychological Society (MP)
The Centre received two visits from researchers at the NPI-Center for Community Health, UCLA, who are involved in the collaborative Project i research program. During these visits discussions were held about the design and implementation of the Project i research, and possible future research collaborations between the two Centres.
Seminars, forums and workshops

**ARCSHS SEMINAR SERIES**

An update on silent STDs and new forms of contraception: The work of Family Planning Victoria
*Kathy McNamee, Family Planning Victoria, 8 March.*

Transmission of hepatitis C in health care settings
*Susan Watts, Social Research Centre, American University in Cairo, 22 March.*

Discourses in tension: Educators and researchers collaborating
*David McInnes, School of Communication and Media, University of Western Sydney, 5 April.*

Benefits and disadvantages of structured diaries in studies of condom use
*Richard de Visser, Australian Research Centre in Sex, Health and Society, 19 April.*

Finding the fault lines, getting a life: Same-Sex Attracted Youth (SSAY), resistance and change
*Lynne Hillier, Australian Research Centre in Sex, Health and Society, 3 May.*

The challenges of drug use epidemiology: The case of heroin use and harm
*Paul Dietze, Turning Point Alcohol and Drug Centre, 17 May.*

In the middle of all the change: Reworking romantic biographies in contexts of socioeconomic disadvantage
*Deb Warr, School of Public Health, La Trobe University, 31 May.*

Surgery, self and the performance of gender
*Lenore Manderson, Key Centre for Women’s Health in Society, The University of Melbourne, 14 June.*

Condoms are for whitefellas: Barriers to Pitjantjatjara men’s use of safe sex technologies
*Jon Willis, Australian Research Centre in Sex, Health and Society, 9 August.*

Private dilemmas public constraints: Women’s use of the morning after pill
*Louise Keogh, School of Public Health, La Trobe University, 23 August.*

Interwhere? Reflections on the internet, gender and sexuality
*Philomena Horsley, Australian Research Centre in Sex, Health and Society, 6 September.*

Lesbian health: Issues in practice and research
*Ruth McNair, Department of General Practice and Public Health, The University of Melbourne, 20 September.*

Regulating pleasure - Reflections on government efforts to mediate complex social practices
*Margaret Hamilton, Turning Point Alcohol and Drug Centre, 18 October.*

Cervical cancer and human papilloma virus (HPV): What are the issues?
*Marian Pitts, Australian Research Centre in Sex, Health and Society, 1 November.*

Of pilots, precision and practices: Progress towards the national prevalence study of sexual health, behaviours and attitudes
*Anthony Smith, Australian Research Centre in Sex, Health and Society, 15 November.*

**COLLABORATIVE SEMINARS AND WORKSHOPS**

Community briefing on the findings reported in HIV Futures II: The health and well-being of people with HIV/AIDS in Australia
*Jeffrey Grierson, Sydney, April 2000, Melbourne, April 2000.*

Community briefing on the findings reported in A Complex Uncertainty: Women on health, hope and living with HIV in Australia
*Karalyn McDonald, Melbourne, June 2000.*

Rethinking place in relation to sexual health
Anne Kavanagh, MRC Social and Public Health Sciences Unit, University of Glasgow, September 2000
Institute of Public Health, University of Salford, September 2000

Social epidemiology: definitions, causal models and some examples from research on place and health
Anne Kavanagh, Department of Population Health, University of Newcastle. November 2000

Briefing on the HIV Futures II
Regional Reports, Jeffrey Grierson, AFAO, Sydney, November 2000.
Queensland Regional Report, Jeffrey Grierson, QuAC, Brisbane, November 2000.

Project i quantitative interview training
In conjunction with Andrea Witkin and Scott Comulada of the NPI-Centre for Community Health at UCLA, the Melbourne Project i team conducted a total of 50 hours of training with nine research interviewers. The training covered interviewing techniques, computer questionnaire administration, ethics, referral and debriefing, August 2000.

