



AUSTRALIAN RESEARCH CENTRE IN **SEX, HEALTH & SOCIETY**

ANNUAL REPORT



1999



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Faculty of Health Sciences



A COLLABORATING CENTRE TO THE NATIONAL CENTRE IN HIV SOCIAL RESEARCH

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Centre Overview

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. 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

Doreen Rosenthal, BA(Hons), PhD, MAPS, FASSA
Professor/Director

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

Anne Kavanagh, BMBS, PhD, FAFPHM*
Senior Research Fellow

Anthony Smith, BSc, PhD
Senior Research Fellow

Clive Aspin, BA, DipT, MA*+
Research Fellow

Michael Bartos, BA(Hons), MEd
Research Fellow

Murray Couch, BA
Research Fellow

Jeffrey Grierson, BPsych, PhD
Research Fellow

Ben Haste, BA(Hons)*+
Research Fellow

Michael Hurley, BA, DipEd, MLitt*
Research Fellow

Kelley Johnson, BA(Hons), Dip Ed, MA, PhD*+
Research Fellow

Maggie Kirkman, BA(Hons), DipKTC, PhD, MAPS+
Research Fellow

Liam Leonard, BA(Hons), BSc(Hons)
Research Fellow

Liz McDonnell, BA, MA, GradDipCrWrtg*
Research Fellow

Mary O'Brien, BA, PhD*
Research Fellow

David Wain, BA, DipEd*
Research Fellow

Jon Willis, BA, MLitt, PhD*
Research Fellow

Postdoctoral Fellows

Lynne Hillier, TPTC, TLTC, BBS, PhD

Jo Lindsay, BA(Hons), PhD



Diane Shannon,
Executive Officer

Community Liaison Officers

Anne Mitchell, MA, DipEd

Jenny Walsh, DipTeach, GradDipAdultEd+

Project Officers

Debbie Ollis, MA+

Jan Watson, BA, DipEd, GradDipLib+

Executive Officer

Diane Shannon, BA, GradDipOfficeAdmin

Administrative Officers

Kess Dovey+

Jennie Kendrick

Lisa Kennewell*

Lee Marquardt, BA, DipEd*

Weiliang Zhang, BEc*

Computing Officer

Paul Horowitz, BA*

Craig Vale, AssocDipAppElec *+

Research Assistants

Deborah Dempsey, BA(Hons)+

Richard de Visser, BSc, GradDipHlthPsych

Mel Irenyi, BA(Hons) *+

Karalyn McDonald, BA, MA

Sebastian Misson, BSc, GradDipAppPsych*+

Katrina Newnham, BSc, GradDipHlthProm*+

John Ryan, BA, LLB*+

Nicola Thomson, BA*+

*part-year, +part-time

Seminar Series Coordinator

Dr Jo Lindsay

Postgraduate Coordinator

Dr Anne Kavanagh

Postgraduate Elective Convenor

Dr Lynne Hillier

Research Associates

Dr Nick Crofts, MBBS, BA, MPH(Hons), FAFPHM
Medical Epidemiologist, Macfarlane Burnet Centre for Medical Research

Professor Sandy Gifford, BA(Hons), MA, MPH, PhD
School of Nutrition and Public Health, Deakin University

Associate Professor Ron Gold, BSc, DPhil
School of Psychology, Deakin University

Professor Susan Moore, BSc(Hons), DipEd, MEd, PhD
Department of Psychology, Swinburne University of Technology

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

Professor Lenore Manderson
Director, Key Centre for Women's Health in Society, The University of Melbourne

Dr William Hart
Chief, Health Intelligence & Disease Control, Department of Human Services

Mr Joseph O'Reilly
Member, Victorian AIDS Council/Gay Men's Health Centre

Ms Jacqui Randall
Research Project Officer, Victorian Health Promotion Foundation

Professor Chris Pratt
Head, School of Psychological Sciences, La Trobe University

Professor David de Kretser
Director, Institute of Reproduction & Development, Monash University

Associate Professor Ian Anderson
Centre for the Study of Health & Society, The University of Melbourne

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

Mr Martyn Goddard
Australian National Council on AIDS & Related Diseases

Professor Susan Kippax
Director, National Centre in HIV Social Research

Mr Eamonn Murphy
Director, HIV/AIDS & Hepatitis C Section, Commonwealth Department of Health & Aged Care

Director's Report

1999 brought considerable changes to the Centre. Our new name signalled more clearly our broad interests in sexuality and sexual health, and our new location saw us enjoying well-planned facilities as well as having all staff and students situated on the same floor enabling greater ease of communication within the Centre.

Once again, the Centre was exceptionally successful in attracting external funds. This year we won 10 per cent of the University's competitive grants, making us one of the leading groups at La Trobe University for the fourth year in succession. Particularly pleasing was a grant awarded by the US National Institute of Mental Health for a five-year longitudinal study of homeless young people and service providers, carried out in collaboration with colleagues at the University of California Los Angeles. The high standard of research at the Centre was confirmed when one of its projects received a Public Health Research Award, the second such award in three years. The ground-breaking Same-Sex Attracted Youth Project, led by Lynne Hillier and Lyn Harrison, has been highly commended by educators, service providers, policymakers and researchers, and is an excellent example of the innovative research carried out at the Centre.

We welcomed Professor Graham Hart from the University of Glasgow, who visited the Centre as the Rio Tinto/La Trobe University Distinguished Visiting Fellow during February and March. Graham's visit provided us with the opportunity for exchanging ideas and developing collaborative projects. One of these, a study of male sex workers, is now underway with the help of a Faculty of Health Sciences Research Grant to Jon Willis.

Two staff members of the Centre were awarded NHMRC Postdoctoral Fellowships. Lynne Hillier will continue her work on same-sex attracted young people and Maggie Kirkman will take up her Fellowship at The University of Melbourne in 2000. The year also saw Jeffrey Grierson and Mary O'Brien being awarded their PhD degrees and Jeanette Pope submitting her thesis for examination. At the same time, our group of PhD students was enhanced by the enrolment of three new students, Karalyn McDonald, Deborah Dempsey and Deana Leahy. All of these students were awarded scholarships, reflecting the high quality of our students. It is noteworthy that Karalyn and Deborah have followed the path taken by other PhD students at the Centre, having joined us initially as research assistants.

The Community Liaison Unit continues its commitment to ensuring that the work of the Centre meets the needs of community groups and that the outcomes of Centre research are taken back to those who are able to use them either in practice or in policymaking. The high regard in which the Centre's model of community liaison is held was attested to by a series of research consultancies sponsored by the Commonwealth Department of Health and Aged Care. These focus on education in schools about blood-borne viruses (BBV) and sexually transmissible infections (STI), and encompass the development of a framework for BBV and STI education in schools, professional development in this area for teachers, and a resource for parents, Talking Sexual Health. Next year, the Centre will be developing a set of curriculum materials for classroom teaching around BBV and STI.

1999 brought a changed relationship to the National Centre in HIV Social Research and the Commonwealth Department of Health and Aged Care. In line with a recommendation of the NCHSR Review Committee, ARCSHS became a Collaborating Centre to the NCHSR, a change that resulted in a shift in focus for the Centre's research program. The substantial research with people living with HIV/AIDS has continued as the 'Living with HIV' program. A key project in 1999 was the HIV Futures II study, which included core modules from HIV Futures I and extended areas of enquiry to include mental health, drug use, treatment interruptions and social support. The HIV Futures II report will be launched early in 2000.

The new arrangements also coincided with staff changes in the program. Lynne Hillier began working on her Postdoctoral Fellowship and Lyn Harrison left the Centre to take up a position at Deakin University. Two new staff members, Jon Willis and Mary O'Brien, were appointed to take responsibility for projects with indigenous people and with at-risk young people respectively. Jon Willis and Michael Bartos were successful in obtaining an ARC grant for a study of Aboriginal men's constructs of risk and health, in collaboration with Ian Anderson. Thus, the work of the Commonwealth HIV/AIDS-focused program continues but with a somewhat changed agenda.

Our international program continued its expansion mainly through the work of the Deputy Director, Gary Dowsett, and the International Fellow, Murray Couch. Among other activities, Gary Dowsett was invited to act as a reviewer of HIV programs in Bangladesh and as the external social scientist on the Scientific Review Committee of the Ontario HIV Treatments Network in Toronto, Canada. Three research projects are in train,

including one in Fiji and two in Vietnam. I was fortunate to be able to travel to Hanoi to assist in setting up one of these projects and to meet with key people at the Institute of Sociology who are keen to continue and extend our collaborative relationship.

As is always the case, each year brings staff changes. In 1999 we farewelled Lyn Harrison, Paul Horowitz, Jennie Kendrick, Lee Marquardt, Jan Watson and Weiliang Zhang. We welcomed Clive Aspin, Ben Haste, Michael Hurley, Kelley Johnson, Anne Kavanagh, Liz McDonnell, Sebastian Misson, Katrina Newnham, Mary O'Brien, John Ryan, Craig Vale, David Wain and Jon Willis.

1999 is also the year in which I decided to leave this Centre which has been so much part of my life since I established the Centre in October 1992. It has been an exciting, challenging and rewarding time, with never a dull moment. I am immensely proud of our achievements and of the dedication and commitment of staff and students who have worked here in the past seven years. I am especially proud of the reputation we have established for making a difference by ensuring that the outcomes of our research are useful and used. It has been a great privilege for me to work with such dedicated researchers, members of community organisations and policymakers, and to see what we have been able to achieve through working together. But, in truth, none of what we have accomplished would have been possible without the initial vision and continuing support of VicHealth and the strong support of the Commonwealth Department of Health and Aged Care. La Trobe University has always provided, through the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Michael Osborne, and the Dean of the Faculty of Health Sciences, Professor Stephen Duckett, a supportive and facilitating environment in which the Centre has been able to flourish and grow. Finally, I would like to express my gratitude to my two Deputy Directors, Sandy Gifford and Gary Dowsett, for their enduring faith and their help in finding the right path.

Professor Marian Pitts from the University of Staffordshire has been appointed Director and will take up her position from mid-2000. Until then, Gary Dowsett will be Acting Director. I wish them both well as they take ARCSHS into the new millennium.

A black and white portrait of Joanne Rosenthal, a woman with short dark hair, resting her chin on her hand. She is wearing a dark turtleneck sweater and a watch on her left wrist. The background is a solid dark color.

Joanne Rosenthal

Research Program

The framework in which the Centre's research program is conceived has three major domains of activity: understanding sexual health, optimising sexual health outcomes and informing policy and health systems. This framework includes collaborative research with outside individuals and institutions, thus providing a comprehensive picture of the Centre's research activities.

1. UNDERSTANDING SEXUAL HEALTH

This research program seeks to understand human sexuality as a social and cultural practice. It explores the meanings, experiences and motivations that are brought to, and carried from, the enactment of sexual practices and identities. By elucidating people's experience of sexuality and their understandings of that experience, the research explores sexual health and provides the framework necessary to maximise sexual health outcomes.

The four key aspects of this research program are:

- examining social and behavioural aspects of the prevention of sexually transmissible infections within a broader sexual health context;
- understanding the context, character and meaning of sexual and other practices relating to sexual health;
- understanding the consequences of social and sexual risk for health;
- identifying and evaluating the method, content and effectiveness of health promotion activities.

Adolescent trajectories for homelessness and risk for HIV

Doreen Rosenthal and Mary-Jane Rotheram-Borus (Neuropsychiatric Institute, UCLA Centre for Community Health), with Nan Corby, Martha Lee, Naihua Duan Borus (Neuropsychiatric Institute, UCLA Centre for Community Health), Gary Dowsett, Jeffrey Grierson and Lynne Hillier

Project i: Home Base is a five year comparative study of homeless young people ages 12 to 17 years in Melbourne and Los Angeles. The research focuses on the health, social well-being and risk of HIV of homeless young people, particularly those who have recently become homeless for the first time. We are interested to learn more about the personal and social issues, the services, and the organisational and government policies that influence young people's pathways into and out of homelessness.

