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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, including the Commonwealth Department of Health and 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, gender studies, sexualities, consumer advocacy and health policy.

Research Staff

Marian Pitts, BA(Hons), PhD, AFBPS
Professor/Director

Gary Dowsett, BA, DipEd, PhD
Assoc Prof/Deputy Director

Doreen Rosenthal BA(Hons) PhD FASSA MAPsS*
Professor/Research Associate

Anthony Smith, BSc(Hons), PhD
Assoc Prof/Principal Research Fellow

Research Fellows

Anne Kavanagh, BMBS, PhD, FAFPHM
Senior Research Fellow

Michael Hurley, BA(Hons), DipEd, MLitt
Senior Research Fellow

Research Officers

Paul Agius, BA, GradDipAppSoc*

Richard de Visser, BSc, GradDipHlthPsych, PhD

Sue Dyson, GradDipWomensStuds*

Colleen Hall, BA, MA

Francine Hanley, BA(Hons)*

Anna Madden BSc(Hons), GradDipEpidBiostats*

Angela Melder, BAppSc, MPH

Kate Morris, BA(Hons)*

Paul Myers, BA(Hons)*

Kirk Peterson, BA, MA*

Mark Saunders

David Wain, BA, DipEd*

Deb Warr, BA, MA*

Postdoctoral Fellows

Lynne Hillier, TPTC, TLTC, BBSc(Hons), PhD

Jo Lindsay, BA(Hons), PhD*
Community Liaison & Education Officers
Anne Mitchell, BA, MA, DipEd
Philomena Horsley, BA, DipEd, GradDipCrWrtg&Edtg, GradDipWomensStuds
Mary O’Dowd BA, MEd, PhD†
Ben Rossiter, BA(Hons), PhD*
Jenny Walsh, BA, DipTeach, GradDipAdultEd†

Project Officer
Debbie Ollis, BEd, MA*

Executive Officer
Diane Shannon, BA, GradDipOfficeAdmin

Administrative Officers
Georgi Cahill, BA
Emma Hopton, BA, MA†
Melissa Kavenagh, BA†
Melina Ramp, BA*
Jenny Sykes*

Computing Officer
Craig Vale, AssocDipAppElec*

Research Assistants
Judy Edwards, BAppSci(Hons)
Jen Johnson*
Karalyn McDonald, BA, MA*
Peta Malins, BA*
Sebastian Misson, BSc, GradDipAppPsych*
Carolyn Nickson BA†
Bin Tong MBBS, MPH†
*part-time, †part-year

Seminar Series Coordinator
Richard de Visser

Postgraduate Coordinator
Michael Hurley

Honorary Research Associate
Professor Sandy Gifford, BA, MA, MPH, PhD
School of Nutrition and Public Health, Deakin 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.

Professor Stephen Duckett [Chair]
Dean, Faculty of Health Sciences, La Trobe University

Associate Professor Ian Anderson
VicHealth Koori Research & Community Development Unit, The University of Melbourne

Mr Alan Bratherton
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/Dr John Carnie
Chief, Health Intelligence & Disease Control, Department of Human Services

Professor Susan Kippax
Director, National Centre in HIV Social Research

Professor David de Kretser (to April)
Director, Institute of Reproduction & Development, Monash University

Mr 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 Partnership

Mr Peter Canavan
President, National Association of People Living with HIV/AIDS

Ms Colleen Murphy/Ms Jan Watson
Student Welfare Support Branch, Department of School Education

Ms Jacqui Randall
Research Project Officer, Victorian Health Promotion Foundation

Professor Chris Pratt (to August)
Head, School of Psychological Sciences, La Trobe University
This report surveys a challenging and successful year for ARCSHS in 2001. ARCSHS continued to expand its research program, staffing and income through success in securing competitive tenders, consultancies and grants. The research generated by the Centre’s work, often with marginalised communities, continues to be widely disseminated via formal and broadcast reports, the internet, national print and radio media, community consultations, workshops, and national and international conference presentations.

In staff moves in 2001, ARCSHS farewelled: Liz McDonnell, Mellissa Kavenagh, Jenny Walsh and Jen Johnson. We welcomed David Voin, Anna Madden, Francine Hanley, Emma Hapton, Paul Myers, Paul Agius, Mary O’Dowd, Bin Tong, Sue Dyson, Karen Adams and Caz Nickson. In addition we welcomed the birth of two babies to Centre staff.

Highlights for Centre staff included Anthony Smith awarding of a promotion to Level D, Principal Research Fellow and Associate Professor, in recognition of his contributions to ARCSHS, the University and the community. PhD candidate Rebecca Bentley was awarded a scholarship to spend a semester at the University of California, Berkeley. Michael Hurley received the 2001 Research Progress Award from People Living with HIV/AIDS Victoria. The quality of Centre research was recognised for a third time when we received the Public Health Award from the Department of Human Services for research innovation for the Living Safer Sexual Lives project. The inaugural Jonathon Mann Memorial Scholarship from the AIDS Trust of Australia was awarded to Susan Paxton and David Stephens who will begin postdoctoral work at ARCSHS in February 2002.

The third triennial VicHealth review of ARCSHS provided an opportunity to reflect on the Centre’s enormous achievements since its establishment in 1993, and over the past three years in particular. The review panel acknowledged the complexity and difficulties associated with the cooperative, community-focused, multi-disciplinary research ARCSHS undertakes and the continued work with marginalised and difficult to reach communities. Special mention was made of the role of the Community Liaison and Education Unit (CLEU) in ensuring the Centre’s research is informed, relevant and has practical outcomes.

Research commenced in 2001 on projects as diverse as ‘Understanding the importance of place in health inequalities’, an ‘Investigation of an ongoing outbreak of gonorrhoea in Victoria amongst men who have sex with men’ and ‘Young people’s knowledge of, attitudes to and beliefs about infertility’. Major grants included ARC Discovery grant to Jo Lindsay and myself, in collaboration with other colleagues at La Trobe, to investigate issues of privacy and disclosure for lesbian families. Anne Kavanagh was awarded a three-year VicHealth grant to research environmental and individual predictors of physical activity and diet. The project will look at why socioeconomic groups differ in their physical activity participation and food purchasing behaviours, by estimating the contributions of environmental, interpersonal and intra-personal factors.

The CLEU’s Anne Mitchell was awarded a 2001 ARC Strategic Partnerships with Industry - Research and Training Scheme grant for ‘A School, Family, and Rural Community Partnership to Increase Mainstream Support for Young People with Same Sex Attraction’. This will be carried out in the Loddon Campaspe area with Amaryll Perlesz and Kerry Proctor of the Bouverie Centre, La Trobe University.

The Indigenous component of our research program continued to grow in 2001 with a new grant awarded to Dr Jon Willis to study research gaps in Indigenous sexual health. Mark Saunders and Karen Adams add greatly to the strength of our work with Indigenous communities. In July, Jon Willis organised a Workshop called ‘Mapping Indigenous Risk: How can research support strategies on the ground?’, sponsored by the Clinical Trials and Research Committee of ANCAHRD and the Office of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health (Commonwealth Department of Health and Aged Care). It was attended by about 80 researchers and other health professionals, more than half of whom were Indigenous.

Activities in schools continued with the Talking Sexual Health professional development resource training, and piloting of a survey of HIV and Hepatitis-related knowledge, attitudes and practices among students in years 10 and 12 of Australian secondary schools. This is a follow up to surveys conducted in 1992 and 1997.

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 or workshops and training materials have been developed and will be offered in 2002.

Surveying commenced on HIV Futures III, a national survey of people living with HIV/AIDS. An exciting development in this program is its expansion to New Zealand, in collaboration with the New Zealand AIDS Foundation (NZAF). It will provide the first clear
picture to service providers, health professionals and community groups of the lived experience of HIV/AIDS in New Zealand.

Research consultancies during the year included ‘Sexual diversity support network for schools’, ‘Sexual health in gay, lesbian, bisexual, transsexual and intersex communities’, the ‘Health and well-being of lesbians’, and a review and analysis of available data on suicide of young people with same sex attraction.

A number of major conferences were held in Melbourne this year: the 6th International Congress on AIDS in Asia and the Pacific, the 3rd Conference of the International Association for Studies in Sex, Culture and Society and the annual conference of the Australasian Society for HIV Medicine. ARCSHS staff were a significant presence in oral and poster presentations, as panel members and session chairs, and as organising committee members.

Other international conference presentations included Richard de Visser’s paper to the 15th Annual Conference of the European Health Psychology Society, in Scotland, Gary Dowsett’s invited paper to the Third Conference of the International Association for Studies in Sex, Culture and Society, in Melbourne. Jeffrey Grierson gave two papers at the AIDS Impact Conference, Brighton UK in July.