Project i community information forums
Broadmeadows Youth Central - Shelley Mallett, Belinda Mawby. Judy Edwards, April 2000
Whitehorse Civic Centre - Shelley Mallett, Belinda Mawby. Judy Edwards, April 2000
Yarra Community Youth Centre - Shelley Mallett, Belinda Mawby. April 2000
City of Greater Dandenong Springvale Office - Shelley Mallett, Belinda Mawby, Judy Edwards, April 2000
West Sunshine Community Centre - Shelley Mallett, Belinda Mawby. Judy Edwards, April 2000
Educational Activities

Teaching and supervision of PhD candidates expanded during the year and the quality of the students’ work was recognised in a number of awards, prizes and scholarships. Dr Jeffrey Grierson, Research Fellow and former student at the Centre was awarded the La Trobe University Graduate Research Prize (Masters by Research/PhD), for completing the most outstanding thesis in the Faculty of Health Sciences in 1999. Rebecca Bentley, Deborah Dempsey and Deana Leahy were all awarded a Postgraduate Support Grant from the Faculty of Health Sciences. During the year the students participated in fortnightly seminars at the Centre in which they presented their work and where staff members presented aspects of their work concentrating on methodological aspects.

The Centre welcomed four new PhD students: Rebecca Bentley, Phil Entwistle, Salli Trathen, Jane Tomnay and one new Masters student: Sue Dyson. Three staff members, Liz McDonnell, Kate Morris and Debbie Ollis were successful in obtaining scholarships to pursue their PhDs in 2001. Richard de Visser submitted his PhD this year, and gave a paper at the 3rd European Conference on the Methods and Results of Behavioural Research into AIDS, in Amsterdam in February. Karalyn McDonald won a scholarship to attend the International AIDS Conference in Durban to present her research on women’s experiences of living with HIV. Supervision of PhD projects increased from 10 to 14.

POSTGRADUATE STUDENTS

PhD Students

ARBES, Vicki
Understanding sexual coercion among young people: Peer group dynamics
(Supervisor: D Rosenthal)

BENTLEY, Rebecca
The socio-cultural determinants of contraception use
(Supervisors: A Kavanagh & A Smith)

COOK, Roger
Men, masculinity and infertility
(Supervisor: D Rosenthal)

DEMPSEY, Deborah
Queer family values in Australia, 1980 - 2000
(Supervisors: G Dowsett & M O’Brien & L Harrison, Deakin University)

Entwisle, Phil
Sex work, the family and society: Structural factors inhibiting HIV interventions for commercial sex workers in urban Cambodia
(Supervisor: J Willis)

HAY, Marg
Sexuality education in primary schools
(Supervisor: D Rosenthal)

HORN, Greg
Phenomenology and the negotiation of sexual interactions
(Supervisor: A Smith)

LEAHY, Deana
Dominant and contesting discourses in sexuality education
(Supervisors: G Dowsett, M O’Brien & L Harrison, Deakin University)

Mansel Lees, Virginia
Plotting the paths to a lesbian identity
(Supervisor: L Hillier)

McDonald, Karalyn
HIV-positive women, pregnancy and motherhood
(Supervisors: D Rosenthal & M Kirkman)

Mischewski, Anton
Seminal articulations: A genealogy of men’s seminal fluid
(Supervisors: G Dowsett & A Smith)

TOMNAY, Jane
Public health outcomes of management of HIV positive ‘knowing and reckless’ contact tracing
(Supervisor: A Kavanagh)

Trathen, Salli
Life-lines: Narrative representations of (HIV) positive women
(Supervisor: S Mallett)

Masters Students

Dyson, Sue
Traditional health education and long-term health outcomes for lesbians
(Supervisor: L Hillier)

Koerner, Jane
(Supervisor: G Dowsett)