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

Mortality, masculinity and risk

Michael Bartos with Susan Kippax (National Centre in HIV Social Research)

This project investigates the impact of premature mortality on men's notions of health and risk. Gay men close to the HIV/AIDS epidemic will be compared with heterosexual men. The project aims to reconceptualise the relationship between risk, health and mortality. It posits that mortality has a fundamentally problematic relationship to masculinity.

Funding: Australian Research Council Large Grant
Status: In progress

People with intellectual disabilities: living safer sexual lives

Lynne Hillier and Kelley Johnson with Lyn Harrison (Deakin University)

In the past, the sexuality of people with intellectual disabilities has been regarded as a problem to be controlled and forgotten. Knowledge about the sexuality of this group has mainly come from carers and workers. The aim of this project is to give a voice to this previously silent group. During phase one of this project, 12 men and 12 women with an intellectual disability told stories about their lives. This was carried out using an in-depth encounter method in which the participants met with researchers on at least three occasions to talk about friendships, family, sexual relationships, access to sexual health services and sexuality information. By July 1999, all of the encounters and the transcripts were completed. In phase two of the project, the transcripts from phase one are being written into short plain language versions and full-length versions of each story. We aim to use the plain language stories in a number of ways: producing booklets and tapes for use by people with intellectual disabilities, families and workers; workshopping the stories with families, workers, community visitors and with people with intellectual disabilities; documenting the workshops as a package for the further use of the stories.

Funding: Victorian Health Promotion Foundation
Status: In progress

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

Gary Dowsett and Murray Couch

This small qualitative project is being 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 in-depth interviews with men who have sex with men in Suva to supplement a large survey of such men being 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: In progress



Senior Research Staff – Anthony Smith,
Gary Dowsett (Deputy Director), Anne Kavanagh

particularly interested in relationships (sexual and other) that are established on the Net and their difference from, and contribution to, real life. This is a two-stage project beginning with focus groups to inform a mainly qualitative questionnaire.

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

Clients of sex workers in Hanoi, Vietnam: a study of cultural meanings and sex practices in relation to HIV/AIDS and sexual health

Murray Couch

This study is concerned with the cultural meanings and sex practices in relation to HIV/AIDS and the sexual health of clients of sex workers in Hanoi and is being undertaken in collaboration with Dr Khuat Thu Hong at the Institute of Sociology in Hanoi. This project is being conducted within the context of public health efforts to improve sexual health and an emerging HIV epidemic in Vietnam. Interviews have been conducted with men who are, or have been, clients of sex workers, and joint analysis is proceeding, involving the researchers at ARCSHS and Institute of Sociology.

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

Into the net: finding community, information and intimacy in cyberspace

Lynne Hillier

Deborah Dempsey (Research Assistant)

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 provides an important space within which young people of both sexes could more freely explore sexuality issues. Specifically, the Internet provided 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 want to explore further the ways these young people use the Internet and how it addresses the issues they face in the real world. We are

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

Lynne Hillier

Research shows that same-sex attracted youth are at a far greater risk of sexually transmissible infections and other blood-borne viruses, and are also more likely to use drugs and to suffer from depression and suicide. This occurs partly because these young people are engaging in risky practices, and also because alienation brought about by invisibility, discrimination and abuse exacerbates and increases the risk factors for disease. Earlier work with same-sex attracted youth has revealed the existence of a number of supportive cultures which, while not necessarily being gay/lesbian-identified, have provided 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 these young people.

Funding: National Health & Medical Research Council
Postdoctoral Fellowship

Status: In progress

Establishing prevalence of STDs among homeless young people: assessing a new method for diagnosis and treatment

Jenny Walsh and Doreen Rosenthal with Carol Edwardes, Sandra Gregson, Kim Raynor, (Inner South Community Health Service), Christopher Fairley (Monash University), Suzanne Garland and Sapehr Tabrizi (Royal Women's Hospital).

This two-year project assesses the feasibility of using self-administered tampon/first pass urine samples for the detection of STIs among homeless young people and to assess the feasibility of a procedure for providing treatment for individuals diagnosed as positive for an STI by this method.

Funding: Australian Research Council Small Grant
Status: Completed

Changes in university undergraduates' HIV-related knowledge, attitudes and behaviour, 1989-1999

Anthony Smith and Doreen Rosenthal with Susan Moore (Swinburne University of Technology)

This study documents changes in first year university undergraduates' HIV-related knowledge, attitudes and behaviours. It is a partial replication of studies done in 1989 and 1994 and offers the opportunity of charting important changes over the last decade. The study also explores the knowledge, attitudes and behaviours related to the emerging public health problem of hepatitis C.

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

Parents' communication about sexuality: adolescent and parent perspectives

Doreen Rosenthal and Shirley Feldman (Center on Adolescence, Stanford University, USA) with Maggie Kirkman Teresa Senserrick (Research Assistant)

The parent-adolescent communication study examines communication about sexuality between teenagers and their parents. The aims are to assess both adolescents' and parents' perceptions of the nature, context, and style of their communications about sexuality and to locate difficulties and barriers to communication as well as factors that facilitate communication. A long-term goal is that this information be used to develop educational packages both for schools and other educational bodies, and for parents to enable them to communicate more effectively about sexuality with their adolescents. The study has two aspects: first, a survey of students and their parents; and second, observations of communication between parent and adolescent, using a role-playing technique. In 1997 Year 10 students and their parents were surveyed. In 1998 the observations of selected parent-adolescent pairs took place. The survey was repeated in 1999 for Year 8 students and interviews were conducted with parents and adolescents.

Funding: Australian Research Council Large Research Grant
Status: In progress

National prevalence study of sexual health behaviours and attitudes

Anthony Smith and Chris Rissel (Central Sydney Area Health Service) with Louisa Jorm (NSW Department of Health), Sandy Gifford (Deakin University), Andrew Grulich (National Centre in HIV Epidemiology and Clinical Research), Juliet Richters (National Centre in HIV Social Research), Aileen Plant (University of Western Australia) and Jeanette Ward (Central Sydney Area Health Service)

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 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 and interactions of sexual encounters in Australia.

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

Why do gay men repeatedly undergo HIV testing?

Anthony Smith with Matt Dixon, Vanessa Wood, Peter Hayes and Virginia McHarg (Melbourne Sexual Health Centre)
Louise Keogh (Research Assistant)

Some gay and homosexually active men repeatedly undergo antibody testing for HIV. While some of this testing relates to specific events such as condom breakage, the majority of men appear to have a time-related pattern of testing and undergo testing at regular intervals. This study focused on these men and through the use of both interviews and questionnaires explored the function that such testing has in the lives of these men.

Funding: La Trobe University, Faculty of Health Sciences Research Grant
Status: Completed

HIV futures survey II

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

This is a core project of the Living with HIV program. Data collection in this study is undertaken every two years using a self-completed questionnaire. Core modules of the questionnaire include health status, treatments, service utilisation, social support, information management, and sexual practice. Additional modules in the 1999 data collection included mental health, drug use, treatment interruptions (drug holidays), and social support. The second HIV Futures survey was conducted in

Kelley Johnson and Lynne Hillier





1999, resulting in a sample of 924 HIV positive men and women. The data are in the process of being analysed. The project has enjoyed strong support from the community and health sectors and is supported by the National Association of People with HIV/AIDS (NAPWA) and the Australian Federation of AIDS Organisations (AFAO).

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

HIV Futures: in depth qualitative components

*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 emerging issues in depth. Subjects are recruited through the HIV Futures survey. In 1999 analysis of interview data collected in 1997-98 continued. Studies planned in 1999 for 2000 include sex and relationships, which partly repeats the theme of one of the 1997-98 interview studies, and a new focus on recreational drug use. These projects will involve semi-structured interviews with a small sample of PLWHA in at least two 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. 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

Richard de Visser (Research Assistant)

This study comprises two arms: a retrospective series of interviews, and a small cohort study. The retrospective component involves semi-structured interviews with People Living With HIV/AIDS (PLWHA) who have returned to work as a result of new treatments. The cohort arm of the study is tracking a small number of PLWHA returning to the workforce after an extended absence. Data collection in the cohort component will involve semi-structured interviews linked to a six-month, self-completed diary. The study examines psychological, social and systemic factors that enhance and inhibit this process. 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

'Sex in the city'

*Jeffrey Grierson, Mary O'Brien, Anthony Smith
Katrina Newnham (Research Assistant)*

This was a survey of 2500 adults attending the Melbourne Sexpo99 Exposition at the Melbourne Exhibition Centre. Sexpo is accessible only to adults over 18 years old and, as such, offers an opportunity to access sexually active adults who may be more likely to be 'sexually adventurous' or engage in a wider range of sexual practices. This project surveyed a sample of Sexpo99 attendees regarding: their sexual practices (including safe sex and contraception use); their experiences and knowledge of sexually transmissible infections; their use of the Internet for sexual activities; their use of commercial sex work venues; and their use of non-violent erotica. Information on the demographic and sexual practices of participants from this survey will be compared with the national survey, 'National prevalence study of sexual health behaviours and attitudes'. 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

‘positive Health’

Jeffrey Grierson , Garret Prestage (National Centre in HIV Epidemiology & Clinical Research, The University of NSW) and Kane Race (National Centre in HIV Social Research, The University of NSW)

Mel Irenyi, Richard de Visser, Karalyn McDonald and Katrina Newnham (Research Assistants)

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. Data collection is by an interviewer-administered questionnaire. 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.

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

Social and psychological impacts of viral rebound and treatments failure

Michael Bartos

Richard de Visser (Research Assistant)

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. In 1998-99 initial analysis was conducted on HIV Futures I data suggesting that poverty and lower education levels were significant independent predictors of treatment failure. No data were available about the mediating influence of service providers (especially characteristics of treating physician/s). Additional information was collected in the HIV Futures Survey II in 1999 to allow more confident analysis to be made. Initial indications suggest that lower education levels continue to be associated with treatment failure, independent of other measures.

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

This research investigates health issues in the social and sexual lives of young workers. The focus is on working-class people in their 20s, a group largely neglected by previous research. The major aims are to provide information about the social context of risk-taking practices by this group, to examine barriers to healthy practices, and to identify more effective and appropriate public health interventions. The first stage of the research has been completed. Four hundred young people working in the hospitality, manufacturing, sales and service industries participated in the survey. The major health issues identified through the research were excessive alcohol consumption followed by high levels of tobacco smoking. Substantial numbers were using illicit drugs and almost half were putting their sexual health at risk. The young men took more risks with their health than the young women and there were marked industry differences. The findings are outlined in the report ‘Young workers, health and social life: first report’.

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



Katrina Newnham, Karalyn McDonald, Richard de Visser,
(front) Deb Dempsey

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 (Research Assistant)*

This project is developing 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.

Funding: National Health & Medical Research Council and the Australian National Council on AIDS & Related Diseases

Status: In progress

2. OPTIMISING SEXUAL HEALTH OUTCOMES

This research program builds on research in the first domain, Understanding sexual health. It involves the critical examination of social and cultural responses inherent in gaining and maintaining sexual health. This occurs at both the individual and programmatic level. The research focuses on factors that contribute to greater individual and community capacity to respond to challenges to sexual health, and the development and enhancement of these responses.