Gary Dowsett was invited to participate in a World Health Organisation meeting ‘Accelerating the adolescent sexual and reproductive health and development agenda’ in Geneva in November and Michael Hurley and Gary Dowsett were invited participants in Tri-City Think Tank on Gay Men’s Health, San Francisco, August.

International visiting scholars to ARCSHS in 2001 included Associate Professor Rannveig Traustadottir, of the University of Iceland. Dr Traustadottir has worked collaboratively on research projects with Centre staff Lynne Hillier and Kelley Johnson, particularly in the area of women with an intellectual disability. Fabio Saini, Senior Program and Development Manager at International Family Health, London, visited the Centre in February. He is involved in sexual and reproductive health programs and also in HIV/AIDS work in a number of developing countries. Professor Gil Herdt, Director of the Human Sexuality Studies Program at the State University of San Francisco gave a seminar and met with staff in October.

In January we welcomed fourteen senior Indonesian public health officials to the Centre to participate in an intensive thirteen-week program of training in ‘STD/HIV/AIDS Surveillance and Social Research’. AusAID under its Indonesia-Australia Specialised Training Program II (IASTP/II) funded this program.

The course was convened by the Deputy Director and held in conjunction with the Key Centre for Women’s Health, The University of Melbourne, and supported by staff from both centres. This provided us with the opportunity to strengthen our regional ties and the contribution that social research can make to the challenges of HIV/AIDS in the region.

The Indonesian short course project staff included Linda Bennett, Merrilyn Graham, Joe Thomas and Holly Buchanan-Aruwafu.

Gary Dowsett was invited to teach a short course in research design in qualitative social inquiry at UCLA in June.

This year also saw the establishment of a more formal ARCSHS Training Program which, throughout 2001, provided training to Victorian service providers, families and service users in the intellectual disability field, training to classroom teachers of sexuality programs and whole school communities in addressing issues of homophobia. These programs, run by the CLEU, aim to extend the reach and the practical applicability of research completed at the Centre.

ARCSHS staff continue to serve on the committees of community-based organisations including the Victorian AIDS Council, Youth Projects and People Living with HIV/AIDS (Victoria) in addition to national organisations (e.g. BreastScreen Australia) and Ministerial advisory committees.

My warmest thanks and congratulations go to all those who supported, advised, collaborated and worked to achieve these successful outcomes for 2001.

Marian Pitts
UNDERSTANDING SEXUAL HEALTH

Australian Study of Health and Relationships
Anthony Smith, Richard de Visser
Collaborators – Chris Rissel (Central Sydney Area Health Service), Andrew Grulich (National Centre in HIV Epidemiology and Clinical Research), Juliet Richters (National Centre in HIV Social Research).

This project involves a survey of a representative national population-based sample of 20,000 Australian adults. It will document the prevalence of sexual behaviours and injecting drug use among Australian adults, identify the frequency and extent of STI and HIV risk practices, and the socio-demographic and behavioural characteristics associated with those 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 and interactions of sexual encounters in Australia.

Funding NHMRC, DHAC, VicHealth, Central Sydney Area Health Service, Qld Health, NSW Health, WA Health
Status In progress

Gay community responses to recent sero-conversions
Michael Hurley, Jeffrey Grierson

To investigate in what ways there are emerging moral formations within gay community and HIV sector responses to HIV infection and the implications of these discourses for new infections amongst those who see themselves as morally immune.

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

HIV Futures: In depth qualitative components
Jeffrey Grierson, Mary O’Brien, Karalyn McDonald

This component of the HIV Futures study examines emerging issues in depth. 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.

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

Return to work
Jeffrey Grierson

The study examines psychological, social and systemic factors that enhance and inhibit this process of returning to work for PLWHA. It also identifies barriers and strategies in career change and re-establishment experiences and practices.

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

HIV Futures: Indigenous cohort
Jon Willis, Jeffrey Grierson, Mark Saunders, Michael Hurley, Karalyn McDonald

This study is based on data collected in HIV Futures II. 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

HIV and Hepatitis C co-infection
Mary O’Brien, Jeffrey Grierson, Sebastian Misson

This study is based on data collected in HIV Futures II. Approximately 17% of the PLWHA in Futures II also reported being co-infected with Hepatitis C.

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

Indigenous Futures: Sex, drugs and medications
Jon Willis, Mark Saunders
Collaborator – AFAO Indigenous Project Steering Committee

This study aims to explore the risk environment in which Indigenous positive people live through a series of qualitative interviews in major centres of the Indigenous epidemic.

Funding CARG Collaborating Centre grant, Commonwealth Department of Health & Aged Care
Status In progress
‘The opportunity afforded to work with staff at ARCSHS is one that any researcher in the field of sexual and reproductive health would grasp with alacrity. I was fortunate to be awarded a Rio Tinto Distinguished Visiting Fellowship to do this, in 1998/9, and it allowed us to turn what had previously been a set of intermittent contacts between ARCSHS and the MRC’s Social and Public Health Sciences Unit at the University of Glasgow into an established collegiate relationship. From this we were able to develop a successful proposal for original research on male sex workers, and the collaboration has now become a firm basis on which to base future joint projects.’

PROF GRAHAM HART
ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR
MEDICAL RESEARCH COUNCIL
PUBLIC & SOCIAL HEALTH SERVICES UNIT
UNIVERSITY OF GLASGOW
New Zealand Futures

Jeffrey Grierson
Collaborators – New Zealand AIDS Foundation

A version of HIV Futures was conducted in New Zealand concurrently with the 2001 HIV Futures Australia survey. It will provide a clear picture to service providers, health professional and community groups of the lived experience of HIV in New Zealand.

Funding New Zealand Ministry of Health, the Australasian Society for HIV Medicine
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, Anthony Smith, Anton Mischewski

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 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
Status Complete

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

Jon Willis, Mark Saunders
Collaborators – Ian Anderson (VicHealth Koori Research & Community Development Unit, The University of Melbourne), Sue 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

Indigenous gay men and the experience of homophobia and sexual violence

Jon Willis, Mark Saunders

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 homophobic or sexual violence.

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

Into the Net: SSAY information, relationships and intimacy in cyberspace

Lynne Hillier, Chyloe Kurdas

The 1998 national project with same sex attracted youth (SSAY) documented the extent to which young people are denied information and support about their sexuality from the usual trusted sources (parents and schools) and the risks they take when seeking such support from friends and peers. In this project we aimed to explore the ways these young people use the Internet and how it addresses the issues they face in the real world. We were particularly interested in relationships (sexual and other) that are established on the ‘Net’ and their difference from, and contribution to, real life. We found that the Internet provided an important unregulated social space within which young people of both sexes could more freely explore sexuality issues. 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.

Funding CARG Collaborating Centre grant, Commonwealth Department of Health & Aged Care
Status Complete
Investigation of an ongoing outbreak of gonorrhoea in Victoria amongst men who have sex with men

Anthony Smith, Deb Warr, Anton Mischewski

This investigation aims to provide information to assist state government and community based organisations to reduce the impact of gonorrhoea amongst men who have sex with men. It is looking at the mode of transmission, the risk of HIV transmission associated with gonorrhoea in men who have sex with men.

Funding: Department of Human Services
Status: Stage 1 Complete

People with intellectual disabilities: Living safer sexual lives

Lynne Hillier, Kelley Johnson
Collaborator – Lyn Harrison (Deakin University)

This was a two-stage project. In stage one we gathered the stories of 25 women and men with an intellectual disability. In stage two these stories were used as the basis for workshops which were develop for service providers, carers and men and women with an intellectual disability. The aim of this project is to give a voice to this previously silent group. The plain language stories will be published as eight booklets for use separately by people with intellectual disabilities, families and workers and in workshops.

Funding: Victorian Health Promotion Foundation
Status: Complete

‘Positive Health’

Jeffrey Grierson, Mel Irenyi, Karalyn McDonald
Collaborators – Garrett Prestage (NCHECR), Angela Song (NCHSR), Kane Race (NCHSR), Andrew Grulich (NCHSR), Patrick Rawstorne (NCHSR), Sue Kippax (NCHSR)

This collaborative project is a cohort study of HIV positive people with particular emphasis on the social aspects of treatments, side effects, dosing and drug interactions.