Other Students - PhD

Bradley, Eleanor
Recovery from early stage gynaecological cancer
(Staffordshire University, England. Supervisor: M Pitts)

Emde, Sina
Gender and the garment industry in Fiji
(Australian National University. Supervisor: M Jolly. Advisor: S Mallett)
SHORT COURSES

Research design in qualitative social inquiry

Gary Dowsett (Convenor)

The Centre’s teaching activities included the short course ‘Research Design in Qualitative Social Inquiry’, which attracted international participants from India and Cambodia to Melbourne, and was also taught postgraduate students, postdoctoral fellows and research staff at the HIV Center in Clinical and Behavioral Studies, Columbia University New York in October.

OCCASIONAL LECTURES


Dowsett GW. Masculinity and sexuality: Oversexed, overdetermined or over it. The HIV Social, Behavioural and Epidemiological Studies Unit, University of Toronto, Toronto, Canada, January 2000.

Hillier L. Writing themselves in. Good Shepherd & Generation Q. Forum on issues for same sex attracted young people, June 2000.

Hillier L. I’m wasting away on unrequited love. Women’s Health in the South East, Lesbian Health Forum, May 2000.


Hillier L. Mental health issues for SSAY. General Practice Divisions, March 2000.

Hillier L. Gender. Sexuality, Health and Social Research, Australian Research Centre in Sex, Health & Society, August 2000.

Kavanagh A. Evidence and causation. Social Epidemiology, Deakin University, Melbourne, May 2000.

Mallett S. Writing PhDs. La Trobe University Women's Studies Postgraduate Seminar Program, November 2000.

Mischewski A. The place of risk in HIV/AIDS, STIs and HCV. Sociology and Social Policy, Swinburne University of Technology, March 2000.

Mischewski A. Social theory in social policy and health promotion. Sociology and Social Policy, Swinburne University of Technology, March 2000.

O’Brien ML. Governmentality and alcohol and drug use. Drugs and Justice, Department of Criminology, The University of Melbourne, April 2000.


Pitts MK. The role of ARCSHS in Hepatitis. Adding value: CTARC Hepatitis workshop, Coogee, October 2000.

Willis J. Living with HIV: Current issues. ASHM Short Course in Hepatitis C and HIV Medicine, Melbourne, October 2000.

Willis J. Masculinity theory. Contemporary Feminist Thought, School of Philosophy, La Trobe University, Bundoora, May 2000.


SEMINARS PRESENTED

Dowsett GW. Masculinity and sexuality: Overdetermined, oversexual or over it. Community Seminar to the HIV Social Behavioural and Epidemiological Studies Unit, University of Toronto, Ontario, Canada, January 2000.

Hillier L. Organising data. Post graduate seminar at ARCSHS, April 2000.