The four key aspects of this research program are:

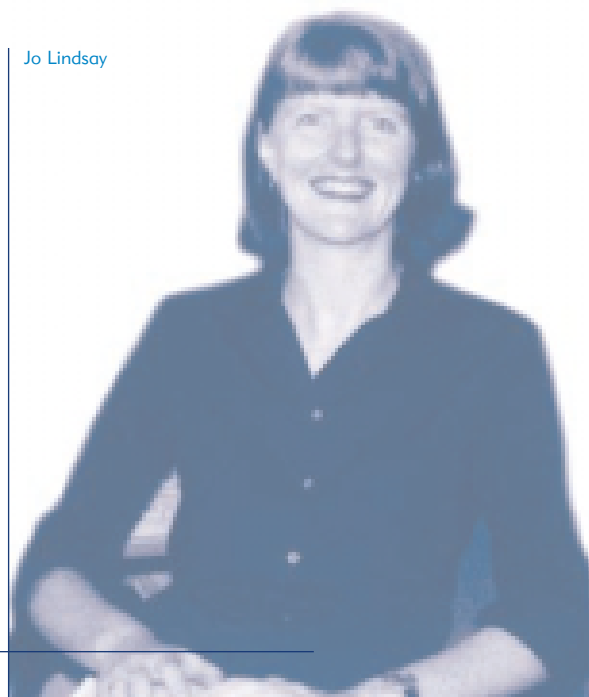
- understanding the impact of adverse sexual health outcomes;
- investigating the uptake of successful individual and social responses in sexual health;
- improving health management and maintenance at the individual and community levels;
- examining the process, context and enhancement of professional health practice.

Australian secondary teachers' preparedness for Hepatitis C prevention education

Doreen Rosenthal, Ben Haste, Anne Mitchell and Debbie Ollis

Australian secondary teachers from the health and physical education disciplines were examined about their knowledge of hepatitis C, their current teaching practice, their need for resources and their sense of the important issues in relation to teaching hepatitis C prevention in schools. This project built on the previous year's work of developing a national policy framework for the teaching of HIV/AIDS, STIs and blood-borne virus prevention. Training materials were prepared based on Centre research and designed to enable teachers to teach all aspects of the areas covered by the national framework.

Jo Lindsay



The materials were trialed in four different States and will be published in 2000.

Funding: Commonwealth Department of Health & Aged Care
Status: In progress

Impact of positive HSV2 serology among asymptomatic individuals

*Anthony Smith with Ian Denham, Don Jacobs, Alex Marceglia, Vanessa Wood and Virginia McHarg (Melbourne Sexual Health Centre)
Louise Keogh (Research Assistant)*

It has recently become possible to undertake type-specific serological testing for herpes simplex virus. We can now easily distinguish between infections with the viruses commonly associated with cold sores (HSV1) and recurrent genital herpes (HSV2). The availability of this test for the first time allows the type-specific identification of infection in individuals who have never experienced any symptoms. This project examined the psychosocial impact of testing positive to HSV2 on 180 individuals who had never knowingly experienced symptoms of herpes infection. Approximately 12% of participants were HSV2-positive and the impact of testing positive was assessed at three and six months after diagnosis.

Funding: Australian Research Centre in Sex, Health & Society
Status: Completed

World Health Organization - Quality of Life study: WHOQOL HIV/AIDS module

Michael Bartos

Karalyn McDonald (Research Assistant)

In 1997 WHO commenced development of an HIV-specific quality of life assessment module to sit alongside the generic instrument developed by the WHO Programme on Mental Health. Eight sites are participating in the HIV/AIDS module development: Australia, Brazil, Hong Kong, India (two sites), Thailand, Zambia and Zimbabwe. Pilot testing of the module at each site was completed in 1999 and initial analysis of aggregated data from all sites was presented at the meeting of the International Society for Quality of Life Research in Barcelona in November. On the basis of psychometric results, the instrument will be revised in preparation for field testing among different groups of HIV-positive people and matched HIV-negative groups in 2000.

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

World Health Organization - Quality of Life study: WHOQOL spirituality module

Michael Bartos

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 will participate in the study. In 1999 the Centre assisted in the development of the module through the conduct of focus groups. In 2000 this will be followed by pilot and field testing of the instrument. In Australia, focus groups for development of the module have been conducted among people with AIDS and with comparable groups not facing terminal illness (mainly HIV-negative gay men), together with a range of health professionals.

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

Mount Alexander Shire audit

Anton Mischewski and Anthony Smith with Jean Wyldbore (Central Victorian HIV/AIDS Information, Resources & Support Group)

Helen Stewart-Stevens (Research Assistant)

This pilot project examined the availability of safe sex and injecting products in a rural shire in Central Victoria. The study mapped the distribution and audited the availability of condoms, water-based lubricants, needles/syringes and disposal units to provide base-line data on the access and availability of these products, directly connected with HIV, STI and blood borne virus prevention. Clear disparities were observed in the availability and pricing of safe sex/safer use materials between regional centres and outlying areas in the Shire. The findings make clear the importance of overcoming structural impediments to the adoption of safe sex/safe injecting practices.

Funding: Australian Research Centre in Sex, Health & Society
Status: Completed

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

Sebastian Misson (Research Assistant)

Known as the Community Education and Workforce Training (CEWT) project, this is a two-stage study which is exploring the national workforce of health educators working in HIV/AIDS, hepatitis C and sexually transmissible infections in non-government and/or community sector agencies or programs. The first stage involves a national survey of community-based educators focusing on: their education and work histories; demographic information; day-to-day educational activities; and the broader issues that impact on educational practices. Phase two will involve six action research projects in agencies/programs across Australia. Interviews with educators and key stakeholders and documentation of the formal and informal processes that shape community health education in practice, will form the basis of the case studies.

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

John Ryan and
David Wain

The Researchers-in-Residence Program

Michael Hurley and Clive Aspin (ARCSHS), Robin Gorna and Alan Brotherton (AFAO), Doreen Rosenthal, Gary Dowsett and Michael Bartos (ARCSHS)

1999 saw the beginning of an innovative research program undertaken jointly by the Centre and the Australian Federation of AIDS Organisations (AFAO). The researchers are employed by La Trobe University through the Centre and in that sense are independent researchers. However, the joint nature of the program is seen both in its location at AFAO's offices in Sydney and in the close relations between the research agenda and community needs. In that very important sense, it is a program that negotiates putting practice into research. The nexus between practice and research and the social relations affecting the nature of the project are themselves part of the project's object of analysis.

While several models of collaborative social research have made significant contributions to the content of practice, a focus on either educational or policy issues as subjects of investigation distinct from HIV prevention or clinical research is relatively rare. The challenge for this program is to contribute to a shift in community-research sector social relations, first, in ways that facilitate the identification of practice and practitioner based research agendas, and, second, in order to develop community and research sector capacity to relate creatively, respectfully and productively.

This program consists of two projects which liaise closely with AFAO and the community sector:

HIV treatments education project

Michael Hurley

Advocacy, policy and health outcomes project

Clive Aspin

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

3. INFORMING POLICY AND HEALTH SYSTEMS

This research program takes a broader view than the preceding programs. The focus is on a rapidly changing public policy context and the ways in which this impacts on appropriate outcomes in policy and the delivery of health services. An important aspect of this work is the exploration of the processes by which definitions of 'health' become adopted and modified, in relation to achieving national sexual health outcomes through our health delivery systems.

The four key aspects of this research program are:

- examining the theorisation and conceptual underpinning's of health and health issues;
- investigating the policy development process;
- evaluating the impact of policy on health systems and health outcomes;
- investigating systems of health-related service delivery.

The national schools project: talking sexual health

Doreen Rosenthal, Anne Mitchell, Debbie Ollis and Jan Watson

The aim of this consultancy was to develop a resource for teacher training to prepare teachers for teaching the health curriculum outlined in the Framework developed from Centre research in 1998. 'Talking sexual health', a professional development resource for teachers implementing the national framework for education about STI, HIV/AIDS and blood borne viruses in secondary schools was completed in 1999.

Funding: Commonwealth Department of Health & Aged Care,
Australian National Council on AIDS and Related Diseases
Status: In progress

*Sebastian Misson
and Liz McDonnell*



Negotiating the primary care/community services divide

Michael Bartos

Karalyn McDonald (Research Assistant)

This policy research initiative focuses on (i) the implications for policy makers (both funders and service deliverers) of the diminishing effectiveness of 'community' as a unitary organising principle for HIV prevention, treatments activism and community-based care; and (ii) barriers to the effective coordination or integration of medical and community support services. The research has policy analysis, health service utilisation and intervention project aspects. In 1999 the project commenced the process of document collation and the

development of theoretical tools. Links are being established with State-level policy initiatives in selected States.

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

Katrina Newnham (Research Assistant)

This study is investigating 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 STIs and blood borne viruses. A primary objective of the study involves documenting the perspectives of workers in different roles and different institutional contexts in regard to the health care needs of their clients. It will undertake 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.

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

Using breast density to improve the accuracy of mammographic screening

Anne Kavanagh, Jennifer Cawson (St Vincents BreastScreen), Graham Giles (Anti-Cancer Council of Victoria) and John Hopper (The University of Melbourne)
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. It is also more likely that women on HRT will be recalled for assessment even if they do not have cancer. In this study we scan over 14,000 mammograms to examine the effect of high breast density on mammographic sensitivity and specificity. We 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 & Health, Victoria
Status: In progress

The management of screen-detected abnormalities of the cervix

Anne Kavanagh and Jane Gunn (The University of Melbourne)

Kate Morris (Research Assistant)

This project involves individual interviews with GPs and pathologists about how they make decisions about minor screen-detected abnormalities of the cervix. In particular, we were interested in whether they followed National Health & Medical Research Council guidelines for the management of screen-detected abnormalities. The research showed that, on the whole, GPs and pathologists made recommendations that were more cautious than the guidelines and the reporting of abnormalities was subjective. Also many of the NH&MRC categories overlapped. Clinicians' fear of being sued caused them to practise more cautiously than the guidelines because this practice would minimise the possibility of missing a more serious abnormality.

Funding: Department of Human Services & Health, Victoria
Status: Completed

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[Smith AMA](#) & O'Donnell D (1999). Foreword. In [AMA Smith](#), D O'Donnell, [A Mitchell](#), [L Hillier](#), P Horsley, J Peters & S Tremellan (Eds), **Queering Health Agendas: Proceedings of Health In Difference II, the Second National Lesbian, Gay, Transgender and Bisexual Health Conference, Melbourne 22-24 January 1998**. Melbourne: Australian Research Centre in Sex, Health & Society, La Trobe University, 6.

Wyldbore J, [Mischewski A](#), [Smith AMA](#) & Stevens-Stewart H (1999). **Mount Alexander Shire Safe Audit: A Community Report**. Monograph Series Number 14. Melbourne: Australian Research Centre in Sex, Health & Society, La Trobe University.

Conference Presentations

INTERNATIONAL

Bartos M & McDonald K. **Contingency and solidarity in the face of AIDS**. Fourth International Conference on the Biopsychosocial Aspects of HIV Infection Conference, Ottawa, July 1999.

Bartos M, Grierson J, de Visser R & McDonald K. **Patterns of community support in HIV/AIDS in Australia**. Fifth International Congress of AIDS in Asia and the Pacific, Kuala Lumpur, October 1999.

Couch M, Dowsett GW, McInnes D, Bollen J & Edwards B. **Risk of HIV infection among young homosexually active men in an Australian city**. Fifth International Congress on AIDS in Asia and the Pacific, Kuala Lumpur, October 1999.

Dowsett GW. **USAID Workshop on HIV/AIDS stigma in developing countries**. San Francisco State University, San Francisco, April 1999.

Dowsett GW. **Community and academy: critical collaboration and making ends meet**. Keynote address to the Ontario HIV Treatment Network Research Day, Toronto, Canada, December 1999.

Dowsett GW, McInnes D, Bollen J, Couch M & Edwards B. **Reflexive practice and pedagogy: making 'community' the centrepiece of HIV/AIDS education**. Fifth International Congress on AIDS in Asia and the Pacific, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, October 1999.

Dowsett GW. **Understanding cultures of sexuality: lessons learned from HIV/AIDS education and behaviour change among gay men in Australia**. Conference on Resistances to Behavioural Change to reduce HIV/AIDS Infection in Predominantly Heterosexual Epidemics in Third World Countries, National Centre for Epidemiology and Population Health, Health Transition Centre, Australian National University, Canberra, April 1999.

Dowsett GW. **HIV and homophobia: subtle hatreds, severe consequences, and the question of origins**. Plenary presentation to Beyond Homophobia: Rethinking Anti-Gay Violence, Heterosexism and Homophobia in Multiple Perspective, San Francisco State University, San Francisco, April 1999.