Funding: CARG Collaborating Centre grant, Commonwealth Department of Health & Aged Care
Status: Ongoing - Data collection annually

Project i: Homeless young people in Melbourne and Los Angeles

Doreen Rosenthal, Shelley Mallett, Gary Dowsett, Jeffrey Grierson, Ben Rossiter, Colleen Hall, Paul Myers, Jude Edwards, Jen Johnson
Collaborators – Mary-Jane Rotheram-Borus, Norweeta Milburn, Andrea Witkin and George Ayala (Neuropsychiatric Institute, Center for Community Health, UCLA).

Project i is a five year comparative study of homeless young people (ages 12-20) in Melbourne and Los Angeles which commenced in February 2000. 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 project is using both quantitative and qualitative methods to undertake a longitudinal study of newly homeless young people. The second component of the research involves quantitative and qualitative interviews with service providers. We are researching the funding, design and delivery of programs to homeless young people, as well as documenting service providers’ views about homelessness and homeless service provision. Local, state and federal government policies that impact on homeless young people will be examined in the fourth and fifth years through a critical analysis of policy documents and key informant interviews. The Project i research program aims to contribute to both policy debates relating to homeless young people and related service design and development.

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

Resilience: long term safe sex practices amongst gay men

Michael Hurley

This qualitative project replaces risk analysis with resilience analysis. Its focus is on the relations between gayness and HIV positivity. The design has three axes: the development of innovative methodologies; close attention to the nature and implications of existing risk-based and ethnographic research on how gayness and HIV positivity are lived in Australia, and the devising of appropriate research instruments.

Funding: CARG Collaborating Centre grant, Commonwealth Department of Health & Aged Care
Status: In progress
Secondary students and sexual health

Anthony Smith, Marian Pitts, Anne Mitchell, Mary O’Dowd, Paul Agius.

A survey of HIV and Hepatitis-related knowledge, attitudes and practices among students in years 10 and 12 of Australian secondary schools, this is a follow up to surveys conducted in 1992 and 1997.

Funding Commonwealth Department of Health and 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

The major aims are to provide information about the social context of risk-taking practices by working-class people in their 20s, to examine barriers to healthy practices, and to identify more effective and appropriate public health interventions.

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

‘Sex in the city’

Jeffrey Grierson, Anthony Smith, Marian Pitts, Mary O’Brien, Sebastian Misson

This was a survey of 5,000 adults attending Melbourne Sexpo 2001. It was a repeat of one conducted at Melbourne Sexpo99, when 2,500 surveys were completed. Information on the demographic and sexual practices of participants from these surveys will be compared with the national survey, ‘Australian Study of Health and Relationships’. This study will provide information on opportunities for the promotion of safe sex and awareness of sexual health issues.

Funding Australian Research Centre in Sex, Health & Society
Status In progress

Sex work and the accumulation of risk: Male sex-workers and occupational stress

Jon Willis, Kirk Peterson
Collaborators – Graham Hart (MRC Social and Public Health Sciences Unit, University of Glasgow) and Karen Sait (RhED – formerly PCV - Inner South Community Health Service)

This study examines some of the mental health risks and consequences of male sex work, particularly industry-specific forms of occupational stress, sectoral (street vs off-street) differences in exposure to mental health risk for male workers in the sex industry, and the influence of masculinity and of sex-work culture on exposure to mental health risk.

Funding CARG Collaborating Centre Grant, La Trobe University Faculty of Health Sciences Faculty Starter Grant
Status In progress

Sex work and the accumulation of risk: Male sex work as cultural practice - an examination of the structure, workforce and practices of Melbourne’s male sex work industry

Jon Willis, Kirk Peterson, Gary Dowsett
Collaborators – Graham Hart (MRC Social and Public Health Sciences Unit, University of Glasgow) and Karen Sait (RhED – formerly PCV - Inner South Community Health Service)

Through international comparison with UK field sites, the project will allow the development of significant new theory on male sex work as cultural practice, and in particular the articulation of sex work practices with broader male sexual cultures and practices of masculinity.

Funding Australian Research Council, Large grant
Status In progress

Supportive cultures and the sexual and emotional health of same sex attracted youth (SSAY)

Lynne Hillier

Research shows that the hostile environments in which same sex attracted youth live, leave them at a far greater risk of contracting sexually transmissible infections, abusing drugs, depression and suicide. Despite these negative statistics, many of these young people creatively use existing spaces to subvert agendas and construct safe and affirming environment for themselves. This research aims to explore and document how these spaces came into being, their dynamics and the ways in which they support these young people.

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

Understanding the importance of place in health inequalities

Anne Kavanagh, Bin Tong

The project aims to investigate the effects of place on health in three inter-related projects. Aggregate data will be used to explore how socio-economic environments impact on a range of health outcomes including self-rated health, diabetes, cardiovascular disease and death in a large Victorian cohort study. A second study will document the socio-material aspects (e.g. shops, educational facilities, access to healthy foods etc) of socially contrasting areas in Geelong. Finally, quantitative and qualitative methods will be used to define the social, cultural and material aspects of spaces relevant to sexual practice in Geelong.

Funding Victorian Health Promotion Foundation
Status In progress
Urethral symptoms and STIs
Marian Pitts, Anthony Smith, Anna Madden, Anton Mischewski

This study investigates men attending Melbourne Sexual Health Clinic seeking treatment for a suspected STI. It is a qualitative study, which seeks to understand how men experience and understand the variety of symptoms associated with an STI. How these understandings and constructions may impede or encourage treatment seeking and how the receipt of a diagnosis of an STI impacts on men’s experience of their bodies.

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

Evaluation of VACCHO well person’s health check
Jon Willis, Mark Saunders
Collaborators – Bev Greet, Marc Williams (Victorian Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation)

To assist VACCHO in the analysis of exit survey from their pilot well person’s health check project, and produce community reports.

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

Understanding the new social and behavioural contexts of unprotected sex among homosexually active men in Melbourne
Jeffrey Grierson, Anthony Smith, Gary Dowsett, David Wain

This project aims to map the social, sexual and informational networks of homosexually active men in Melbourne to guide HIV prevention education initiatives.

Funding Department of Human Services
Status Commenced late 2001

False positive recall in the BreastScreen Victoria program – time trends and determinants
Anne Kavanagh
Collaborators – Dorota Gertig (The University of Melbourne), Alison Armos (BreastScreen Victoria), Jill Evans (Monash BreastScreen) and Damien Jolley (Deakin University)

This study is examining 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.

Funding BreastScreen Victoria
Status In progress

Identifying the social, personal and health needs of women living with Hepatitis C
Mary O’Brien
Collaborators – Sandy Gifford and Gabriel Bammer (Deakin University)

This survey of 462 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
Identifying the social, personal and health needs of men living with Hepatitis C
Mary O’Brien, Anthony Smith
Collaborator – Sandy Gifford (Deakin University)
The overall aim of this study is to collect baseline data on the specific social and health concerns of men infected with HCV with a specific focus on current and past IDUs and to identify gender specific needs for medical and social support services.
Funding NHMRC Project Grant to Deakin University
Status In progress

Reader experience and accuracy of breast cancer screening
Anne Kavanagh
Collaborators – Michael Krieser and Jennifer Cawson (St Vincent’s BreastScreen), Alison Amos (BreastScreen Victoria)
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

OPTIMISING SEXUAL HEALTH OUTCOMES
Clinical spaces project
Michael Hurley
Collaborators – Australasian Society for HIV Medicine
This project will investigate the changing role of doctors post Protease especially in relation to treatments prescription, education and counselling; shifts in expectations of doctors amongst HIV positive people; and the impact of these changes on community-medical relations understood as a clinical space.
Funding CARG Collaborating Centre grant, Commonwealth Department of Health & Aged Care
Status Commenced late 2001

Community based health promotion in HIV/AIDS and related diseases and National Public Health Partnership (CEWT)
Gary Dowsett, Liz McDonnell, Sebastian Misson
Collaborator – David McInnes (University of Western Sydney)
This two-year project undertook the first national workforce study of community-based educators in HIV/AIDS Hepatitis C and related diseases. A series of information brochures have been completed for dissemination to the sector.
Funding National Health & Medical Research Council
Status Complete

Factors influencing delay in treatment seeking for a suspected sexually transmitted infection
Marian Pitts, Anthony Smith, Anna Madden
Collaborator – Kit Fairley (Melbourne Sexual Health Centre)
This study examines delay in treatment seeking for an STI. It is based at Melbourne Sexual Health Centre and examines barriers and triggers to the consultation. It will examine the roles of symptoms and symptom perception specifically in gonorrhoea and chlamydia, infections which differ in the degree and kinds of symptoms (if any) associated with them. This work will address these gaps in our current knowledge of treatment seeking behaviour with regard to STIs and allow a fuller understanding of the experience of STIs. Such understanding can be used to inform programmatic responses to recent increases, particularly in the rates of chlamydia and gonorrhoea in Victoria.
Funding Department of Human Services
Status In progress