O’Brien ML. Theory in a thesis. ARCSHS Postgraduate students, La Trobe University, April 2000.
I AM SICK OF SELFISH, LAZY JUNKIES WHO
GIVE ALL THE REST OF US RESPECTABLE DRUG USERS A BAD NAME.
EVERY MONDAY TO ALL THE DIRTY JUNKIES WITH
WHY I IGNORED
STICKED UP
A 3 YEAR OLD MENTALITY, WHO DON'T
MIND USING THIS AREA TO SHOOT UP,
BUT CAN'T SEEM TO BE ABLE TO CLEAN
UP AFTER THEMSELVES. IF FITS, FIT WRAPPERS
SWABS, SPOONS, ETC. THE PEOPLE WHO OWN
THE BUILDING HAVE BEEN VERY PATIENT, AND
TOLERANT TOWARDS PEOPLE USING DRUGS HERE.
A SUBTLE HINT, DON'T YOU THINK? ALL THEY ARE
ASKING IS FOR PEOPLE TO KEEP THIS AREA CLEAN,
AND SAFE, FOR THEMSELVES, AND OTHER PEOPLE WHO
COME HERE TO SHOOT UP. IF PEOPLE LEAVE DRUG
PANHANDLE HERE, IT BECOMES A HEROIN HOT SPOT.
THE OWNERS GET SICK AND TIRED OF CLEANING UP
AFTER COLD BROWN ADULTS, WHO BEHAVE LIKE
CHILDREN AND DROP EVERYTHING AT THEIR ARSE,
AND ASSUME SOMEONE ELSE WILL CLEAN UP AFTER
THEM. AT THIS STAGE, THEY START CALLING THE
COPS SO IF YOU DON'T WANT COPS HASSLING
YOU, WHEN YOU COME FOR A TASTE, CLEAN UP
AND THEY WON'T HAVE A REASON TO COME
HERE IT REALLY DOESN'T TAKE MUCH
EFFORT, PROBABLY ABOUT 5% OF THE
TIME IT TAKES TO PULL UP A TASTE.
CAN YOU IMAGINE THIS PLACE IF NO-ONE
PICKED UP ALL THE HEP-CONTAMINATED
RUBBISH? YOU COULDN'T SIT BOWED, WITHOUT
GETTING A FIT STUCK IN YOUR ARSE.
SO IF YOU WANT A CLEAN, SAFE
COP-FREE WHACK-SHACK, PLEASE
HERE.

CLEAN UP!!!

- AN ANONYMOUS HEROIN USER.
CONFERENCES, SEMINARS AND WORKSHOPS ATTENDED

Adding Value: Hepatitis Research Workshop, ANCAHRD Clinical Trials & Research Committee, Coogee, November 2000 (M Pitts, J Willis, M O’Brien)

Australian Federation of AIDS Organisations Committee, May & November 2000 (M Hurley)

Australasian Epidemiological Association, Canberra, November 2000 (A Kavanagh)

Boyzone: A Conference on Masculinity, Sex and Health, La Trobe University, Melbourne, October 2000 (R de Visser, J Grierson, L Hillier, P Horsley, A Smith, J Willis)

Development of a regional five year STD control plan for Central Australia Workshop, Alice Springs, December 2000 (J Willis)

XIII International AIDS Conference, Durban, July 2000 (J Grierson, K McDonald, G Dowsett)

XXVII International Congress of Psychology, Stockholm, July 2000 (J Grierson)

HIV and Related Diseases Social Research Conference, Sydney, May 2000 (R de Visser, K McDonald, J Grierson, E McDonnell)

Homeless Outreach: The promise and the limitations, Council to Homeless Persons Forum, October 2000 (B Rossiter, S Mallett)

Mental Health and HIV Forum, Adelaide, November 2000 (J Grierson)

Reducing Social Inequalities in Health, Copenhagen, September 2000 (A Kavanagh)

Social Epidemiology Course, Deakin University, May 2000 (A Kavanagh)

Social Origins of Health: From the Planetary to the Molecular, Canberra, July 2000 (A Kavanagh)

The Australasian Society for HIV Medicine 12th Annual Conference, Melbourne, October 2000 (J Grierson, K McDonald)

Third European Conference on the Methods and Results of Social and Behavioural Research on AIDS, Amsterdam, February 2000 (R de Visser, M Bartos)

Victorian Homelessness Strategy Community Consultation, Melbourne City Mission, September 2000 (S Mallett, B Rossiter)

Victorian Public Health Research and Education Council (VPHREC) Illicit Drug Workshop, Melbourne September 2000 (M O’Brien)

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

COMMONWEALTH/NATIONAL

Australasian Epidemiological Association Council (AK)
Australasian Society for HIV Medicine 12th Annual Conference Organising Committee (GD)
Australian National Council on HIV/AIDS, Hepatitis C and Related Diseases Clinical Trials and Research Advisory Committee (MP, GD to August 2000)
Australian National Council on HIV/AIDS, Hepatitis C and Related Diseases Indigenous Australian Sexual Health Committee (JW)