Grierson J & de Visser R. **Back on the chain gang: experiences and expectations around returning to work among HIV positive people**. Fifth International Congress of AIDS in ASIA and the Pacific, Kuala Lumpur, October 1999.

Murphy D, Brotherton A & Hurley M. **Getting things in focus: who's behind the lens?** Fourth International Conference on the Biopsychosocial Aspects of HIV Infection Conference, Ottawa, July 1999.

Johnson K, Hillier L & Harrison L. **The sexual rights of people with intellectual disabilities**. Tenth International Conference of Law, Psychiatry & Psychology, Dublin, July 1999.

Kirkman M. **Infertile mothers: a perspective from research and experience**. Eleventh World Congress on In Vitro Fertilization and Human Reproductive Genetics, Sydney, May 1999.

Kirkman M. **Revising the plot: autobiographical narratives after infertility**. International Conference of the Association for Qualitative Research, Melbourne, July 1999.

McInnes D, Dowsett GW, Bollen J, Couch M & Edwards B. **Golden Boy: gay educators, HIV and the pedagogy of prevention**. Tenth Conference on the Social Aspects of AIDS, London, June 1999.

O'Brien ML & Fitzgerald JL. **The impact of structural and cultural factors within policing and the risk of hepatitis C transmission for drug users**. Second Australasian Conference on Hepatitis C, Christchurch, New Zealand, August 1999.

Smith AMA. **HIV research priorities into the next decade: ethics in research**. Fifth International Congress on AIDS in Asia and the Pacific, Kuala Lumpur, October 1999.

Willis J. **'If any man tried to do that to me, I'd pull his penis out and spear him': heterosexism and homophobia in traditional societies**. Plenary presentation to Beyond Homophobia: Rethinking Anti-Gay Violence, Heterosexism and Homophobia in Multiple Perspective, San Francisco State University, San Francisco, April 1999.

AUSTRALIAN

Bartos M. **The dynamics of positive sexuality in a changed epidemic**. Eleventh Annual Conference of the Australasian Society for HIV Medicine, Perth, December 1999.

Bartos M. **AIDS as chronic illness: illness work and subjectification**. Eleventh Annual Conference of the Australasian Society for HIV Medicine, Perth, December 1999.

Couch M. **A formative evaluation of an HIV/AIDS intermediate care service: thinking ahead and being clear and modest**. Challenging Boundaries, Australasian Evaluation Society International Conference, Perth, October 1999.

Couch M, Warr D & Walsh J. **Homeless youth and 'True Stories': how commitment to the dissemination of research results provides opportunities for evaluation**. Challenging Boundaries, Australasian Evaluation Society International Conference, Perth, October 1999.

Couch M. **'You're not alone Dick': context and proximity in male impotence.** Australasian Sexual Health Conference, Adelaide, May 1999.

Dempsey D & Hillier L. **Queer, questioning and confused: what do young people mean by bisexual?** Health In Difference 3, Adelaide, October 1999.

Dowsett GW, Bollen J, Couch M & McInnes D. **HIV/AIDS and constructs of gay community: qualitative inquiry in community-based health promotion for gay men.** Issues of Rigour in Qualitative Research, Association for Qualitative Research, Melbourne, July 1999.

Dowsett GW, Turney L & Woolcock G. **The pedagogy of hepatitis C prevention: what do user educators do?** Eleventh Annual Conference of the Australasian Society for HIV Medicine, Perth, December 1999.

Dowsett GW. **Overdetermined, oversexed and over it: masculinity and sexuality.** National Conference on Sexology - Sexualities: The Australian Kaleidoscope, Adelaide, October 1999.

Dowsett GW. **Gay men's sexual health in a 'post-AIDS' world.** Health In Difference 3 Conference, Adelaide, October 1999.

Dowsett GW. **Men are not fruit salad: masculinity and the vagaries of variety.** Third National Men's Health Conference, Alice Springs, October 1999.

Dowsett GW. **Better practice in hepatitis C prevention: a review of current prevention education activities for people who inject drugs.** First National Hepatitis C Educators' Workshop, Canberra, May 1999.

Grierson J, Bartos M, de Visser R & McDonald K. **HIV Futures II: a report from the other side of HAART.** Eleventh Annual Conference of the Australasian Society for HIV Medicine, Perth, December 1999.

Grierson J, Prestage G, Race K & Song A. **Memberships and alliances: the importance of community identifications for health maintenance in a HIV-positive cohort in NSW.** Eleventh Annual Conference of the Australasian Society for HIV Medicine, Perth, December 1999.

Harrison L, Dempsey D & Hillier L. **Safe spaces? Exploring sexual difference in cyberspace.** Sociology for a New Millennium: The Australian Sociological Association Annual Conference, Melbourne, December 1999.

Hillier L, Harrison L & Dempsey D. **Discovering the fault lines: same-sex attracted youth resistance and change.** Sociology for a New Millennium: The Australian Sociological Association Annual Conference, Melbourne, December 1999.

Hurley M. **A tale of two daddies.** Homosexual Histories 2 Conference, The University of Melbourne, November 1999.

Hurley M & Nestle J. **Fragile words, fierce desires.** Melbourne Writers Festival, August 1999.

Hurley M. **Hope, memory and HIV.** Victorian Country AIDS Network Futures Forum, Bendigo, June 1999.

Johnson K, Hillier L & Harrison L. **People with intellectual disabilities: living safer sexual lives.** Australian Society for the Scientific Study of Intellectual Disability, Sydney, September, 1999.

Kavanagh AM, Mitchell H & Giles GG. **Use of HRT and the accuracy of screening mammography.** Clinical Oncological Association of Australia, Melbourne, November 1999.

Kavanagh AM & Daly J. **How do research methods shape public health?** Public Health Association of Austr]alia, Darwin, September 1999.

Kavanagh AM. **Use of HRT and the accuracy of screening mammography.** Australasian Epidemiological Association, Darwin, October 1999.

Kavanagh AM. **Epidemiologist meets sociologist.** Sociology Open Day, Melbourne, September 1999.

Kirkman M, Rosenthal DA & Smith AMA. **Adolescent sex and the romantic narrative: the exclusion of 'safe sex'.** Sexuality and Psychotherapy: National Conference of the Australian and New Zealand Association of Psychotherapy, Melbourne, November 1999.

Kirkman M. **What's the plot? Applying narrative theory to research in psychology.** Annual Conference of the Women in Psychology Group of the Australian Psychological Society, Seymour, Victoria, December 1999.

Kirkman M. **'What's going to happen next month?' Why some infertile childless women may not rewrite their autobiographical narratives as non-mothers.** Story, Narrative and the Clinic: Theory, Therapy & Health Care, La Trobe University, Melbourne, February 1999.

McDonald K & Bartos M. **The role of motherhood in relation to HIV antiretroviral treatment.** Eleventh Annual Conference of the Australasian Society for HIV Medicine, Perth, December 1999.

Mitchell A. **STD prevention: can we turn it into sexual health?** Body Culture Conference: Victorian Health Promotion Foundation Annual Conference, Melbourne, July 1999.

Mitchell A. **Sexual decision making and safe sex.** Victorian Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation 'Coming Together Safely' Forum, Marysville, August 1999.

Mischewski A. **Structures of prevention: safe sex/safe injecting audit of Mount Alexander Shire.** Sociology for a New Millennium: The Australian Sociological Association, Melbourne, December 1999.

Mischewski A. **Seminal articulations: a genealogy of men's seminal fluid.** Sociology for a New Millennium: The Australian Sociological Association, Melbourne, December 1999.

Mitchell A. **Same-sex attracted young people: how can schools support them?** Teacher Learning Network Year Level Coordinators' Conference. Melbourne, November 1999.

Mitchell A. **Social network mapping and how to go about it.** Sustaining Our Natural Resources: Dairying for Tomorrow Conference, Canberra, December 1999.

Perlesz A & Lindsay J. **Methodological triangulation in researching families: increasing validity of confirming complexity.** Association for Qualitative Research Conference, Melbourne, June 1999.

Race K, Song A, Crawford J, Prestage G, Grierson J & Kippax S. **Current use of HAART and related attitudes.** Eleventh Annual Conference of the Australasian Society for HIV Medicine, Perth, December 1999.

Rosenthal DA. **How to play with the big boys and girls.** National Podiatry Educators Conference, Melbourne, July 1999.

Rosenthal DA. **Sex and the body beautiful.** Body Culture Conference: Victorian Health Promotion Foundation Annual Conference, Melbourne, July 1999.

Smith AMA. **Same-sex attraction and STD/HIV risk among Australian youth: results of a national survey.** Australasian Sexual Health Conference, Adelaide, May 1999.

Smith AMA. **Same-sex attraction and STD/HIV risk among Australian youth: results of a national survey.** Public Health Association of Australia, Annual Conference, Darwin, September 1999.

Willis JM. **'If any man tried to do that to me': homophobia and heterosexism in a traditional Aboriginal society.** Keynote Address, Queensland Sexual Health Society Conference, Brisbane, August 1999.

Research Grants and Scholarships

NEW PROJECT GRANTS RECEIVED DURING 1999

EXTERNAL

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

The National Schools Project

Doreen Rosenthal, Anne Mitchell, Debbie Ollis and Jan Watson

1999: \$199,000

Commonwealth Department of Health & Aged Care, Australian National Council on AIDS and Related Diseases

Australian secondary teachers' preparedness for Hepatitis C prevention education

Anne Mitchell and Doreen Rosenthal

1999: \$49,361

INTERNAL

La Trobe University Faculty of Health Sciences Research Grant

Clients of sex workers in Hanoi, Vietnam: a study of cultural meanings and sex practices in relation to HIV/AIDS and sexual health

Murray Couch with Gary Dowsett

1999: \$10,000

La Trobe University Faculty of Health Sciences Research Grant

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

Gary Dowsett and Murray Couch

1999: \$7,000

CONTINUING RESEARCH GRANTS

Victorian Health Promotion Foundation - Centre of Excellence Grant

A program of research relating to the prevention of STIs

Doreen Rosenthal

1999-2002: \$1,700,000

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

A program of HIV/AIDS and related diseases research

Doreen Rosenthal

1999-2003: \$4,000,000

Victorian Health Promotion Foundation - Community Health Program

People with intellectual disabilities: living safer sexual lives

Lynne Hillier and Kelley Johnson with Lyn Harrison (Deakin University)

1998-1999: \$124,000

Victorian Health Promotion Foundation, Department of Human Services & Health, Kodak Australia (based at the Anti-Cancer Council of Victoria)

Using breast density to improve the accuracy of mammographic screening 1998-2000

Anne Kavanagh

1999: \$220,000

National Health & Medical Research Council

National prevalence study of sexual health behaviours and attitudes

Chris Rissel and Anthony Smith

1999: \$745,979

National Health & Medical Research Council

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

Gary Dowsett and David McInnes (University of Western Sydney)

1999: \$187,061

National Health & Medical Research Council and Australian National Council on AIDS & Related Diseases

Hepatitis C prevention among gay men who inject drugs in Melbourne's gay community

Gary Dowsett with the Victorian AIDS Council/Gay Men's Health Centre

1999: \$60,000

FELLOWSHIPS

National Health & Medical Research Council Postdoctoral Fellowship

Supportive cultures and the sexual and emotional health of same-sex attracted youth

Lynne Hillier

(Supervisor: Doreen Rosenthal)

1999 - 2003: \$218,211

National Health & Medical Research Council Postdoctoral Fellowship

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

Jo Lindsay

(Supervisor: Doreen Rosenthal)

1998 - 2001: \$203,874

RESEARCH GRANTS AWARDED DURING 1999

Victorian Health Promotion Foundation

Impact of condom use promotion on unintended pregnancy

Anthony Smith and Julia Shelley (Centre for the Study of Mothers' & Children's Health)

2000-2001: \$132,667

How do research methods shape public health?