Legal responses to claims of negligence in cervical screening
Anne Kavanagh, Kate Morris
Collaborator – Linda Hancock (The University of Melbourne)
This project documents national and international legal responses to claims of negligence in cervical screening and identifies the components of the program that leave clinicians vulnerable to claims of negligence.
Funding La Trobe University, Faculty of Health Sciences Research Grant
Status Complete

A website to provide sexual and reproductive health education for pre-teens
Doreen Rosenthal
This website project aims to help children aged 10 to 12 understand the major stages of human development, especially those that relate to sexual maturation and reproduction. It is intended to be a resource that is readily accessible and appealing to young children.
Funding Bertarelli Foundation
Status In progress
Using breast density to improve the accuracy of mammographic screening
Anne Kavanagh
Collaborators – 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)

Use of hormone replacement therapy increases the amount of fibroglandular tissue in the breast. This study scans over 14,000 mammograms to examine the effect of high breast density on mammographic sensitivity and specificity, and examines the extent to which 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 In progress

Collaborative research, policy and service delivery as aspects of cultures of care
Michael Hurley

This project explores the policy implications of conceiving service delivery as a partnership activity between service providers, affected communities and primary carers in the context of public health policies supporting ‘self management’ amongst the chronically ill.

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

Health care and risk in the juvenile justice system
Mary O’Brien, Peta Malins

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

‘As Chairperson, of the Consumers’ Health Forum of Australia, I regularly point to the contribution that the information provided in the Futures studies makes to consumer-driven health and support service planning.’

LOU McCALLUM
DIRECTOR
McCALLUM & YOUNG CONSULTANTS
How research methods shape public health knowledge and practice
Anne Kavanagh, Angela Melder
Collaborators – Jeanne Daly (Palliative Care Unit), Damien Jolley (Deakin University)
This project explores 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.
Funding Victorian Health Promotion Foundation
Status In progress

Impact of condom use promotion on unintended pregnancy
Anthony Smith, Carolyn Nickson
Collaborator – 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 there has been a shift away from highly effective methods of contraception 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 whether there has been an increase in the number of women using dual methods (condoms and OCP) for contraception and disease prevention.
Funding Victorian Health Promotion Foundation
Status In progress

Mapping Indigenous risk: Workshop outcomes report
Jon Willis
Collaborator – Bernie Pearce (Office of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health, Department of Health and Aged Care)
The Mapping Indigenous Risk workshop was held at Coogee in July. Sessions of the workshop - a successful bringing together of the Indigenous sexual and injecting health sector, researchers, and policy and funding decision makers – were recorded in notes and tapes. These will be analysed and developed in community reports and policy recommendations.
Funding CARG Collaborating Centre Grant
Status In progress

PSI-PEP (Psycho-Social Impact of Post-Exposure Prophylaxis)
Jeffrey Grierson, Peta Malins
Collaborators – National Centre in HIV Epidemiology and Clinical Research, the National Centre in HIV Social Research, The Alfred Hospital.
This qualitative project investigates the psycho-social and behavioural antecedents and consequences of non-occupational post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) treatment for potential HIV infection. The project examines the circumstances surrounding exposure, the motivations for PEP treatment and the experience of PEP.
Funding CARG Collaborating Centre grant, Commonwealth Department of Health & Aged Care
Status Ongoing

Research gaps in Indigenous sexual health: Establishing evidence based best practice for social and behavioural interventions
Jon Willis
Collaborator – Ian Anderson (VicHealth Koori Health Research & Community Development Unit, The University of Melbourne)
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
Status In progress

Dealing with homophobia in schools - teachers structural & personal barriers
Lynne Hillier
Collaborators – Lyn Harrison & Diana Langmead (Deakin University)
This project aimed to identify the barriers, both personal and structural, to teachers addressing homophobia in their schools. In three schools, six staff with very different roles were interviewed about their school’s responses to homophobia. Teachers were from the principal class, student welfare, maths and science, english, health and physical education. The data is being analysed and papers are in progress.
Funding Australian Research Council (Deakin University)
Status Complete
The Hon Christine Campbell MP, with Janice Slattery (Reference group member) at the launch of the ‘Living Safer Sexual Lives’ report.
References

REFEREED JOURNALS


BOOK CHAPTERS


NON-REFEREED JOURNALS


Harrison L & Hillier L (2001). Sexual health and well-being issues for same sex attracted young people in rural areas. Health Education Australia, 1(3), 14-16.


REPORTS


Dowsett GW, Misson S, McDonnell E & McNess D (2001). The training needs of the community-based HIV/Hepatitis C education workforce. CEWT Broadsheet #5, Australian Research Centre in Sex, Health and Society, La Trobe University.


REFEREEED JOURNALS, BOOKS, BOOK CHAPERS & NON-REFEREED JOURNALS - ACCEPTED FOR PUBLICATION

devisserr & Grierson J. Use of alternative therapies by people living with HIV/AIDS in Australia. AIDS Care.
Hillier L. ‘It’s a catch 22’: Same sex attracted young people on coming out to parents. In SS Feldman & DA Rosenthal (Eds), Parent-adolescent communication on sexual issues. (New Directions on Child Development - Series)
Kirkman M. What’s the plot? Applying narrative theory to research in psychology. Australian Psychologist.
O’Brien M, Gifford S & Malins P. Female users and living with Hep C. WHACK, VIVAIDS magazine.

‘Futures is one of the most borrowed items in our library. It goes out to positive people, students, health practitioners, physios - a wide range of people in the public health field. We also know that it’s used in a lot of peer-presentation work as we always get favourable comments back from our borrowers.’

SUZANNE O’CALLAGHAN, CO-ORDINATOR, ACCESS INFORMATION CENTRE, ALFRED HOSPITAL

Jon Willis, Mark Saunders and participants in the Mapping Indigenous Risk Workshop, run by Jon Willis

Photo courtesy Aboriginal & Islander Health Worker Journal
Conference Presentations

INTERNATIONAL

de Visser R. The Australian Study of Health and Relationships: Methodological issues in the national sex survey. 2nd Bilateral Research Conference of Ateneo de Manila University and La Trobe University, Melbourne, Australia, April.


Dowsett GW. ‘Johnnie comes marching...where?’ Australian gay men, HIV/AIDS, masculinity, sex and health, invited paper to ‘Belief Systems and the Place of Desire’: 3rd Conference of the International Association for Studies in Sex, Culture and Society, Melbourne, October.

Dowsett GW. Invited discussant on ‘Masculinities, Sexualities and Desire’, ‘Belief Systems and the Place of Desire’: 3rd Conference of the International Association for Studies in Sex, Culture and Society, Melbourne, October.


Grierson J. Whose community is it anyway? The role of community identification in health management and service utilisation, AIDS Impact Conference, Brighton UK, July.

Grierson J & Misson S. Disrupted communities: Being HIV positive in a clinical landscape 6th International Congress on AIDS in Asia and the Pacific (ICAAP), October 5-10, Melbourne.

Grierson J & Misson S. Correlates of well-being among Australian PLWHA 6th International Congress on AIDS in Asia and the Pacific (ICAAP), October 5-10, Melbourne.

Hurley M. poster exhibition, Combination antiviral therapy and the lives of people with HIV and AIDS in Australia 1995-2001, 6th International Congress on AIDS in Asia and the Pacific (ICAAP), Melbourne, October.

Leahy D & O’Brien ML. Teachers making sense of harm minimisation The 2nd International Conference on Drugs and Young People: Exploring the Bigger Picture, Melbourne, April.

Lindsay J. ‘Partying hard’, ‘Partying sometimes’ or ‘Shopping’: Socialising and alcohol and drug taking by young workers. The 2nd International Conference on Drugs and Young People: Exploring the Bigger Picture, Melbourne, April.

McDonald K. ‘I always wanted to have children’: Motherhood and HIV-positive women in Australia, 6th International Congress on AIDS in Asia and the Pacific (ICAAP), Melbourne, October.

Mischewski A. Semenographies and seminal desires: gay men and a culture of semen, 3rd Conference of the International Association for the Study of Sex, Culture and Society, Melbourne, October.


Willis J & Peterson K. The fine line between pleasure and paid: The sexual culture of male sex workers in Melbourne, Australia. 6th International Congress on AIDS in Asia and the Pacific (ICAAP), Melbourne, October.

Willis J & Peterson K. Masculinity as a business proposition: Melbourne male sex workers and the economics of gender identity. Poster exhibition at 6th International Congress on AIDS in Asia and the Pacific (ICAAP), Melbourne, October.