Commonwealth Department of Aged Care and Health, Population Health Division, Sexual Health Reference Group (GD)

Hepatitis C and Related Diseases Research Working Group [Chair] (JW)

Monitoring & Evaluation Working Group of the National Advisory Committee, BreastScreen Australia (AK)

National Association of People Living with HIV/AIDS Representative Committee [Victorian State Representative] (JW)

National Training Agenda for HIV/AIDS Educators of Gay and Homosexually Active Men, Advisory Committee (GD)

NHMRC Grantnet Users Reference Group (GD)

Public Health Association of Australia, National Executive (AS)

Quality Assurance Working Group of the National Advisory Committee, National Cervical Cancer Screening Program (AK)

Sexual Health Reference Group, Commonwealth Department of Aged Care and Health, Population Health Division (GD)

STATE

Chlamydia control strategy working party, Department of Human Services (AS)

Gonorrhea working party, Department of Human Services (AS)

HIV/AIDS Strategy Development Subcommittee, Ministerial Advisory Committee on AIDS, Hepatitis C and Related Diseases (IG)

Ministerial Advisory Committee on HIV/AIDS, Hepatitis C and Related Diseases (MP)

Other Staff Activities

STATE

Chlamydia control strategy working party, Department of Human Services (AS)

Gonorrhea working party, Department of Human Services (AS)

HIV/AIDS Strategy Development Subcommittee, Ministerial Advisory Committee on AIDS, Hepatitis C and Related Diseases (IG)

Ministerial Advisory Committee on HIV/AIDS, Hepatitis C and Related Diseases (MP)
Ministerial Advisory Committee on HIV/AIDS, Hepatitis C and Related Diseases Hepatitis C Subcommittee (MP)
Ministerial Advisory Committee on Gay and Lesbian Health (AM [Deputy Chair], GD, PH)
PLWHA Vic Board of Directors (JW)
Public Health Association of Australia, Victorian Branch Committee [President] (AS)
Research and Ethics Committee, Victorian AIDS Council/ Gay Men's Health Centre (AS, JG [Chair])
Research and Evaluation Committee, BreastScreen Victoria (AK)
Victorian AIDS Council/ Gay Men's Health Centre Board (JW)
Victorian Public Health Research and Education Council [Director] (AS)

OTHER
Alfred Hospital Access Information Centre Reference Group (JW)
Centre for Cultural Research into Risk, Charles Sturt University, Advisory Board (AS)
Centre for Youth Drug Studies (CYDS) Research Advisory Committee (JL)
Research and Ethics Committee, VAC/GMHC (AS)
Sydney Star Observer (MH)
Youth Projects Committee of Management (SM)

LA TROBE UNIVERSITY
Human Ethics Committee (AS)

LTU FACULTY OF HEALTH SCIENCES
Faculty Board (MP)
Faculty Curriculum Committee (JG, AK)
Faculty Development Committee (MP)
Faculty Research and Higher Education (Research) Committee (GD)
Faculty Human Ethics Committee (JW)
School of Public Health Research Committee (LH)

ASSESSORS/REVIEWERS

RESEARCH GRANT APPLICATIONS
Anti-Cancer Council of Victoria (AK)
ANZ Trustees Grant Assessment Panel (LH)
Australian Research Council (GD, LH)
ESRC and Wellcome Trust grant proposals (MP)

Faculty of Health Sciences Research Grants (GD)
National Breast Cancer Foundation (AK)
NHS R&D London (MP)
NHMRC (AK, AS, JW, LH, MOB)
Ontario HIV Treatments Network, Canada (GD)
Queensland Cancer Council (AK)