Anne Kavanagh, Jeanne Daly and Damien Jolley (Deakin University)

2000-2002: \$193,701

Australian Research Council

Dealing with homophobia

Lynne Hillier and Lyn Harrison (Deakin University)

2000: \$19,000

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

Michael Bartos, Jon Willis and Ian Anderson (The University of Melbourne)

2000: \$47,000

INTERNAL

La Trobe University, Faculty of Health Sciences Research Grants

Legal responses to claims of negligence in cervical screening

Anne Kavanagh and Linda Hancock (The University of Melbourne)

2000: \$10,837

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

Anthony Smith and Doreen Rosenthal

2000: \$12,360

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 with Anthony Smith

2000: \$10,000

Male sex work: health, culture and masculinity

Jon Willis with Gary Dowsett

2000: \$10,000

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

Mary O'Brien with Gary Dowsett

2000: \$10,000

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

Clive Aspin with Gary Dowsett

2000: \$9,771

SCHOLARSHIPS & POSTGRADUATE SUPPORT

Australian Research Centre in Sex, Health & Society PhD Scholarship

Queer Family Values in Australia, 1980-2000

Deborah Dempsey

Commonwealth AIDS Research Grant Postgraduate Scholarship

Sexuality education in primary schools

Marg Hay

La Trobe University, Postgraduate Research Scholarship

Dominant and contesting discourses in sexuality education

Deana Leahy

Desirable disciplines: gay men, desire and sexual practices

Anton Mischewski

Research Consultancies

COMMONWEALTH DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & AGED CARE

Update of Australian National Council on AIDS & Related Diseases Bulletins

Doreen Rosenthal and Anne Mitchell

A complete review and update of all previous ANCARD Bulletins was carried out as well as several new ones being written.

CARE INTERNATIONAL

Review of HIV/AIDS research programs for men who have sex with men in Bangladesh for CARE Bangladesh

Gary Dowsett

The aim of this project was to investigate existing initiatives by CARE Bangladesh to develop HIV prevention interventions for men who have sex with men in Dhaka, Bangladesh, with a view to recommending further research and program development.

AUSTRALIAN FEDERATION OF AIDS ORGANISATIONS

Review of the international literature on HIV/AIDS compliance education

Gary Dowsett

The review was commissioned by the Australian Federation of AIDS Organisations to support its National Compliance Education Project. The report of the review examined both the scientific literature on compliance education and reports from community-based organisations on their experience of compliance issues and their educational programs to assist people living with HIV/AIDS in treatments education.

Lynne Hillier and Doreen Rosenthal receiving the Public Health Award from Robert Doyle

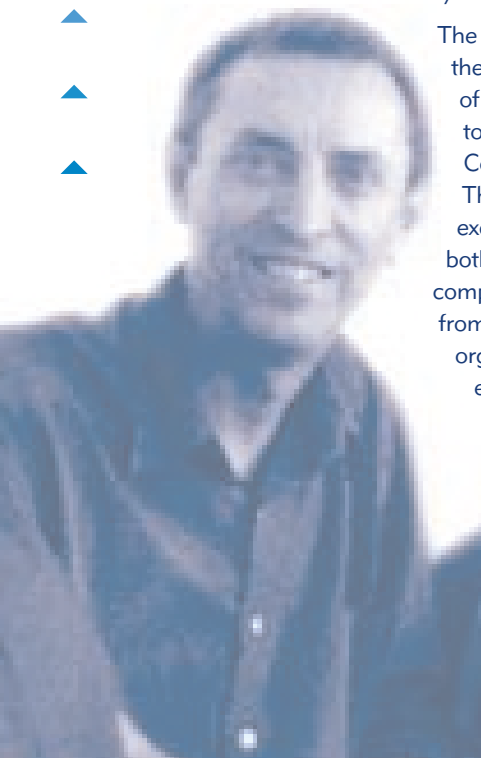


Awards

The **Victorian Public Health Award** for Excellence and Innovation in Research was awarded to the Australian Research Centre in Sex, Health & Society for its high quality and original research on the Same-Sex Attracted Youth project. The Same-Sex Attracted Youth project which was completed in 1998 by Lynne Hillier and Lyn Harrison (Deakin University).

The **People Living With HIV/AIDS (Victoria) Research Progress Award** was presented to Karalyn McDonald for her work on the HIV Futures I Women's Project, which culminated in a report 'Standing on Shifting Sand: Women Living With HIV/AIDS in Australia', a national survey on women living with HIV/AIDS. The report was published in 1998 with Michael Bartos, Richard de Visser, Douglas Ezzy and Doreen Rosenthal from the National Centre in HIV Social Research based at La Trobe University.

The **La Trobe University Graduate Research Prize** (Masters by Research/PhD) was awarded to Maggie Kirkman for completing the most outstanding thesis in the Faculty of Health Sciences in 1998. Maggie was awarded the prize for her PhD thesis, 'Plots and disruptions: narratives, infertility and women's lives' completed under the supervision of Doreen Rosenthal.



Gary Dowsett



Maggie Kirkman with her Faculty award

Visiting Scholars

RIO TINTO/LA TROBE UNIVERSITY DISTINGUISHED VISITING FELLOW

Professor Graham Hart

Medical Research Council, Public and Social Health Services Unit, University of Glasgow, Scotland.

Professor Graham Hart, Director of the Medical Research Council, Public and Social Health Services Unit, University of Glasgow, visited the Centre as a Rio Tinto/La Trobe University Distinguished Visiting Fellow during February and March 1999 to become familiar with the research program and to develop possible collaborations between the two Centres.

He has been working at the cutting edge of sexual health research for the past 12 years. His unit in the University of Glasgow carries out research at the forefront of the social science field within the medical research area. His long experience and expertise in the area of HIV/AIDS prevention is wide reaching and is recognised internationally. He has worked in such diverse areas as examining the role of needle exchanges in the prevention of blood borne viral infections, HIV prevention strategies for gay men, and HIV prevention interventions in secondary schools.

While at the Centre, Professor Hart worked with individual researchers to lend his expertise to developing projects. He also gave the opening seminar of our 1999 program on 'Control, secrecy and sexual pleasure: female-controlled methods of STI prevention in South Western Uganda'.

Professor Hart's visit led to the development of a collaborative research plan to undertake comparative studies of the male sex work industry in Australia and Britain. As a result of that initial planning work, Research Fellow Jon Willis applied for and received a Faculty of Health Sciences Research Starter Grant to undertake exploratory research on Melbourne's male sex work industry in 2000. With Professor Hart and Gary Dowsett, Jon Willis also began developing a major research grant application to the ARC in early 2000, based on Professor Hart's initial plan. This project will investigate general physical and mental health status of the growing number of men working in the sex industry. The aim will be to shed light on the health needs of this group by means of sociological investigation of the culture, communities and identity formation of these sex workers. As well as comparisons across sectors of the sex industry, a comparison between sex workers in the UK and Australia will be made to determine the extent to which nationally determined structural factors play a significant role in the health status of the men.

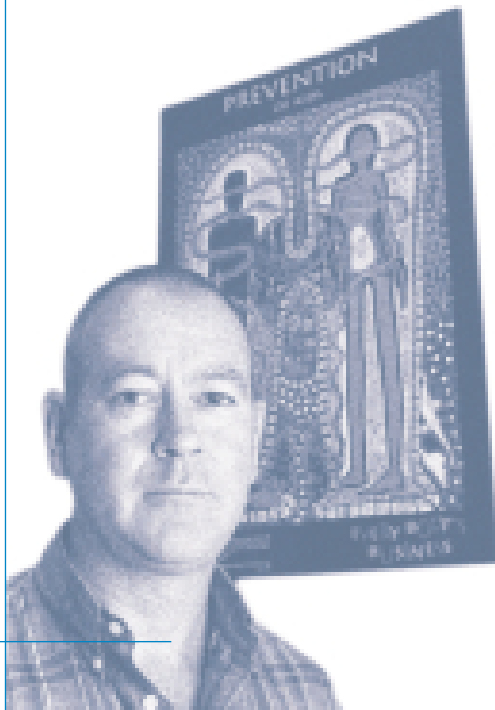
The Centre is very appreciative of the Rio Tinto program and the opportunity to have had access to Professor Hart's skills and experience in shaping our research program for the future.

Dr John Lynch

Department of Epidemiology, School of Public Health, Institute for Social Research, The University of Michigan, USA.

Dr Lynch has a joint appointment at the Department of Epidemiology in the School of Public Health and at the Institute for Social Research at the University of Michigan. He has published a variety of research papers in the world's leading public health, medical, cardiovascular and epidemiological journals. His scientific contributions have been recognised with prestigious awards from the American Heart Association and the International Society for Behavioural Medicine. Dr John Lynch, was invited as a visiting fellow by the Victorian Health Promotion Foundation and had the opportunity to visit ARCSHS to discuss the possibility of a collaborative research project with staff.

Graham Hart



International Activities

The Centre's International Program continued to develop throughout the year, coordinated by the Deputy Director, Gary Dowsett and through the work of Research Fellow (International Health), Murray Couch.

Research initiatives in the International Program include the successful undertaking of two new research projects in 1999 and the funding of a third project for 2000.

The first study, 'Sexual subcultures and HIV/AIDS prevention in the Western Pacific: an ethnographic study of men who have sex with men in Suva, Fiji' is funded through a Faculty of Health Sciences Research Grant to Gary Dowsett and Murray Couch. The study is being undertaken in collaboration with the AIDS Task Force of Fiji, a major non-governmental organisation based in Suva, and the University of the South Pacific.

The second study concerns the 'Clients of sex workers in Hanoi, Vietnam: a study of cultural meanings and sex practices in relation to HIV/AIDS and sexual health' and is being undertaken in collaboration with Dr Khuat Thu Hong at the Institute of Sociology in Hanoi. This project was undertaken with the assistance of the Faculty of Health Sciences Starter Research Grant to Murray Couch with Gary Dowsett.

The third study focuses on the 'Knowledge, attitudes and practices concerning sex and sexual health among secondary students in Vietnam' and is funded for 2000 by a Faculty of Health Sciences Research Grant to Anthony Smith and Doreen Rosenthal. Preliminary work for this project began in Hanoi in October 1999. This project is also being undertaken in collaboration with Dr Khuat Thu Hong.

As part of the development of what is hoped will be an ongoing collaboration with our colleagues in Vietnam, Doreen Rosenthal visited the Institute of Sociology, which is part of the Vietnam Academy of the Social Sciences and Humanities, Hanoi, from 30 October to 6 November. While in Hanoi with Murray Couch, Doreen Rosenthal conducted workshops on adolescent sex and sexuality. This successful visit also enabled some preliminary planning for more collaboration with the Institute in 2000, particularly focused on school-based sex education and sexual health issues.

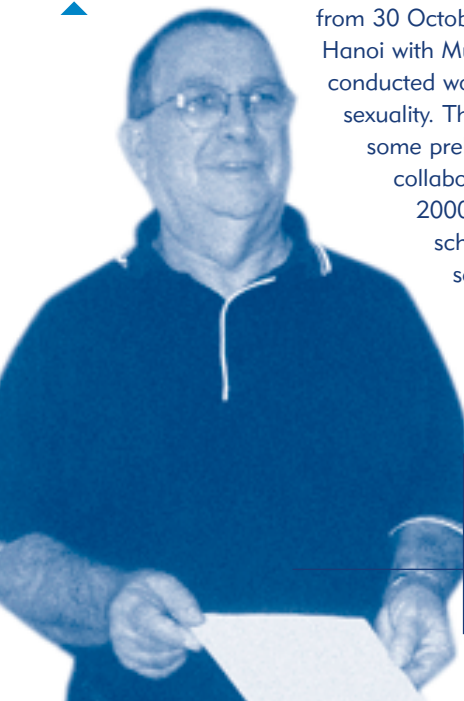
In April, Gary Dowsett was commissioned by the non-governmental organisation CARE International (Bangladesh office) to

undertake a review of its HIV/AIDS research and intervention programs for men who have sex with men and for transsexual sex workers in Dhaka, Bangladesh. Also in April, Gary was invited to participate in a 'Workshop on HIV/AIDS and stigma in developing countries', organised by USAID in San Francisco. This visit to San Francisco coincided with an international conference entitled 'Beyond homophobia: re-thinking anti-gay violence, heterosexism, and homophobia in multiple perspective', convened by the Human Sexuality Studies program at San Francisco State University. Gary presented a keynote address at that conference focusing on HIV/AIDS-related discrimination in Australia and in Bangladesh. Later in April, Gary was invited to speak at the 'HIV/AIDS Conference: resistances to behavioural change to reduce HIV/AIDS infection in predominantly heterosexual epidemics in Third World Countries'. This international conference was organised by the Health Transition Centre, based at the National Centre for Epidemiology and Population Health, Australian National University, Canberra, and funded by the Swedish International Development Agency and the Australian Agency for International Development.