Willis J. Condoms are for Whitemelians: Barriers to Pitjantjatjara men’s use of safe sex technologies. 3rd Conference of the International Association for the Study of Sex, Culture and Society, Melbourne, October.

AUSTRALIAN


Grierson J & Misson S. Tell me about it: Disclosure issues for HIV positive people. 13th Annual Conference of the Australasian Society for HIV Medicine, Melbourne, October.

Grierson J & Misson S. Social correlates of depression among HIV positive. Australians 13th Annual Conference of the Australasian Society for HIV Medicine, Melbourne, October.

Hillier L. Being young and same sex attracted in rural areas. (Keynote speaker) Country AIDS Network 2nd Futures Conference. Bendigo, June.

Hillier L. Invisible, ignored and frustrated: regendering same sex attracted young women’s experiences of sex, love and homophobia. (Keynote speaker) Homophobia get over it Conference, Brisbane, June.

Hillier L. What do we know about same sex attracted young women? (Keynote speaker) Affirming Diversity Symposium, Northern Sydney Health, August.

Hillier L. Invisible, ignored and frustrated: issues for same sex attracted young women. Lesbian Health Research Forum. Royal Women’s Hospital, September.

Hillier L, Johnson K & Harrison L. Sex, secrecy and desire: People with an intellectual disability talk about their lives. 7th Trans Tasman Conference in Community Psychology, Victoria University, Melbourne, April.


Hurley M. Rethinking the clinic: Doctors, people with HIV and cultures of care. 13th Annual Conference of the Australasian Society for HIV Medicine, Melbourne, October.

Kavanagh AM. How do we know what we know? The doing of public health research. Plenary Speaker. 33rd Public Health Association of Australia Annual Conference, Sydney, September.


Leahy D & Harrison L. Reproducing and regulating gendered sexual subjectivities within the secondary health education curriculum. Annual Australian Association for Research in Education Conference, Fremantle, December.

Lindsay J. Partying hard: Understanding health risks in the social lives of young workers. 33rd Public Health Association of Australia Annual Conference, Sydney, September.

Lindsay J & Caulley D. A job well done: Markers of rigorous qualitative research. Association for Qualitative Research Conference, Melbourne, July.


McDonald K & Grierson J. Women and antiretroviral treatment: Continued gender differences in uptake and attitude. 13th Annual Conference of the Australasian Society for HIV Medicine, Melbourne, October.


Mitchell A. Beyond the birds and the bees: Talking to your children about sex. (Keynote address) 5th National Parenting Conference, Melbourne, November 2001.


O'Brien ML, Misson S & Grierson J. The complexity of living with HIV and Hepatitis C. 13th Annual Conference of the Australasian Society for HIV Medicine, Melbourne, October.

Pitts MK. invited plenary, What can we learn from the numbers? 13th Annual Conference of the Australasian Society for HIV Medicine, Melbourne, October.


Prestage G. Rawstorne P, Grierson J, Song A, Kippax S. & Grulich A. Use of health services among PLHWA. 13th Annual Conference of the Australasian Society for HIV Medicine, Melbourne, October.


Willis J, Grierson J & Hurley M. Living by numbers: HIV, objectivity and clinical reductionism. Making a difference: Promoting health in people with long term illness. Faculty Research Conference, Faculty of Health Sciences, La Trobe University, Melbourne, December.


Willis J. Social science at ASHM. Rapporteurs report at 13th Annual Conference of the Australasian Society for HIV Medicine, Melbourne, October.


Willis J & Peterson K. The fine line between pleasure and paid: The sexual culture of male sex workers in Melbourne. 2nd Futures: Victorian Rural Health Forum, Bendigo, June.
NEW PROJECT GRANTS RECEIVED DURING 2001

EXTERNAL

Commonwealth Department of Health & Aged Care
2002 Secondary Students HIV/AIDS and Sexual Health Survey
Anthony Smith, Marian Pitts, Anne Mitchell
2001: $200,000
2002: $145,050

Department of Human Services
Factors influencing delay in treatment seeking for a suspected sexually transmitted infection
Marian Pitts, Anthony Smith
2001: $49,454

Understanding the new social and behavioural contexts of unprotected sex among homosexually active men in Melbourne
Jeffrey Grierson, Anthony Smith, Gary Dowsett, Marian Pitts
2001: $90,000

Bertarelli Foundation, Geneva
A website providing sexual and reproductive health education for pre-teens
Doreen Rosenthal
2001: $229,000

Young peoples attitudes to infertility
Marian Pitts
2001: $46,662

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, Gary Dowsett with Graham Hart (MRC Social and Public Health Sciences Unit, University of Glasgow)
2001: $70,000
2002: $30,000

INTERNAL

La Trobe University, Faculty of Health Sciences Research Grants
Urethral symptoms and sexually transmissible infections: understanding men’s experience of disease.
Marian Pitts, Anthony Smith
2001: $9,442

Strategies of resistance to condom use among heterosexual and homosexual young adults.
Richard de Visser
2001: $6,714

CONTINUING RESEARCH GRANTS

Commonwealth Department of Health & Aged Care
CARG Collaborating Centre Grant
Marian Pitts
1999-2003: $3,650,000

National prevalence study of sexual health behaviours and attitudes
Anthony Smith
2000-2002: $611,590

National Schools Project/Talking Sexual Health
Anne Mitchell
1999-2001: $245,333

Victorian Health Promotion Foundation
Centre of excellence grant
Marian Pitts
1999-2001: $1,700,000
National Institute of Mental Health, USA
Adolescent trajectories for homelessness and risk for HIV
Doreen Rosenthal and Mary-Jane Rotheram-Borus
(Neuro pyschiatric Institute, UCLA Center for Community Health) with Nan Corby, Martha Lee, Naihua Duan Borus (Neuro pyschiatric Institute, UCLA Centre for Community Health), Gary Dowsett, Jeffrey Grierson and Lynne Hillier
2000-2004: $1,417,004

Victoria n 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

How do research methods shape public health?
Anne Kavanagh, Jeanne Daly (Palliative Care Unit), and Damien Jolley (Deakin University)
2000-2002: $193,701

PROJECT GRANTS AWARDED DURING 2001
EXTERNAL

Victorian Health Promotion Foundation
Environmental and individual predictors of physical activity and diet
Anne Kavanagh, Gavin Turrell (Queensland University of Technology), David Crawford, Damien Jolley (Deakin University)
2002-2004: $413,118

Commonwealth Department of Health and Aged Care
A whole school approach to responding to homophobia.
Anne Mitchell
2002: $64,847

Australian Research Council - Discovery Grant
The invisible postmodern family: Investigating the interface between the private and public worlds of lesbian families
Amaryll Perlesz (Bouverie Centre), Jo Lindsay, Marian Pitts, Ruth McNair (University of Melbourne), David De Vaus (Sociology)
2002-2003: $70,000

AIDS Trust of Australia
Jonathan Mann Memorial Scholarship
2002-2003: $72,000

BreastScreen Victoria
Marcia O’Keefe Scholarship
2002-2004: $45,000

INTERNAL

La Trobe University Postdoctoral Fellowship
Islam and reproductive rights in South-East Asia
Linda Bennett
2002-2003: $118,000
La Trobe University, Faculty of Health Sciences Research Grants
What proportion of private termination of pregnancy services are not recorded at the Health Insurance Commission?
Carolyn Nickson, Julia Shelley, Anthony Smith
$8,310

The impact of pre- and post-test counselling on subsequent health outcomes and well being of people living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA) in Victoria
Jon Willis, Marian Pitts
$9,860

FELLOWSHIPS
Victorian Health Promotion Foundation Senior Research Fellowship
Understanding the importance of place in health inequalities
Anne Kavanagh
2001-2006: $825,000

National Health & Medical Research Council Postdoctoral Fellowship
An investigation of health risks in the sexual and social lives of young workers
Jo Lindsay
1998-2001: $203,874
Multiple risk youth, sexual and emotional health: Supportive cultures and same sex attracted young people
Lynne Hillier
1999-2003: $218,211

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

NHMRC CARG Research Scholarship
HIV-positive women, pregnancy and motherhood
Karalyn McDonald

NHMRC 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

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

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DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
Investigation of an ongoing outbreak of gonorrhoea in Victoria amongst men who have sex with men
Anthony Smith
This investigation aims to provide information to assist state government and community-based organisations to reduce the impact of gonorrhoea amongst men who have sex with men. It is looking at the mode of transmission, the risk of HIV transmission associated with gonorrhoea in men who have sex with men.