JOURNALS
AIDS Care (MP, JW)
Australian and New Zealand Journal of Public Health (AK, AS)
Australian Journal of Primary Health - Interchange (RdeV)
BMJ (AK)
British Journal of Health Psychology (MP)
British Journal of Medical Psychology (MP)
Cancer Causes and Control (AK)
Critical Inquiries (GD)
Feminism and Psychology (MP, LH)
Health Education Research: Theory and Practice (MP)
Health Promotion International (LH)
Journal of Adolescence (LH)
Journal of Community and Applied Social Psychology (MP, LH)
Journal of Culture, Health and Sexuality (GD, LH)
Journal of Health Psychology (MP)
Journal of Medical Screening (AK)
Journal of Research on Adolescence (AS)
Journal of Women and Health (LH)
Medical Anthropology (JW)
Medical Journal of Australia, AIDS (AS)
Psychology, Health and Medicine (MP)
Qualitative Research Journal (JL)
Sex Role (LH)
Sexualities (GD, LH)
Social Science and Medicine (MP)
Venereology (AS, JW, LH)
MEMBERSHIP OF EDITORIAL BOARDS

Journal of Adolescence [Guest Editors - special edition] (DR, LH)
Australasian Epidemiologist [Co-editor] (AK)
British Journal of Learning Disabilities [Subeditor Reviews] (KJ)
Critical Inquiries (GD)
Journal of Culture, Health and Sexuality [Senior Reviews Editor] (GD)
Sex Education (GD)
Social Aspects of AIDS (GD)
Venereology (AS)

THESIS EXAMINERS

Marian Pitts
PhD thesis, University of Central Lancashire, United Kingdom
PhD thesis, University of Coventry, United Kingdom

Anne Kavanagh
PhD thesis, University of Queensland

Lynne Hillier
PhD thesis, La Trobe University

Michael Hurley
PhD thesis, University of Technology, Sydney
PhD thesis, University of Queensland
We are grateful to the Victorian Health Promotion Foundation (VicHealth), the Commonwealth Department of Health & Aged Care, La Trobe University and the Faculty of Health Sciences for their continued financial support during 2000.

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**TOTAL INCOME** 2,627,399
Teachers lag in hepatitis C issues

IT’S A SENSITIVE ISSUE, BUT ONE THAT MUST BE ADDRESSED. The survey team noted that the readiness and willingness of teachers to participate in this area is critical. It believes teachers have an important role in helping to prevent this disease because they have access to a large population of young people.

Trevor Robbins The Age 12 June 2000

Odd one out

A current film has highlighted a disturbing aspect of bullying in schools - the aggression directed at students coming to terms with their sexuality. The problem of bullying in schools frequently makes headlines, but the issue of sexuality-related bullying has always been pushed quietly to one side. According to a national report on sexuality, health and well-being of ‘same sex attracted’ young people by La Trobe University’s Australian Research Centre in Sex, Health and Society, nearly half of their 750 respondents had been verbally abused.

Helen Westerman, Melbourne Weekly 22-28 March 2000

Sex talk

Young people view their parents as trustworthy sources of information and want to discuss sex education issues more often with them, La Trobe University researchers say. Anne Mitchell from the University’s Research Centre in Sex Health and Society, says Australia’s youth want to talk about puberty, sexually transmitted diseases and unplanned pregnancies.

The Australian 10 April 2000

Worst days of their lives

SCHOOL IS USUALLY A NIGHTMARE FOR GAY AND LESBIAN PUPILS “Just about every recent study indicates the most traumatic and severe prejudice encountered in society happens in schools” says Rodney Croome who has been employed by the Human Rights Commission to set up the Outlink network. “Young people have to be taught that homophobia, like racism is uncool” Rodney Croome. Researcher Dr Lynne Hillier of La Trobe University found “Most gay and lesbian kids are too terrified to speak out”.

Greg Callaghan, The Australian 10 April 2000

The p word

Futures II found a high use of psychiatric medication in the positive population. More than 25% of PLWHA had used anti-depressant medication in the last six months, and a similar proportion had taken medication for anxiety. Grierson argues that this is also linked to poverty.

Talkabout July/August 2000