Gary Dowsett's appointment in October 1998 as the external social scientist on the Scientific Review Committee of the Ontario HIV Treatments Network in Canada was extended to a three-year term in 1999. As part of the OHTN program of HIV/AIDS research funding and development, Gary presented the keynote address at the OHTN Annual Research Day held in Toronto in December, entitled 'Community and Academy: Critical collaboration and making ends meet'.

With administrative coordination provided by Administrative Officer Jennie Kendrick, the Centre again hosted a successful short course in Research Design in Qualitative Social Inquiry in October. The course was convened by Gary Dowsett and co-taught with Murray Couch. The short course continued to provide the curriculum basis for other research design consultancies undertaken by Murray Couch at the University of South Australia, and Shine SA, a non-governmental sexual health organisation in Adelaide.

Finally, Jane Koerner, a postgraduate student pursuing a Masters in Health Sciences in the School of Public Health at La Trobe University, is undertaking research on Japanese public health policy in relation to young people and HIV/AIDS, supervised by Gary Dowsett and supported by a Japanese Government Monbusho Research Scholarship. Jane has been based at Tokyo University throughout 1999.



INTERNATIONAL VISITORS TO THE CENTRE

Dr Ayoade Olatunbosun-Alakija

Fiji School of Medicine and Medical Director, World Health Organization Sexual Health Clinic, Suva, Fiji.

The Centre received a visit from Dr Ayoade Olatunbosun-Alakija, Fiji School of Medicine and designated Medical Director of the newly funded World Health Organisation Sexual Health Clinic to be established in Suva with the AIDS Task Force in Fiji, to explore research possibilities in which the Centre might assist. Visits to Fiji in early 2000 by Centre staff will continue this planning.

INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

International Scientific Review Committee, XIII
International AIDS Conference, Durban (*Gary Dowsett, Doreen Rosenthal, Anthony Smith*)

International representative, Society for Research on Adolescence, USA (*Doreen Rosenthal*)

Organising Committee, 6th International Congress on AIDS in Asia and the Pacific, Melbourne 2001 (*Doreen Rosenthal*)

Scientific Advisory Committee of the Ontario HIV Treatments Network, Toronto, Canada (*Gary Dowsett*)

Doreen Rosenthal at
the Institute of
Sociology, Hanoi



Seminars Hosted by the Centre

Control, secrecy and sexual pleasure: female-controlled methods of STI prevention in South Western Uganda

Graham Hart, Medical Research Council, Public and Social Health Services Unit, University of Glasgow, March 10.

It happened one night: an event-specific analysis of heterosexual condom use

Richard de Visser, Australian Research Centre in Sex, Health & Society, March 24.

Turning research into practice: the national schools framework

Anne Mitchell and Debbie Ollis, Australian Research Centre in Sex, Health & Society, April 7.

Regulating capital in drug discourse: an alternative framework to harm reduction

John Fitzgerald, Department of Criminology, The University of Melbourne, April 21.

Making them gay: negotiating sexual, cultural and health literacies in the pedagogy of peer education

David McInnes, School of Communication and Media, University of Western Sydney, May 5.

The Vietnamese IDU and harm reduction study: links between community development and social research

Peter Higgs, Centre for Harm Reduction, Macfarlane Burnet Centre for Medical Research, May 19.

Suck my nation - the politics of (homo) sex

Sasho Lambevski, National Centre in HIV Social Research, The University of New South Wales, June 2.

Colonialism and the experience of risk: issues for prevention in Aboriginal health

Ian Anderson, VicHealth Koori Health Research and Community Development Unit, Centre for the Study of Health and Society, The University of Melbourne, June 16.

The social construction of herpes

Natasha Posner, Mayne Medical School, The University of Queensland, August 11.

Global sex: how does 'The new world order' impact on sex?

Dennis Altman, School of Sociology, Politics and Anthropology, La Trobe University, August 25.

HIV/AIDS and constructs of gay community: researching educational practice within gay community-based health promotion for gay men

Gary Dowsett, Australian Research Centre in Sex, Health & Society, September 8.

The work of UNAIDS

Rob Moodie, Victorian Health Promotion Foundation, September 22.

Same sex, different rights?

Peter Gourlay and John Bisas, Equal Opportunity Commission, October 6.

Sexual health discourses: assisting patients gain autonomy and empowerment for sexual health and safety through clinical interaction

Jan Browne, University of New England, November 3.

'Eliminating surprises': contradictions between public health policy and clinical practice in cervical cancer screening

Anne Kavanagh, Australian Research Centre in Sex, Health & Society, November 17.

Educational Activities

POSTGRADUATE STUDENTS

This year saw three new PhD students Deborah Dempsey, Deana Leahy and Karalyn McDonald begin at the Centre. Deana was awarded a La Trobe University PhD scholarship and Deborah the first ARCSHS PhD scholarship.

Mid-year we established an award to encourage academic publishing by our postgraduate students. Anton Mischewski and Richard de Visser have already been recipients of this award (Richard twice).

Jeanette Pope submitted her thesis in December 1999 ending the year on a good note. In November, Deborah Dempsey was awarded an Australian Postgraduate Scholarship and Karalyn was awarded NHMRC postgraduate scholarship. We awarded two ARCSHS PhD scholarships for 2000 to two new students: Rebecca Bentley and Philip Entwistle.

CENTRE PHD STUDENTS

ARBES, Vicki

Understanding sexual coercion among young people: peer group dynamics
(Supervisor: D Rosenthal)

COOK, Roger

Men, masculinity and infertility
(Supervisor: D Rosenthal)

DEMPSEY, Deborah

Queer family values in Australia (1980-2000)
(Supervisor: G Dowsett)

DE VISSER, Richard

Situational predictors of condom use amongst heterosexual young adults
(Supervisor: A Smith)

HAY, Marg

Sexuality education in primary schools
(Supervisor: D Rosenthal)

HORN, Gregory

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

LEAHY, Deana

Dominant and contesting discourses in sexuality education
(Supervisors: G Dowsett & L Harrison, Deakin University)

MCDONALD, Karalyn

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

MISCHEWSKI, Anton

Desirable disciplines: gay men, desire and sexual practices
(Supervisors: G Dowsett & A Smith)

POPE, Jeanette

Epidemiology of sexually transmissible diseases
(Supervisor: A Smith)

OTHER STUDENTS - PHD

ENTWISTLE, Philip

Sex work, the family and society: structural factors inhibiting HIV interventions for commercial sex workers in urban Cambodia
(The University of Queensland. Supervisor: J Willis)

HAFNER, Diane

Feelings in the heart: Aboriginal experience of land, emotion and kinship in Cape York Peninsula
(The University of Queensland. Supervisor: J Willis)

KELLY, Angela

AIDS dementia: the lived experience
(Macquarie University. Supervisors: A Yeatman & G Dowsett)

MANSEL-LEES, Virginia

Plotting the paths to a lesbian identity
(The University of Melbourne. Supervisor: L Hillier)

TEMPLE-SMITH, Meredith

STDs in general practice
(Deakin University. Supervisors: A Kavanagh & S Gifford)



Anton Mischewski, Karalyn McDonald, Richard de Visser
(front) Deb Dempsey, Deana Leahy

OTHER STUDENTS - MASTERS

AMOS, *Alison*

Radiological review of interval cancers
(The University of Melbourne. Supervisor: A Kavanagh)

BRAMWELL, *Michael*

The social construction of celibacy
(Supervisors: A Mitchell & M Couch)

KOERNER, *Jane*

HIV/AIDS prevention and young people in Tokyo:
analysis of Japanese health policy using WHO and
UNAIDS policy declarations
(Supervisor: G Dowsett)

SUPERVISION OF TRAINEES

O'BYRNE, *Ann-Marie*

Public health trainee from BreastScreen Victoria
(Supervisor: A Kavanagh)

CONTINUING EDUCATION

TEACHING

Sexuality, health & social research

Dr Lynne Hillier (Convenor)

In the second semester of 1999, the post-graduate unit, 'Sexuality, Health and Social Research' was held at the Centre for the first time with nine students who were mainly enrolled in post-graduate courses in Health Sciences at La Trobe University. The thirteen-week course, divided into three learning areas aimed to provide an introduction to social research into sexuality. As well as presenting current theories in sexuality research and methodology, the unit offered a unique opportunity for students to hear researchers talk about their own projects. This was clearly a highlight of the course and the students often commented that they found this opportunity informative and inspiring. The unit also gave the opportunity for those involved in Masters degrees to

formulate their minor thesis proposal with supervision from researchers at ARCSHS. On the basis of her experiences in the subject, one of the students will carry out her thesis work at ARCSHS in 2000.

SHORT COURSES

Research design in qualitative social inquiry

Gary Dowsett (Convenor) and Murray Couch

The Centre hosted a successful short course in Research Design in Qualitative Social Inquiry in October. This week-long course examined the principles and practices of designing social and behavioural research, particularly using qualitative methodology. The course recognises the need for applied research by public sector and community sector agencies and is designed for interested health professionals working in the public and community sectors in Australia and overseas. Participants came from Thailand and Australia, including two of the Centre's PhD students. One interesting outcome of the course is the development of a SPIRT grant application by the Centre and staff from the Australian Federation of AIDS Organisations who participated in the course.

OCCASIONAL LECTURES

de Visser R. **It happened one night: an event specific analysis of heterosexual condom use.** College of Health Psychology Postgraduate Research Update, July 1999.

Dowsett GW. **Gay and lesbian rights: whatever happened to liberation?** Annual General Meeting of the Victorian Gay and Lesbian Rights Lobby, Melbourne, August 1999.

Dowsett GW. **Researching your own community.** La Trobe University Health Sociology Workshop, Melbourne, April 1999.

Dowsett GW. **Constructs of community in gay men's HIV/AIDS health promotion.** Center for AIDS Prevention Studies, University of California (San Francisco), San Francisco, April 1999.



Jeffrey Grierson (centre)
on graduation, with
Doreen Rosenthal and
Anthony Smith (supervisor)



Richard de Visser was one of two students awarded publishing awards in 1999

Dowsett GW. **Gay men and corporeality: the body teaches, sexuality learns.** TAPS Postdoctoral Program, Center for AIDS Prevention Studies, University of California (San Francisco), San Francisco, April 1999.

Hillier L, Dempsey D & Harrison L. **Girls loving girls in the 90s.** Australian Psychological Society special interest group, June 1999.

Hillier L. **The national same-sex attracted youth project.** Colloquia Series, Psychology Department, Swinburne University of Technology, April 1999.

Hillier L. **Whatever happened to 'duty of care?'** Health Education Association of Victoria, March 1999.

Hillier L, Dempsey D & Harrison L. **Young lesbians, attraction, identity and sexuality.** VAC working group on lesbian health, November 1999.

Kavanagh A. **Screening in chronic disease.** Masters of Public Health, Monash University, October 1999.

O'Brien ML. **Practices of self care - regulation and control.** Social control, regulation and deviance, Swinburne University of Technology, May 1999.

O'Brien ML. **In-depth semi-structured interviewing.** Qualitative methods in criminology, The University of Melbourne, April 1999.

O'Brien ML. **Using qualitative methods in public health research: A case study.** Masters of Public Health, Deakin University, June 1999.