Development of research papers for the women’s health and wellbeing strategy. Population group - lesbians.
Marian Pitts, Ruth McNair (The University of Melbourne), Anne Mitchell, Philomena Horsley
This paper was commissioned to form the basis of consultation towards the development of a Women’s Health and Wellbeing Strategy. Lesbians were identified as one of five population groups requiring targeted consultation.

Gay and lesbian youth suicide data project
Marian Pitts, Gary Dowsett, Anthony Smith, Lynne Hillier, Anne Mitchell, Philomena Horsley
This project involves a review and analysis of available data on suicide and self-harming behaviour amongst young people with same sex attraction. Based on these findings, recommendations will be made for strategies to improve data collection and develop more comprehensive databases.

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES, MINISTERIAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON GAY, LESBIAN, BISEXUAL, TRANSSEXUAL AND INTERSEX HEALTH
Sexual health in Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transsexual and Intersex communities
Marian Pitts, Anne Mitchell, Gary Dowsett, Lynne Hillier, Philomena Horsley
A literature search was conducted into the issue and a position paper developed to inform the consultative process for a state strategy on gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and intersex health.

VICHEALTH
Sexual diversity support network for schools
Anne Mitchell with Family Planning Victoria
Development of a website, publications and professional development programs to support schools across Victoria in addressing issues of sexual diversity and homophobia.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND AGED CARE
Provision of additional training sessions for the implementation of Talking Sexual Health
Anne Mitchell, Debbie Ollis
Funding was provided to conduct additional train-the-trainer sessions in regional areas of Australia to facilitate the uptake of the Talking Sexual Health national sexuality resource for secondary schools.

AUSAID INDONESIA AUSTRALIA SPECIALISED TRAINING PROJECT PHASE II
STD/HIV/AIDS surveillance and social research in Australia short course
Gary Dowsett
An intensive thirteen-week program of training for fourteen senior Indonesian public health officials. Teaching was provided by staff from ARCSHS and from the Key Centre for Women’s Health in Society at The University of Melbourne.

BANDHU SOCIAL WELFARE SOCIETY
Gary Dowsett
The Bandhu Social Welfare Society undertakes HIV/AIDS prevention outreach programs with men who have sex with other men in Bangladesh. With funding from Family Health International, ARCSHS staff members have been assisting Bandhu with research training, data analysis and program planning in an eighteen-month consultancy, which began in 2001.

COMMONWEALTH DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND AGED CARE, OFFICE OF ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER HEALTH
Evaluation of the Tri-State 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)
This project reviewed the ongoing operation of the Tri-State 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 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 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 Unit

The Community Liaison and Education Unit at the Centre in 2001 consisted of Anne Mitchell, Philomena Horsley, Debbie Ollis and Jenny Walsh. Ben Rossiter, Kirk Peterson and Mark Saunders combine membership of the unit with work as researchers on specific projects. Both Kirk (male sex workers) and Mark (Indigenous gay men) work in difficult-to-reach communities and have had remarkable success in developing informed participation of community members in research projects. Both of them are talented community development workers who can ‘think outside the envelope’ and provide meeting points with potential research participants at which work is done in the context of some ‘fun’ socialising. In Kirk’s consultation sessions with male sex workers the men commented on the value of getting together and exchanging stories and experiences, something for which no other opportunity is provided. Mark recently took his reference group off on a weekend retreat which led to a deepening of the relationships and trust necessary for successful research in this sensitive area.

The work of Ben Rossiter in Project i this year has presented many challenges. This study parallels a Los Angeles study with homeless young people, and recruiting similar numbers of interviewees has proved difficult with the differing service arrangements between Melbourne and LA. Ben has focussed his attention on building relationships with service providers both through development of the website and face to face contact. Three brochures published through the year have given accessible updates on work in progress, including research outcomes so far, particularly to service providers. These publications have also begun to capture the interest of policy makers who are seeking regular updates from the project. In 2001 Ben organised a research update on a number of our projects for an audience of refuge staff. So successful was this event that he has been encouraged to assist in the development of an ongoing network for this sector. Anne Mitchell, Philomena Horsley and Jenny Walsh all worked through the year across a number of projects developing and maintaining research links and disseminating Centre research in accessible and innovative ways.

A focus for 2001 was the HIV positive community around the data collection for HIV Futures 3 study of the health and well-being of PLWHA in Australia. This national study, which is repeated biennially, requires the cooperation of organisations in all states and territories and the maintenance of a reference group which supports and directs the research in a long-term way. Community liaison is an essential component of maintaining participants for this study each time.

Work continued in relation to young people who are same sex attracted, with the Unit 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. This year the completion of research on same sex attracted young people’s (SSAY) use of the internet was a highlight and the Unit assisted in organising a launch in which young people themselves played a major role. For this group too a booklet, Safety in Our Schools: Strategies for responding to homophobia was produced with the involvement of a number of staff from the Unit. The booklet uses research outcomes from several Centre projects to provide a rationale for schools to address the issues within a paradigm of student safety rather than from a moral perspective. A series of practical strategies are suggested to support this approach and training to build capacity in this area is also available through the Unit.

Also launched in 2001, this time by the Minister for Community Services, was the Living Safer Sexual Lives research report about the sexual experiences and support needs of people with intellectual disabilities. The Unit worked on the development of this community report, the structure of the launch and the media strategy for promoting the outcomes. Promotion of the educational programs for service providers, families and service users which arose from the research have been part of the work of the Unit this year. Similarly we have been working to have this research used to redirect human relationships policy and training for the sector, and have been successful in having two of the researchers included on a Department of Human Services committee which is reviewing these policies.

Work with health care providers continues to be a major interest of the Unit. This is directed towards consulting this sector about projects which should be carried out, improving their access to Centre research and working on incorporating this research into more formal professional training programs. With this in mind this year we have strengthened our links with Family Planning Victoria and had some input into their professional training programs. The two organisations also have a collaborative VicHealth grant for developing a sustainable network to support people working with schools around issues of same sex attraction and homophobia. Philomena Horsley has been involved in developing and teaching new curriculum for Monash University medical students in the inaugural ‘Health, Knowledge and Society’ Unit. This unit uses examples from the sexual health area to demonstrate social models of health.
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 national policy for best-practice evidence based sexuality education in secondary schools, and a professional development manual for teachers. This year the final element of the kit, a set of teaching and learning activities for the secondary classroom, was published and an extensive program of training began. Unit staff have traveled across the country training trainers to provide sustainable support for secondary teachers to use the materials well. This program of training will continue into 2002.

This year saw the establishment of a more formal ARCSHS Training Program which, throughout 2001, provided training to Victorian service providers, families and service users in the intellectual disability field, training to classroom teachers of sexuality programs and whole school communities in addressing issues of homophobia. These programs aim to extend the reach and the practical applicability of research completed at the Centre and are conducted on a cost recovery basis. Such programs have been well received and we look forward to further development in this area in 2002.

Associate Professor Rannveig Traustadottir, of the University of Iceland, was an Honorary Visitor to ARCSHS from the period February 8 to March 15. Dr Traustadottir has worked collaboratively on research projects with Centre staff Lynne Hillier and Kelley Johnson, particularly in the area of women with an intellectual disability. She also has research interests in the area of lesbian and gay men’s health and the health of immigrant minorities.

Fabio Saini, Senior Program and Development Manager at International Family Health, London, visited the Centre on Friday 23 February. He is involved in sexual and reproductive health programs and also in HIV/AIDS work in a number of developing countries, particularly working with various religious agencies.

Awards

- Victorian Public Health Award for Innovation in Research, Living safer sexual lives
  Lynne Hillier, Kelley Johnson with Lyn Harrison (Deakin University)

- Graduate Research Prize, Faculty of Health Sciences, La Trobe University, Heterosexual condom use: a diary based study
  Richard de Visser

- National Indigenous HIV/AIDS Award
  Jon Willis

- Research Progress Award, People Living with HIV/AIDS (Victoria)
  Michael Hurley

The Hon Bronwyn Pike MP, with Dr Kelley Johnson, Dr Lynne Hillier and Janice Slattery (Reference group member) at the presentation of the Victorian Public Health Award for Innovation in Research to the Living Safer Sexual Lives project

Visiting Scholars

Associate Professor Rannveig Traustadottir, of the University of Iceland, was an Honorary Visitor to ARCSHS from the period February 8 to March 15. Dr Traustadottir has worked collaboratively on research projects with Centre staff Lynne Hillier and Kelley Johnson, particularly in the area of women with an intellectual disability. She also has research interests in the area of lesbian and gay men’s health and the health of immigrant minorities.

Fabio Saini, Senior Program and Development Manager at International Family Health, London, visited the Centre on Friday 23 February. He is involved in sexual and reproductive health programs and also in HIV/AIDS work in a number of developing countries, particularly working with various religious agencies.
International activities of the Centre continued to expand in 2001 with new initiatives in training, collaborative research and representation at international forums.

In January we welcomed fourteen senior Indonesian public health officials to the Centre to participate in an intensive thirteen-week program of training in ‘STD/HIV/AIDS Surveillance and Social Research’. This was funded by AusAID under its Indonesia-Australia Specialised Training Program II (IASTP/II). Convened by the Deputy Director, teaching was provided by staff from ARCSHS and from the Key Centre for Women’s Health in Society at The University of Melbourne.

In June, the Deputy Director and Ben Rossiter were invited to present the short course ‘Research design in qualitative social enquiry’ at the University of California, Los Angeles, attended by academics and city health officials.

International collaborative research expanded during the year with two new projects: a comparative study of male sex work, with the MRC Social and Public Health Sciences Unit at the University of Glasgow; and, with the support of the New Zealand AIDS Foundation (NZAF) and ASHM, the HIV Futures survey was conducted in New Zealand concurrently with the 2001 HIV Futures Australia survey. ARCSHS’ other international collaboration, Project i, completed its second year of research into homeless young people. This continues to be a successful collaboration between ARCSHS and the Center for Community Health, based at the Neuropsychiatric Institute of the University of California, Los Angeles. It provides an opportunity to exchange ideas, skills and knowledge between the two Centres.

Research in the field of human rights for positive people in the Asia Pacific region, will commence in 2002 through the work of David Stephens and Susan Paxton, recipients of the inaugural Jonathan Mann Memorial Scholarship. The Award acknowledges their personal expertise in this area and the Centre’s capacity to support such work. Linda Bennett will be taking up her Postdoctoral Fellowship to study Reproductive Rights in South East Asia.

The Bandhu Social Welfare Society undertakes HIV/AIDS prevention outreach programs with men who have sex with other men in Bangladesh. With funding from Family Health International, ARCSHS staff members have been assisting Bandhu with research training, data analysis and program planning in an eighteen-month consultancy, which began in 2001.

The 6th International Congress on AIDS in Asia and the Pacific (ICAAP) was held in Melbourne in October 2001. ARCSHS was involved in many activities: Anne Mitchell co-ordinated the Associated Learnings Program; Anthony Smith was co-chair of the Sexuality and Gender theme; Mark Saunders was organiser of the Indigenous stream; Doreen Rosenthal was a member of the conference Organising Committee; and Gary Dowsett chaired the International Scientific Advisory Committee.

The Deputy Director continues to sit as an international member on the Scientific Review Committee of the Ontario HIV Treatments Network in Toronto, Canada. He was invited to participate in a World Health Organisation meeting ‘Accelerating the adolescent sexual and reproductive health and development agenda’ in Geneva in November.

Michael Hurley and Gary Dowsett were invited participants in Tri-City Think Tank on Gay Men’s Health in San Francisco in August.

ARCSHS is increasingly being invited to join consortia tendering for international development aid projects in the region. Successful tenders include projects in China and Indonesia. This increasing interest in our potential contribution to international health programs marks a new period for development for ARCSHS.
INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

Board, Bertarelli Foundation, Geneva (DR)
Council, Society for Research on Adolescence [International representative] (DR)
Member, Ontario HIV Treatments Network, Scientific Review Committee, Toronto, Canada (GD)
Member, Track E: Social Sciences Committee, XIV International AIDS Conference, Barcelona, Spain.(GD)
Member, International Advisory Board, ‘Lovers Guide’ (Internet resource on sex education and relationships), London.(GD)
Chair, International Scientific Advisory Committee, and Member, International Advisory Board, 6th International Conference on AIDS in Asia and the Pacific, Melbourne.(GD)
Member, Organising Committee of ‘SexConf 2001’: 3rd Conference of the International Association for the Study of Sex, Culture and Society, Melbourne.(GD)

INTERNATIONAL VISITORS

Gil Herdt
Professor of Human Sexuality
Professor of Anthropology
Director of Human Sexuality Studies Program
Executive Director of the Institute on Sexuality, Inequality and Health
San Francisco State University, USA

Connie H Ramos
Senior Health Program Officer,
Republic of the Phillipines
Department of Health,
Bureau of International Health Cooperation.

‘The training is very important and very useful to us because we can learn more about HIV/AIDS program in other country (esp. in Aussie) and we can compare the program with our country… It was helpful, enjoyable… just excellent!’

IASTP/II PARTICIPANT

Participants in the ‘Research design in qualitative social enquiry’ short course conducted by Gary Dowsett with Ben Rossiter at UCLA in June
ARCSHS SEMINAR SERIES

Health and quality of life among lesbians and gay men in the Nordic countries
Rannveig Traustadottir, Associate Professor, Faculty of Social Science, University of Iceland, March 7

Male sex work: Occupational health and safety issues
Judith Connell, Research Associate - MRC Social and Public Health Sciences Unit, Glasgow University March 14

The fine line between pleasure and paid: The sexual culture of male sex workers in Melbourne
Jon Willis, Research Fellow, Australian Research Centre in Sex, Health & Society, March 28

Bearing the inconceivable: Conceiving cultures on Nuakata, PNG
Shelley Mallett Research Fellow, Australian Research Centre in Sex, Health & Society, April 11

Compliance Supportive Communication: Interactive sequences and knowledge/power relations in HIV treatment negotiations
David McInnes, Lecturer, School of Cultural Inquiry, University of Western Sydney, April 18

Sex, drugs, and drinking:
A study of young workers
Jo Lindsay, Postdoctoral Research Fellow, Australian Research Centre in Sex, Health & Society, May 2

HIV/AIDS in China: Challenges and possibilities for action
Vivian Lin, Professor, School of Public Health, La Trobe University, May 16

The beginning of the end? The fight to save harm reduction
Annie Madden, Executive Officer, Australian IV League (AIVL), May 30

Bad Blood? Bad Behaviour? or Hard Life?: The social context of living with Hepatitis
Sandy Gifford, Professor of Public Health, School of Health Sciences, Deakin University, June 13

HIV identity and HIV community
Jeffrey Grierson, Australian Research Centre in Sex, Health & Society, August 22

Risk culture, risky bodies: Health and juvenile justice clients
Mary O’Brien, Australian Research Centre in Sex, Health & Society, September 19

Coming out and going out: The internet as a safe space for same sex attracted young people
Lynne Hillier & Philomena Horsley, Australian Research Centre in Sex, Health & Society, October 3

The tall girls study: A long-term follow-up of treatment to reduce adult height
Priscilla Pyett, Centre for the Study of Mothers’ and Children’s Health, La Trobe University, October 17

Boys’ Stuff: Australian Boys Talking Sex and Sexualities
Maria Pallotta-Chiarolli, School of Health Sciences, Deakin University, October 31

RESEARCH UPDATE

Information and Professional Development Seminar for Melbourne Youth Refuge Workers participating in Project i
Ben Rossiter, Shelley Mallett, Anne Mitchell and Mary O’Brien: 27 June
Educational Activities

The quality of ARCSHS PhD candidates was again recognised in 2001 when Richard de Visser was awarded the La Trobe University Graduate Research Prize for completing the most outstanding thesis in the Faculty of Health Sciences. This was the third consecutive year that an ARCSHS graduate has been the recipient of this Award. Rebecca Bentley spent the second semester on a scholarship at the University of California, Berkeley. Along with Deb Dempsey, Deana Leahy and Karalyn McDonald, Rebecca also received a Faculty of Health Sciences Postgraduate Support Grant in 2001.

The number of PhD candidates supervised by ARCSHS staffed increased again in 2001 to total 16. Three students – Vicki Arbes-Dupuy, Phil Entwistle and Marg Hay submitted during the year. Vicki Arbes-Dupuy’s degree was conferred in 2001. Under the coordination of Michael Hurley, the fortnightly postgraduate seminars provided an opportunity for staff and students to present work and discuss issues.

POSTGRADUATE STUDENTS

PhD students

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

CREGAN, Jan
Sexuality and health in prison populations
(Supervisors: Doreen Rosenthal & Gary Dowsett)

OLLIS, Debbie
Affirming diversity in health & sexuality education from research to policy practice
(Supervisors: Doreen Rosenthal & Gary Dowsett)

ENTWISTLE, Philip
Sexwork, the family & society: structural factors inhibiting HIV interventions for sexworkers in urban Cambodia
(Supervisors: Jon Willis & Michael Hurley)

HAY, Margaret
Pre-adolescent children’s understanding of human sexual development and reproduction
(Supervisor: Doreen Rosenthal)

BENTLEY, Rebecca
The sociocultural determinants of contraception use
(Supervisors: Anne Kavanagh & Anthony Smith)

DEMPSEY, Deb
Queer family values in Australia
(Supervisors: Gary Dowsett & Shelley Mallett)

TRATHEN, Salianne
Life-lines: Narrative representations of (HIV) positive women
(Supervisors: Shelley Mallett & Michael Hurley)

HORN, Gregory
Phenomenology and the negotiation of sexual interactions
(Supervisors: Anthony Smith & Jon Willis)

MISCHIEWSKI, Anton
Seminal articulations: a genealogy of men’s seminal fluid
(Supervisors: Anthony Smith & Gary Dowsett)

LEAHY, Deana
Dominant and contesting discourses in sexuality education and drug education
(Supervisors: Gary Dowsett, Mary O’Brien & Lyn Harrison)

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

MCDONALD, Karalyn
HIV positive women, pregnancy and motherhood
(Supervisors: Doreen Rosenthal & Maggie Kirkman)

Masters students

KOERNER, Jane
(Supervisor: Gary Dowsett)

DYSON, Suzanne
Lesbian invisibility as a determinant of health
(Supervisor: Lynne Hillier)

ADAMS, Karen
Masters of Applied Epidemiology Indigenous health (on placement)
Koori women and Breast Screening in Victoria; and VACCHO “Well Person’s Health Check” outcomes.
(Supervisor: Anne Kavanagh)
Other Students - PhD

BRADLEY, Eleanor
Recovery from early stage gynecological 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)

JAMIESON, Tina
Tourism and cultural heritage in the Cook Islands
(Australian National University. Supervisor: M Jolly. Advisor: S Mallett)

KELLY, Angela
Psychosocial aspects of AIDS dementia complex and the circle of care
(Macquarie University, Sydney. Supervisors: A Yeatman & G Dowsett)

ROWE, Karen
Health beliefs and health knowledge in children
(Staffordshire University, England. Supervisor: M Pitts)

TEMPLE-SMITH, Meredith
STDs in general practice
(Deakin University, Melbourne. Supervisors: S Gifford & A Kavanagh)

Other Students - Masters

ADDIS, Erica
Changes in queer representation in Australian film
(Australian Film and Television School, Sydney. Supervisor: M Hurley)

Continuing Education

OCCASIONAL LECTURES, SEMINARS, ADDRESSES


O’Brien ML. Managing risk in the juvenile justice system. Worker perspectives. Research Feedback for Refuge workers, Project I - ARCSHS, Melbourne, June

O’Brien ML. Gifford, S, Banwell, C & Bammer G. Hard for all but worse for some? Experiences of living with Hepatitis C for women who are using drugs. Australian Professional Society for Alcohol and Drugs (APSAD) Sydney, November.

Pitts MK. What can we learn from the numbers: Commentary on HIV in Victoria, AFAO, November.

Pitts MK. What can we learn from the numbers? Victorian AIDS Council, November

Pitts MK. A commentary on HIV in Victoria, HIV update, October

Pitts MK. What can we learn from the numbers? ANCAHRD HIV subcommittee, July

Pitts MK. My life as a health psychologist, College of Health Psychologists, July

Pitts MK. Cultural factors facilitating or inhibiting HIV transmission in Southern Africa, Macfarlane Burnet, April, May, July, August

Pitts MK. Don’t forget the sunscreen: The role of evidence in sexuality research, La Trobe University graduation ceremony, April

Pitts MK. ARCSHS role in public health research in Victoria, Venereology AGM, March

Pitts MK. Sexuality and Ageing, School of Physiotherapy, La Trobe University, February

Pitts MK. The role of ARCSHS in HIV social research in Australia, AFAO/NAPWA Community summit, May

Rossiter B. Researching Homeless Young People, Families and Change, Sociology, Politics & Anthropology, La Trobe University, April.

Rossiter B. Community Liaison and Research, HIV/AIDS Surveillance and Social Research in Australia, Australian Research Centre in Sex, Health & Society, La Trobe University.

Willis J. Possessed by pathology. How science took my body (without waiting for me to leave it). Possession. Law Faculty, University of Sydney, Sydney, June.

Willis J. Indigenous Constructs of Masculinity and Health. Vichealth Koori Health Research and Community Development Unit, Centre for the Study of Health & Society, Melbourne University, Seminar in Koori Health Research, April.
Other Staff Activities

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

INTERNATIONAL – SEE PAGE 30

COMMONWEALTH/NATIONAL

Australasian Epidemiological Association Council (AK)
Australasian Society for HIV Medicine, 13th Annual Conference Organising Committee (MP)
Australian National Council on HIV/AIDS, Hepatitis C and Related Diseases Clinical Trials and Research Advisory Committee (MP)
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)
Mapping Indigenous Risk Conference Organising Committee [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)
Public Health Association of Australia, National Executive (AS)
Quality Assurance Working Group of the National Advisory Committee, National Cervical Cancer Screening Program (AK)
6th International Conference on AIDS in Asia and the Pacific, Indigenous Committee (JW)
6th International Conference on AIDS in Asia and the Pacific, Organising Committee (MP)
6th International Conference on AIDS in Asia and the Pacific, International Scientific Advisory Committee (GD)
6th International Conference on AIDS in Asia and the Pacific, International Advisory Board (GD)
6th International Conference on AIDS in Asia and the Pacific, Program Committee (JW)

STATE

Chlamydia control strategy working party, Department of Human Services (AS)
Gonorrhoea working party, Department of Human Services (AS)
Health Education Association of Victoria (DL)
HIV/AIDS Strategy Development Subcommittee, Ministerial Advisory Committee on AIDS, Hepatitis C and Related Diseases (JG)
Ministerial Advisory Committee on HIV/AIDS and Related Diseases (MP, PH)
Ministerial Advisory Committee on HIV/AIDS 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 (AM, JG [Chair])
Research and Evaluation Committee, BreastScreen Victoria (MP, AK)
Victorian Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation, Sexual Health Program Steering Committee (JW, MS, KA)
Victorian AIDS Council/ Gay Men’s Health Centre Board (JW, PH)
Victorian Public Health Research and Education Council [Director] (AS)

OTHER

Advisory Board, Institute for Social Research, Swinburne University of Technology (DR)
Alfred Hospital Access Information Centre Reference Group (JW)
Board, Andrology Australia, Monash University (DR)
Centre for Cultural Research into Risk, Charles Sturt University, Advisory Board (AS)
Centre for Youth Drug Studies, Research Advisory Committee (JL)
Council, Janet Clarke Hall, The University of Melbourne (DR)
Project Steering Group for the Longitudinal Study on the Reproductive Health of Middle Aged and Ageing men, Monash Institute for Reproduction and Development (MP)
Reference Group – Nillumbik SSAY Support Group (LH)

Scientific Advisory Committee, Key Centre for Women’s Health, The University of Melbourne (MP, DR [Chair])

Scientific Advisory Committee, National Centre for HIV Social Research, University of New South Wales (MP)

Sydney Star Observer (MH)
Youth Projects Committee of Management (SM)

LA TROBE UNIVERSITY
Human Ethics Committee (AS)

LTU FACULTY OF HEALTH SCIENCES
Board, Australian Institute of Primary Care (DR)
Faculty Board (MP)
Faculty Development Committee (MP)
Faculty Human Ethics Committee (JW)
Faculty Research and Higher Education (Research) Committee (GD)
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 (MP)
Faculty of Health Sciences (GD)
National Breast Cancer Foundation (AK)
NHMRC (GD, AK, AS, JW, LH, MOB)
Ontario HIV Treatments Network, Canada (GD)
Queensland Cancer Council (AK)

JOURNALS
AIDS (AS)
AIDS Care (MP, JW)
Australian and New Zealand Journal of Public Health (AK, AS, MP)
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)
Family Planning International (JW)
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 Sociology (GD)
Journal of Women and Health (LH)
Medical Anthropology (JW)
Medical Journal of Australia (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 ON EDITORIAL BOARDS
Australasian Epidemiologist [Co-editor](AK)
British Journal of Learning Disabilities [Subeditor Reviews] (KJ)
Journal of Adolescence [Guest Editors - special edition] (DR, LH)
Journal of Culture, Health and Sexuality [Senior Reviews Editor] (GD)
Sex Education (GD)
Social Aspects of AIDS (GD)
Venereology (AS)
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 2001.

### EXTERNAL

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### TOTAL INCOME

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