Willis JM. **Men's health: the influence of social construction of gender, ethnicity and race.** Faculty of Health Sciences, Deakin University, October 1999.

SEMINARS PRESENTED

de Visser R. **It happened one night: an event specific analysis of heterosexual condom use.** Seminar Series, Australian Research Centre in Sex, Health & Society, March 1999.

Dowsett GW. **HIV/AIDS and constructs of gay community: researching educational practice within gay community-based health promotion for gay men.** Seminar Series, Australian Research Centre in Sex, Health & Society, September 1999.

Hillier L. **Drug use in the context of the lives of SSAY.** Drugs Forum, Australian Research Centre in Sex, Health & Society, July 1999.

Hillier L. **'There's still a lot of red neck bad form attitude out there': SSAY experiences of discrimination and abuse.** Seminar Series, Australian Research Centre in Sex, Health & Society, May 1999.

Hillier L. **Being same-sex attracted and young in rural areas.** Victorian Health Promotion Foundation, Working Group on SSAY in rural regions, August 1999.

Kavanagh A. **Screening in breast cancer.** BreastScreen Victoria, Melbourne, November 1999.

Kavanagh A. **Eliminating surprises: contradictions between public health policy and clinical practice.** Seminar Series, Australian Research Centre in Sex, Health & Society, November 1999.

Kirkman M. **What's the plot? Analysing data in narrative research.** Health Sociologists' Network at La Trobe University, Trawool, Victoria, April 1999.

Kirkman M. **The College of Health Psychology,** Melbourne, March 1999.

Mitchell A. **Drug education consultants for schools.** Turning the Tide, Melbourne, June 1999.

Community Development and Education Unit

COMMUNITY LIAISON AND EDUCATION

The Community Liaison Unit at the Centre consists of a core staff of Anne Mitchell and Jenny Walsh, and additional project staff at various times. In 1999 Debbie Ollis and Jan Watson were part of the Unit working on the National Schools Project.

BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS WITH RESEARCHED COMMUNITIES

In 1999 a number of new projects started at the Centre and called on the Community Liaison Unit to assist them with making links into the relevant communities. These included a project exploring the education work-force in HIV/AIDS community based organisations, and a large project comparing the lives and health concerns of homeless young people in Australia with a similar group in the USA. In addition the biennial HIV Futures study of the health and well-being of PLWHA in Australia was conducted again in 1999. The important task of canvassing community issues and concerns for inclusion in the new study and developing ideas for recruitment was part of the Unit's work.

In a small Centre project, Anton Mischewski conducted an audit of the safe sex and safe injecting equipment available in Shire of Mount Alexander in Central Victoria. This project had an important community outcome when Anne Mitchell facilitated a public meeting which was attended by a large number of interested people, many of them prominent and influential citizens of the Shire. These included senior members of the Chamber of Commerce, members of the Shire council, the CEO of a local community health centre and school representatives. The meeting generated a number of practical strategies for addressing issues raised by the research. These ongoing community development and awareness-raising initiatives will continue to be supported by the Centre.

As part of the Researchers-in-Residence program based at the Australian Federation of AIDS Organisations (AFAO), Michael Hurley conducted an

evaluation of a Compliance and Communication Workshop for the Australasian Society of HIV Medicine, an evaluation of a short course in HIV Medicine for the Community, AIDS Treatments Project, Australia and New South Wales Department of Health HIV Prescribers Unit, Continuing Medical Education Project and an evaluation of a short course in HIV Medicine for the NSW Department of Health HIV Prescribers Unit, Continuing Medical Education Project.

RESEARCH DISSEMINATION



The research about the health and well-being of same-sex attracted young people (SSAY) which won a Victorian Government Public Health Award for Excellence this year, was the basis of many of the dissemination activities in 1999. This research was presented regularly to teachers, youth

workers, parents groups and health care providers, including GPs. An important spin-off from this work (and of some of the other research about young people) was the opportunity for the Unit to work with the Venereology Society of Victoria to develop a training package for GPs. The package, which is designed to help doctors better meet the sexual health needs of their young clients, is completed and due for piloting. Meanwhile a waiting room poster to support the project is being developed.

The mental health aspects of the SSAY research proved to be a particular focus in 1999 and much of the dissemination work centred on this issue. Jenny Walsh was guest speaker at a large forum run by the Youth Affairs Network of Queensland to raise the issue of youth suicide and self-harm by gay and lesbian young people. This event has generated many further requests for copies of the community report from all over Australia.

A number of other projects were completed and dissemination begun in 1999.

These included further HIV futures reports, one relating to heterosexual men and the others providing State-specific data, a project on the hepatitis C education work-force and research on parents as sexuality educators of their children.

Anne Mitchell and
Jenny Walsh



THE NATIONAL SCHOOLS PROJECT: TALKING SEXUAL HEALTH

Since mid-1998 the Unit has housed a project funded by the Australian National Council on AIDS and Related Diseases to develop a blueprint for best-practice evidence based HIV/AIDS, STI and blood-borne virus prevention education in secondary schools. The project began with a national meeting of representatives from all education departments and systems where a work-plan and timeline was established. The first product developed was a national policy framework to cover best practice education in the area. Throughout 1999 the project team worked on a professional development resource which provided materials for training teachers to manage some of the more difficult but important areas such as sexual diversity, gender and power issues. A resource for parents to assist them to educate their children in conjunction with school programs was also developed by the project in partnership with national parent organisations. The project will be completed in 2000 with the development of classroom materials.

PROVIDING ADVICE ON RESEARCH INTO PRACTICE

The Unit was called upon in 1999 to advise other organisations on community involvement in research and research into practice. These organisations included the Perinatal Data Collection Unit in Victoria and the Australian Dairy Industry project 'Sustaining our natural resources: dairying for tomorrow'. The model of research into policy and practice was the subject of several conference presentations and attracted a wide range of international enquiries.

Finally the Unit was again delighted to conduct wide-ranging education sessions and work collaboratively with our community partners such as the Teacher Learning Network of the Education Unions and the Victorian Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation, to disseminate our research findings.

Jan Watson, Debbie Ollis
and Anne Mitchell in Darwin

LIVING WITH HIV PROGRAM

The report 'A Different Epidemic: HIV Positive Heterosexual Men in the HIV Futures Survey' was launched in Melbourne in May 1999 by the Deputy Director of the Western Region, Department of Health and Community Services.

HIV Futures II involved extensive community consultation throughout May 1999, including visits by project staff to Sydney, Brisbane and Hobart to meet with National and State PLWHA and AIDS organisations and Health Departments. A Project Reference Group for HIV Futures II is in place for the duration of the project seeking advice on content, focus and process. This group includes representatives of NAPWA, AFAO, VAC, PLWHA(Vic), ACON, PLWHA (NSW), QPP and Positive Women.

Extensive dissemination of the specific state reports from HIV Futures I accompanied consultations around HIV Futures II. These reports have been used extensively by State HIV/AIDS organisations for planning purposes.

Considerable media work was conducted by the Living with HIV Program around the launch of the report 'A Different Epidemic: HIV Positive Heterosexual Men in the HIV Futures Survey'. Coverage included print media (mainstream, HIV and gay/lesbian press) and radio.

Living with HIV staff made themselves available for comment on World AIDS day, providing research material and insights around the current status of PLWHA in Australia.

SAME-SEX ATTRACTED YOUTH RESEARCH

The same-sex attracted youth research which was launched in late 1998 continued to attract media interest in 1999. Interviews and articles appeared in all media; radio, television and print.



Other Staff Activities

CONFERENCES, SEMINARS & WORKSHOPS ATTENDED

Association for Qualitative Research Conference. Sex and drugs: can we find the connections?

Melbourne, June (J Lindsay).

First National Aboriginal Male Health Convention
Ross River NT., October (J Willis).

Meetings with Apunipima Cape York Health Council
and Tropical Public Health Unit
Cairns, November (J Willis).

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

COMMONWEALTH/NATIONAL

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

Australian National Council on AIDS & Related
Diseases (ANCARD), [Deputy Chair] (DR)

Australian National Council on HIV/AIDS & Related
Diseases Education and Prevention Subcommittee
[Chair] (DR) [Member] (GD)

Australian National Council on HIV/AIDS & Related
Diseases Hepatitis C Subcommittee (GD)

Australian National Council on HIV/AIDS & Related
Diseases Indigenous Australians' Sexual Health
Committee (JW)

Australian National Council on HIV/AIDS & Related
Diseases Research Advisory Committee (GD)

Australasian Society for HIV Medicine, HIV Education
Program for Doctors: Treatment Issues Working Group
(JG)

Monitoring and Evaluation Committee, BreastScreen
Australia (AK)

National Health & Medical Research Council,
Regional Grants Interviewing Committee, Adelaide &
Perth (AK)

National Health & Medical Research Council Grantnet
Users Reference Group (GD)

Public Health Association of Australia, National
Executive (AS)

Quality Assurance Committee, National Cervical
Cancer Screening Program (AK)

STATE

Association for Qualitative Research [Secretary] (JL)

Association for Qualitative Research Conference
Organising Committee [Member] (JL)

Chlamydia Strategy Working Party, Victorian
Department of Human Services (AS)

HIV/AIDS Prevention Education Project, Victorian
Education Department, Reference group (AM, DO)

Ministerial Advisory Committee on AIDS and Related
Diseases - Education Working Group (AS)

Public Health Association of Australia, Victorian
Branch Committee [President] (AS)

Research and Evaluation Committee, BreastScreen
Victoria (AK)

Risk and Protective Practices Advisory Committee,
Victorian Department of Human Services (AS)

Victorian Association of Family Therapists Research
Committee (JL)

Victorian Infectious Diseases Consortium, Victorian
Department of Human Services (AS)

Victorian Ministerial Advisory Committee on AIDS and
Related Diseases (AS)

Victorian Public Health Research and Education
Council [Director] (AS)

Women's Health Victoria Council (KN)

Victorian Health Promotion Foundation Clinical and
Public Health Research Committee (DR)

OTHER

AIDS Education Strategies Group (AM, JW)

Care and Support Strategies Group, AIDS Council of
New South Wales (MH)

Research and Ethics Committee, Victorian AIDS
Council/Gay Men's Health Centre [Convenor] (AS)

Steering Group, Sex on Premises Research Project,
with Dr David McInnes (University of Western Sydney)
and the AIDS Council of NSW (MH)

Victorian AIDS Council Research and Ethics
Committee (AS, AM)

Victorian AIDS Council Gay and Lesbian Development
Committee (AM)

Victorian AIDS Council/Gay Men's Health Centre,
Community Education Advisory and Development
Committee (GD)

LA TROBE UNIVERSITY

Centre for Development of Innovation in Health, Advisory Committee (AK)

Human Ethics Committee (AS)

Research and Graduate Studies Committee (DR)

Standing Committee for Readers and Associate Professors (DR)

FACULTY OF HEALTH SCIENCES

Board (Board of Studies) (DR)

Development Committee (DR)

Equal Opportunity Committee (KN)

Higher Degrees Committee, La Trobe University (AK)

Human Ethics Committee (KN)

Research Committee [Chair] (DR) [Member] (GD)

ASSESSORS/REVIEWERS

RESEARCH GRANT APPLICATIONS

Australian Research Grants Committee (Australian Research Council) (DR, GD, LH)

Commonwealth AIDS Research Grants (DR)

Healthways, WA (DR)

Kathleen Cunningham Foundation (AK)

National Health and Medical Research Council (AS, AK, DR, LH, GD)

New Zealand Health Research Council (DR)

Queensland Cancer Fund (AK)

The Ontario HIV Treatments Network (Canada) (GD)

Victorian Health Promotion Foundation (AK, AS, DR, LH, GD)

JOURNALS

AIDS Care (AK, AS, DR)

Australian Journal of Psychology (DR)

Australian and New Zealand Journal of Public Health (AK, AS)

Australian Psychologist (DR)

Australian Journal of Education (DR)

Cancer Causes and Control (AK)

Child Development (DR)

Contemporary Drug Problems (MOB)

Critical Inquiries (GD)

Feminism and Psychology (LH)

Genitourinary Medicine (DR)

Health Promotion International (LH)

International Journal of Psychology (DR)

International Journal of Behavioural Development (DR)

InSight (DR)

Journal of Adolescence (AK, JG, DR, LH, MH, JW)

Journal of Applied Social Psychology (DR)

Journal of Community and Applied Social Psychology (LH, DR)

Journal of Cross-Cultural Psychology (DR)

Journal of Culture, Health & Sexuality (GD, LH)

Journal of Research on Adolescence (DR)

Journal of Medical Screening (AK)

Journal of Sociology (GD)

Journal of Women and Health (LH)

Medical Journal of Australia (AK, AS)

Psychology, Health and Medicine (DR)

Psychological Reports (DR)

Psychological Bulletin (DR)

Sexualities (LH, GD)

Sex Role (LH)

Social Semiotics (MH)

Social Science & Medicine (GD)

Venereology (AS, AK, DR, LH, JW)

Women and Health (DR)

MEMBERSHIP OF EDITORIAL BOARDS

Critical Inquiries (GD)

International Journal of Psychology [Associate Editor] (DR)

InSight (DR)

Journal of Adolescence (DR)

Journal of Community & Applied Social Psychology (DR)

Journal of Culture, Health & Sexuality [Senior Reviews Editor] (GD)

Psychology, Health & Medicine (DR)

Sex Education (GD)

Social Aspects of AIDS Book Series (GD)

Venereology (AS)

THESIS EXAMINERS

Lynne Hillier

Minor Master's Thesis, Victoria University

Masters (Research) Thesis

Masters (Research) Thesis, Swinburne

University of Technology

Michael Hurley

PhD thesis, Queensland University of Technology

PhD thesis, The University of Queensland

Honors thesis, University of Western Sydney

Jo Lindsay

Masters (Research) Thesis, La Trobe University

Anne Mitchell

MPH, La Trobe University

Masters (Research), Victoria University

Funding

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 1999.

EXTERNAL

\$

VicHealth

Establishment Grant	500,000
Program Grant	63,973

Commonwealth Department of Health & Aged Care

CARG Collaborating Centre Grant	645,116
Health & Treatments Study	34,535
Researcher in Residence program	87,250
National Schools project	199,000

NHMRC

Grants	149,761
Postdoctoral Fellowships	104,396
Student scholarships	10,300

ARC Grants	41,657
ANCARD Commissioned research	49,361

Consultancies/earned income*	25,455
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INTERNAL

La Trobe University

DETYA Infrastructure support	148,143
Researcher salary support	75,337
Student scholarships	31,600

Faculty of Health Sciences

Faculty Postgraduate Support Grants	13,936
Higher Education Enrolments support	98,518
Recurrent charges support	20,000
Faculty Research Grants	17,000
Miscellaneous	28,370

TOTAL INCOME

2,343,708

*Indicates consultancy fees contracted, but not necessarily received in full in 1999.

...emics for males on the game

...erous research projects have
investigated the health and other
...ed by female sex workers. Now
... turn of male sex workers to
... under scientific scrutiny.

... research project - between La
University's Australian Research
in Sex, Health and Society
(ASHS) and the UK Medical Research
Council's Social and Public Health
Research Unit at Glasgow University -
... investigate the risks of physical and
... logical ill health and violence
... tered by male sex workers.

... at the AHSHS and Glasgow
University will gather and analyse
... ation from male sex workers in
... nt sectors of the male-to-male
... y in Melbourne, Glasgow and
... rgh.

... Trobe-Glasgow University link
... from a visit by Professor
... associate Director of the
... and Public Health Scie

... Hart has an interna
... tion for his research in
... productive health, inclu
... an in injecting drug use;
... m.

... in Australia as a Rio T
... be University Visiting Fe
... or Hart said the first
... erative partnership betwe
... be and Glasgow universit
... examine male prostitutes
... g in two sectors of the inc
... were younger, often drug
... rking the street and older
... rsonal resources (secure
... nodation, ...)

After AIDS:

the long road back

to work



Professor Mark Beaudet, based at the
International links.

The Melbourne end of the
... will involve researchers ma
... with male sex workers on the street
... areas like St Kilda, and those
... advertising their services in the medi

The sex workers will initially be asked
... to complete a brief questionnaire about
... their sexual behaviour and
... asse

By MARIE CURTIS
SOCIAL TREND WRITER

A disturbingly high rate of drug use
... by young lesbians has been an
... unexpected finding in Australia's
... first national study into young
... people attracted to members of
... their own sex.

Continuing analysis of the data
... collected for the National Report on
... Same-Sex Attracted Young People
... by the National Centre in HIV Social
... Research at La Trobe University has
... found that young homosexual,
... lesbian, bisexual and
... transgendered people are much
... more likely to be using illegal drugs

... and lives
... HIV antibody positive men and

■ IMPROVED treatments are prompting
... HIV and AIDS to con
... erger after diagnosis
... o the paid workforce
... e off due to illness.
... ot the only determi
... . Whether or not
... disclose their HIV status, how to cope
... with taking regular medication during
... working hours, the side-effects of some
... drugs and employer and workmate atti
... tudes are all issues of concern.

... as who drop out of the paid
... ople living with HIV/AIDS,
... intend with changes to tradi
... i of career and job security.
... eral trend to more flexible
... out those who suffer early
... morning nausea is a side-effect of medica
... tion or are able to work only part-time,
... the continuing casualisation of work means
... these face uncertainty about the reality and

W hen it comes to finding
... where does our career
... want to turn? Set in a
... perhaps, who can chat in case
... of oral and anal sex as the new
... low-fat dips. Or is it the firm
... or even - it has to be said - a
... 8, who share the details of Sa
... with MSMs at recess on Mo...

... according to new findings from the Aust
... Research Centre in Sex, Health and Society a
... Trobe University. The people teenagers peck
... turn to are their parents, especially their moth
... who top the list - for both boys and girls - as
... trusted, reliable sources of information about
... So, what's happened? Why are parents - a
... report cast as sex educators has traditionally
... dismal - now coming straight As? One chan
... is that the people parenting today's generation
... teenagers are often very different from their
... parents. Guardians of the sexual revolution
... '70s, they often look back at the messages about
... they heard from their parents and realise how
... inadequate they were and want to do better.

suggests Anne Mitchell, a community liaison offi
... with the research centre.

Lets talk

In an extraordinary develop
... the best source of sex edu

But while the research
... becoming more precise
... found they lack confidence
... thing? What if telling th
... them to do it? What if t
... soon? These are the kn
... about. It's for this reason
... produced a new booklet
... Parent's Guide, which no
... of accurate information
... also clues on how and

As for what kids wa
... it goes beyond the
... and reproduction,
... contraception, abor
... relationships and
... beliefs.

Growin

High use of drugs by lesbians: study

than adolescents generally.

While this was consistent with
... overseas studies, the researchers
... were surprised to find that signifi
... cantly more young women than
... men were injecting drugs and using
... marijuana.

A researcher, Ms Deborah
... Dempsey, said 62 per cent of the
... 750 males and females aged
... between 14 and 21 who took part in
... the study had smoked marijuana,
... compared with about 8 per cent in
... the general youth population.

In the study, young women were
... outsmoking their male counter
... parts on all scales, with 93 per cent
... of women and 19 per cent

using marijuana at least weekly.

More alarmingly, 11 per cent
... they had injected drugs, comp
... with 1 to 2 per cent of the gen
... youth population.

Of those who said they
... injected drugs, 15 per cent
... women compared with 7 per
... the young men.

"It's incredibly una
... of the general popula
... don't have the knowl
... moment," Ms Dempse
... need to know more abo
... women and sexuality. Ther
... research in this area than le

You may also need to think about leaving
... condoms within easy reach. Although resea
... shows young people are well-informed about
... HIV/AIDS, they're less clued about the risks
... other STDs. Sixty-nine per cent of young pe
... for instance, don't know chlamydia can cause
... infertility in women. And of students having
... 37 per cent used condoms only some of the
... Twenty-three per cent of young people beli
... they're not at risk from STDs because they
... and trust their partner. Add to that the fact
... some believe the pill prevents STDs as we
... pregnancy and it makes sense to consider
... accessible supplies of condoms around if yo
... your teenager could be sexually active.

As for how many teenagers actually are h
... sex, it could be fewer than you think. Curr
... estimates are that by the time they're in yo
... about 50 per cent of young people are sex
... active. This also means, adds Jenny Webb
... comm

50 per
... point
... sense

Young

K about sex

ment, children now value their parents as
cation. By **Paula Goodyer.**

h shows parents are
ent at sex ed, it has also
nce. What if I say the wrong
em about sex encourages
give them information too
nd of things they worry
n that the centre has
t. *Talking Sexual Health: A*
it only gives parents the kind
they need to pass on but
en to broach a
st to discuss with their parents.
basic biology of body chan
They want to hear about ST
rtion, homosexuality and
hey want to hear their parents'

One of the first things it does is doped the myth
that giving children facts about sex gives them a
licence to do it. On the contrary, says Macbeil,
there's no evidence that sex education of any kind
leads to earlier or increased sexual activity. In fact,
the evidence suggests that better education means
young people are more likely to postpone sex and
to be better prepared for it when the time comes.



near girls Sue Vencor, Ann Teak and Ida Siapta hung out the new round of HIV
people living with HIV/AIDS. This follow-up aims to expand further
who provided data about health and treatments, sex and relationship
d, community involvement and finances two years ago. The sur
"We've been distributed through AIDS Councils, PLWHA groups, health
community organisations."

ng up bent

The study of 750 males and female
14 to 21 revealed that young gay,
bisexual and transgendered people
more likely to be drinking alcohol
youths generally had injected drugs
narijuana.

boomers had options. They
took drugs. Now they want
ied sex. Now they want
ve differently.

These young people
suffer a dearth of reliable
about their emerging sex
instead, to less reliable
friends and the media, with
a limited range of misle
stereotypes. Your prov
queens" and "dykes" o
puts it.

Almost half the young
Trobe study had suffered
cal harassment, many
their own family. School
than a haven for the 70
young people who endu

The head of the study
says there is silence in
curriculum with regard
with these issues releg
and welfare subjects. Sh
school" approach is need
homophobia, harassm
endemic in the school s

"For many of these yo
is a very negative exp

Young and gay can be a tough combination

phobia is much more our there than
boys. The word gay has become the insult
of the moment for anyone who doesn't
perform their masculine
way."

In this area
little better.
acceptable. For
a "jock", for
"Hetero

jocks are
communa
want all o
playing, re
their talent
theatre."

Travis
realised he wa
tried to kill him
did all the
I was so
I would
do."

**"There's no
evidence that
sex education
of any kind
leads to earlier
or increased
sexual activity"**

As people's experience of
HIV changed, the response
of community organisations
and service providers was
also changing and HIV
Futures II would "reflect the
true nature of lives being
lived by positive people
around Australia", he said.



h will inform
on services and
providers, and
be part of the
to the new c

"You've got a life. You've got
HIV. So have your say."

That's the postcard invita-
tion promoting HIV Futures
II, a two-year follow-up study
of people living with
HIV/AIDS.

Produced by La Trobe
University's Centre for the
Study of Sexually
Transmissible Diseases, the
first HIV Futures survey was
conducted in 1997 and
attracted Australia's largest
sample of people living with
HIV/AIDS - 325 respondents.
Although gay men living in
Sydney were a substantial
proportion of the survey,
women, heterosexual men
and those living in rural areas
were also represented.

diverse enough pe
people living wi
AIDS in order to
document the Au
experience.

But he also highl
position the epid
within the gay co
and said he hope
increased repres
from positive gay
HIV Futures II.

"New treatment
been around for a w
people have had to
them and are mak
complex decision
how they fit into
he said. "As peop
away from the co
experience to inc
health management
suation with their
need to ensure con

, gay and happy:

