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Introduction

The Australian Research Centre in Sex, Health and Society (ARCSHS) is based at La Trobe University, Melbourne and is a centre for social research into sexuality, health and the social dimensions of sex and human relationships.

It works collaboratively and in partnership with academic research institutions, communities and community-based organisations, governments, international aid agencies and professionals in relevant fields to produce research that advances knowledge and promotes positive change in policy, practice and people’s lives.

ARCSHS sits within the School of Psychology and Public Health, and the College of Science, Health and Engineering at La Trobe.

ARCSHS Strategic and Scientific Advisory Committee

The role of the ARCSHS Strategic and Scientific Advisory Committee (SSAC) is to provide strategic direction and high-level advice to the ARCSHS Director and the Centre. The SSAC considers:

- Strategic directions and progress against the mission, aims and priorities outlined in the ARCSHS Strategic Plan
- Specific contextual and scientific developments in areas relevant to the Centre’s research program
- Important issues for the sustainability and management of the Centre

Chair
Professor Miranda Rose
Acting Associate Pro Vice Chancellor – Research
College of Science, Health and Engineering
La Trobe University

College Representative
Professor Rob Pike
Pro Vice-Chancellor
College of Science, Health and Engineering
La Trobe University

School Representative
Professor Stephen Kent
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College of Science, Health and Engineering
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Independent Experts
Professor Margaret Jolly
Australian Research Council Laureate Fellow
School of Culture, History and Language
College of Asia and the Pacific
Australian National University

Professor Alan Petersen
School of Social Sciences
Faculty of Arts
Monash University

Professor Barbara McPake
Director
Nossal Institute for Global Health
University of Melbourne

La Trobe University Representatives
Dr MaryAnne Aitken
Co-Executive Director
Research Office
La Trobe University

Mr Stephen May
Senior Director
Alumni and Advancement
La Trobe University

Associate Professor Christopher Roche
Chair in International Development
Senior Research Partner with the Developmental Leadership Program
Director of the Institute for Human Security and Social Change
La Trobe University

Director of ARCSHS
Professor Jayne Lucke
ARCSHS
La Trobe University

Deputy Director (Research) of ARCSHS
Associate Professor Anthony Lyons
ARCSHS
La Trobe University

ARCSHS Staff Representative
Ms Marina Carman
Chief of Staff
ARCSHS
La Trobe University

BBV and STI Strategic Directions Network

To inform our social research in blood borne viruses (BBVs) and sexually transmissible infections (STIs), and in line with the 2016–2019 ARCSHS Strategic Plan, we have established a BBV and STI Strategic Directions Network.

The role of the network is to focus on broad strategic directions and priorities regarding BBV and STI research at ARCSHS. Membership of the network includes a cross-section of stakeholders engaged with policy, programs, community and research related to BBV and STIs.

To remain flexible and responsive, and to maximise input while minimising the burden on members, the network operates as a network of strategic advisors rather than a committee that meets at set times during the year. ARCSHS facilitates the network and liaises with members of the network throughout the year. This is supplemented by drawing together selected members for topic-specific discussions when required.
ARCSHS engages in interdisciplinary research and includes researchers with qualifications and expertise in sociology, psychology, anthropology, cultural studies, history, gender and sexuality studies, education, political science, public health and community education.

**Professor and Director**
Jayne Lucke  
BA (Hons) UQ, PhD UQ

**Professor, Deputy Director and Chair**
Gary Dowsett  
BA UQ, DipEd UQ, PhD Macquarie, FASSA

**Emeritus Professors**
Anne Mitchell AO  
BA Melbourne, GradDipEd Melbourne, MA Melbourne
Marian Pitts  
BA (Hons) Wales, PhD Wales, AFBPS, MAPS (ARCSHS Director 2000-2012)

**Founding Director**
Professor Emerita Doreen Rosenthal AO  
BA (Hons) Melbourne, PhD Melbourne, FASSA (ARCSHS Director 1991-1999)

**Adjunct Professors**
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Richard Wassersug  
BA Tufts, PhD Chicago

**Associate Professor, Acting Director**
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BSc (Hons) Keele, PhD Keele
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Sue Dyson  
GradDipWomSt Rusden, PhD La Trobe
Lynne Hillier  
TPTC CoburgSC, TLTC MBS, BSc (Hons) La Trobe, PhD La Trobe
Michael Hurley  
BA (Hons) Sydney, GradDipEd SCVic, MLitt UNE, PhD UTS
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Garrett Prestage  
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Jennifer Power  
BA (Hons) ANU, Grad Cert (Applied Statistics) Swinburne, PhD ANU *

**Honorary Senior Research Fellow**
Murray Couch  
BA (Hons) Flinders
Research Fellows
Beatrice Alba  
BA(Hons)/BSc Melbourne, BSc(Hons) ANU, PhD Macquarie *

Marina Carman  
BA (Hons) Sydney, MA UNSW

Susan Chong  
BA Kenyon College, MA Kent, DrPH La Trobe

Roslyn Le Gautier  
BSocSc (Hons) Swinburne, PhD Swinburne *

William Leonard  
BSc (Hons) Melbourne, BA (Hons) Melbourne; Director, Rainbow Health Victoria *

Andrea Waling  
BA (Hons) Carleton, PhD Monash

Honorary Research Fellows
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MSocSci RMIT, PhD LaTrobe

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Jami Jones  
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BPhy UQ, MPHC Flinders *

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BA (Hons) Fine Art Middlesex, GradDipInfoMgmt RMIT

Administration and Operations
Steven Angelides  
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Ivy McGowan  
BA Swinburne *

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BCreativeArts Melbourne, GradDip Psych (Advanced) Melbourne *

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Jen Sykes  
Dip Man Bendigo TAFE, Dip Community Welfare Work Swinburne, Dip Interpreting (Auslan) RMIT, Dip Auslan Chisholm Institute of TAFE *

Graduate Research Coordinator
Christopher Fisher

ARCSHS Seminar Series Coordinators
Beatrice Alba  
David O’Keeffe

* Part-time
** Part-year
ARCSHS is a centre of excellence in multidisciplinary research in sex, gender and sexuality, delivering evidence-based teaching, training and workforce development, translating research into high-impact, life-changing programs.

We contribute to evidence-based, positive public discussion of sex and sexuality, acceptance of gender equality and diverse sexualities, inclusive and appropriate service delivery, and government policy that supports healthy sex, sexuality and relationships.

This year has been an exciting one for ARCSHS as we settled into our wonderful new building on the main Bundoora campus of La Trobe University. We kicked off the year with a housewarming party on our new ‘Paradise Patio’ and the festivities were enjoyed by all. Our new location has provided further opportunities for developing new projects and initiatives across the university.

In May, we welcomed our Distinguished Ambassador, the Honourable Michael Kirby to campus for a very special event ‘Where to next after marriage equality?’. Justice Kirby delivered a guest lecture and was joined by a panel of experts in law, public health and policy who presented their ideas on the impact of marriage equality on lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI) people and outlined the challenges ahead. We enjoyed reflecting on past achievements and gaining inspiration for the work yet to be done.

This year we have welcomed three new Higher Degree Research students and celebrated three graduations. Congratulations to Dr Luke Gahan and Dr Jack Wallace who were awarded their PhDs, and a special mention to Dr Jayne Russell who was awarded her PhD and the La Trobe University Nancy Milis Medal which is given to theses of outstanding merit.

Congratulations to Dr Graham Brown who was awarded the 2018 Mid-Career Multi-disciplinary Achiever Award from the Australasian Sexual Health Alliance at the International Union Against Sexually Transmitted Infections (IUSTI) Asia Pacific Sexual Health Congress in Auckland in November. In honour of their amazing work managing the relocation of the Centre, our Administration and Operations team (David O’Keeffe, Ivy McGowan, Jen Sykes and Jessica Murphy) were awarded the La Trobe University, College of Science, Health and Engineering Professional and Administrative Award for Teamwork and Collaboration in July.

This year, Centre staff and students have presented their work at many scientific meetings across the world in a diverse range of fields, and as always, we have been intensely engaged in community and health sector events throughout the year. You will find a list of all our presentations at the back of this Annual Report, along with lists of all our publications, reports and other activities. We have been very busy!

This is my fifth and final Director’s Report. I will be moving on to new challenges in 2019 after five incredible years as Director of ARCSHS. Recruitment is underway for a new Director and I look forward to welcoming them to ARCSHS in due course and supporting Associate Professor Anthony Lyons as Acting Director in the meantime. I want to thank everyone who has supported me over the last five years and worked to transform ARCSHS into the world-class research centre we are today.

Thank you to all the wonderful people who work and study at ARCSHS for continuing to demonstrate their passion for this work each and every day. Thank you to you—our supporters, partners and friends—for everything you do to further the work of ARCSHS. I look forward with eager anticipation to seeing the Centre further evolve as we work together to create positive change in people’s lives.

Professor Jayne Lucke
Director
Australian Research Centre in Sex, Health and Society
I am delighted to once again congratulate the Australian Research Centre in Sex, Health and Society (ARCSHS) on another successful year.

Since it was founded, ARCSHS has become the leading Centre in providing the evidence needed to understand sex and sexuality in contemporary Australia.

In 2018 we were delighted to welcome the Centre to the University’s Bundoora campus, and it was pleasing to see the ARCSHS team quickly settle in to new accommodation and continue their work to build the evidence-base that is needed to inform interventions in key areas of sex, gender and sexuality.

At La Trobe University we believe that a just and equitable society is one in which everyone has the same opportunities and freedoms, and where our differences are recognised and affirmed. We are committed to equality and diversity, and we are proud to support the work of ARCSHS.

I congratulate everyone who works with and for the Centre on all your hard work during 2018, and your commitment to work that has a positive impact in the community.

Professor John Dewar
Vice-Chancellor
La Trobe University
Message from Justice Michael Kirby

It is with great pleasure that I congratulate the Australian Research Centre in Sex, Health and Society on another successful year.

I was delighted to be able to visit the Centre’s new building at La Trobe University in May and to give a special guest lecture ‘Where to next after marriage equality?’. I reflected on the impact of marriage equality on LGBTIQ people and outlined the challenges ahead. Despite the historic adoption of marriage equality in Australia, issues of discrimination against LGBTIQ people continue to require constant attention. The public debate in Australia has moved on to issues of ‘religious freedom’ and the extent to which discrimination against the LGBTIQ community can be tolerated.

Fortunately, there will be no going back into the dark closet of self-denial, silence and shame for LGBTIQ people in Australia. This liberation continues to be worked out through the light of education about diversity and basic kindness to one another as human beings and as citizens. No laws on ‘religious freedom’ should be accepted in Australia which allow people, on the basis of their religions, to isolate, denigrate and humiliate minorities – whether those minorities are Indigenous, racial, gender-based, religious, disabled or gay Australians.

Looking back on the great changes that have occurred in my lifetime on gay rights, I am optimistic; but also, impatient to complete the changes that remain. The work of the Centre will be vital in addressing these challenges and I am proud to be the ARCSHS Distinguished Ambassador. I congratulate all the Centre’s staff, partners and supporters.

Michael Kirby
Distinguished Ambassador of the Australian Research Centre in Sex, Health and Society
Summary of funding sources

- La Trobe University: 35%
- Other public sector income – State: 31%
- Undergraduate teaching: 22%
- Industry and other income: 4%
- Postgraduate teaching: 2%
- Miscellaneous: 3%
- Australian competitive grants: 2%
- Other public sector income – Commonwealth: 1%

Total: $6,026,777
The ARCSHS Strategic Plan 2016–2019 is a key public document that sets out ARCSHS’ mission, strategic direction, aims and expectations of performance for the period 2016-2019.

The Centre’s key strategic direction, as described in the Strategic Plan, is for the Centre to strive to become the leading centre in Australia in sexuality research.

ARCSHS’ mission as stated in the plan is as follows:

The Australian Research Centre in Sex, Health and Society is a centre for social research into sexuality, health and the social dimensions of human relationships. It works collaboratively and in partnership with communities, community-based organisations, government and professionals in relevant fields to produce research that advances knowledge and promotes positive change in policy, practice and people’s lives.

The plan outlines three main aims for the coming three years:

Aim 1
Build new knowledge

Aim 2
Build research impact

Aim 3
Build a strong research centre

The Centre has adopted actions towards achieving each of these aims and has outlined measures to track performance over time. The Strategic Plan will be reviewed annually with input from all staff to track progress against key performance indicators and to revise plans for the coming year. A new Strategic Plan will be prepared for 2020.

Research expertise

Since its beginnings in 1992, ARCSHS has become the major player in framing the agenda on, and delivering the evidence to understand, sex and sexuality in contemporary Australia, particularly in relation to health, education and social justice.

Through surveys of the general population, the Centre has helped to track patterns and practices during the life course and over time. ARCSHS also specifically looks at aspects of health and wellbeing with regard to diverse sexuality and gender minorities, including same-sex attracted and sex and gender diverse (SSASGD) young people, older people, as well as the intersection of sexuality with other issues such as disability and mental health.

ARCSHS is one of four national centres funded to undertake strategic research as part of Australia’s national response to HIV, viral hepatitis and STIs. This includes research that directly informs indicators in Australia’s national strategies relating to the sexual health of young people and the quality of life of people living with HIV, hepatitis B and C.

ARCSHS has unique expertise in community-engaged research, particularly working with marginalised and difficult-to-reach communities. The Centre uses a partnership approach at all stages of the research process, including the prioritisation of relevant community participation in formulating research questions, designing and conducting research, and disseminating and applying results.

The Centre specialises in using research findings to produce training and educational resources for practitioners and to advise on policy development. ARCSHS also provides invaluable and widely used resources and training for teachers, health practitioners and community and aged-care workers.

The Centre works in partnership with government, service providers and community organisations to influence and change policy to reflect the latest evidence and achieve better outcomes.

Research themes

During the 2016–2019 period, ARCSHS is aiming to maintain and expand the following three research themes as areas of established strength:

• LGBTI health and wellbeing
• BBVs and STIs
• Gender, sexuality and social theory.

In addition, the Centre is seeking to develop the following three emerging research themes:

• School-based sexuality education
• Sexual and reproductive health and rights
• Policy, community and health services.

Working internationally is a feature of much of ARCSHS’ research, but particularly in the areas of HIV and viral hepatitis. This is continuing to be a focus running through the research themes outlined above. The Centre has contributed to social research and capacity-building projects, particularly in Asia and the Pacific, and provided technical advice through relationships with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, the World Health Organization, and the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS.

The Centre has adopted actions towards achieving each of these aims and has outlined measures to track performance over time. The Strategic Plan will be reviewed annually with input from all staff to track progress against key performance indicators and to revise plans for the coming year. A new Strategic Plan will be prepared for 2020.
2018 highlights

**JOURNAL ARTICLES**
- 84 REFEREED ARTICLES AND 17 ADVANCE ONLINE PUBLICATIONS
- 9 MONOGRAPHS AND REPORTS

**SECTOR PARTICIPATION**
- 26 INTERNATIONAL OR NATIONAL ACADEMIC SOCIETIES
- 1 COMMONWEALTH GOVERNMENT ADVISORY GROUPS
- 10 STATE GOVERNMENT ADVISORY GROUPS
- 28 BOARDS/STEERING GROUPS OF COMMUNITY OR ACADEMIC ORGANISATIONS

**PRESENTATIONS**
- 39 INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES
- 22 NATIONAL CONFERENCES
- 47 AT MEETINGS

**JOURNAL ROLES**
- 16 JOURNAL EDITORIAL ROLES
- 55 JOURNAL ARTICLE REVIEWS
### Staff and Students

- **57K** Visits on Associated Websites
- **25** Equivalent Full-Time Staff
- **18** PhD Students (3 Completions)
- **68** Newsletter Subscribers
- **2.5K** People Received Training

### Media Profiles

- **10.5M** Audience Members Reached through Mainstream Media
- **5.8K** Twitter Followers
- **1.36K** Facebook Followers
- **6.03M** in Funding

### Budget

- **24** Media Appearances
- **$6.03M** in Funding

- **4.5K** Newsletter Subscribers
- **10.5M** Audience Members Reached through Mainstream Media
- **5.8K** Twitter Followers
- **1.36K** Facebook Followers
- **24** Media Appearances
- **6.03M** in Funding
Review of ARCSHS at AIDS 2018 in Amsterdam

The 22nd International AIDS Conference (AIDS 2018) was held in the Dutch city of Amsterdam from 23 to 27 July, and with over 15,000 delegates, 1,000 members of the media and 2,000 volunteers, the venue was a hive of activity. The largest health and development conference in the world, some of the key themes included the role of community and peer organisations, the greater involvement of people living with HIV (GIPA), and responding to a rapidly changing political, financial and social environment.

ARCSHS delegates engaged in an array of debates, seminars and plenaries at pre-conference events as well as the conference itself.

Several pre-conference events focused on social sciences and humanities in HIV, and the role of advocacy for the sexual rights and human rights of all affected communities. Issues of criminalisation, migration, equity of access to health services and biomedical prevention were also discussed.

Dr Adam Bourne was an invited speaker at the MPact MSM pre-conference opening plenary, which discussed the issue of holistic health and human rights of men who have sex with men (MSM). Dr Bourne spoke on the topic of drug use harm reduction among gay, bisexual and other MSM. At a pre-conference event held by the International AIDS Society, Dr Bourne was an invited speaker on STIs among people who use drugs. He also co-authored 14 posters in the main conference.

Dr Graham Brown was an invited panellist at another International AIDS Society pre-conference event, which was called ‘Making it Happen’. Dr Brown presented on the gaps in the HIV care continuum.

During the conference, Dr Brown was an invited speaker on two panels. The first panel was on the PozQoL project, a project that developed, tested and validated a scale to assess the quality of life of PLHIV (people living with HIV). The second panel was on the W3 (What Works and Why) Framework study, which has applied systems thinking to understand the role and influence of peer-led programs in a HIV and hepatitis C public health response. He also co-authored three posters and gave one oral paper on the PozQoL scale.

Dr Jennifer Power was an invited speaker on a panel in which she presented on the PozQoL project. She also co-authored one poster at the conference.

ARCSHS Workshop

On Wednesday 25 July, ARCSHS in conjunction with UNAIDS (Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS) and the Global Network of Positive People (GNP+) hosted a meeting at AIDS 2018 titled: ‘How do we maintain and evidence the crucial role of community-based organisations (CBOs) in the global response to HIV?’.

As the HIV response adapts to the largest and most significant developments in HIV prevention in over 20 years, the meeting aimed to investigate and articulate the diverse ways in which community-based organisations influence and impact the epidemic. The meeting brought together a range of key organisations in the community-led response to HIV. Our aim was to identify and discuss innovative means of evidencing the central role of community-based organisations at this critical juncture in the epidemic. More than 80 people from community, non-government and research organisations attended the seminar, with presentations from GNP+, UNAIDS, ARCSHS, and the Treatment Action Coalition in South Africa.

A lengthy and diverse discussion occurred and focused on the following four key points raised in the meeting:

- The collective impact of community-led responses
- Common/clear indicators of influence/advocacy
- National, regional and global networks to mobilise and share findings
- Financial and logistical implications of data collection for community-based organisations.
Conclusions
The PozQoL scale has been tested in a diverse sample of adult PLHIV living in Australia, demonstrating very good reliability and validity. The scale is currently being field-tested by several community support and healthcare services for PLHIV in Australia and is considered for a national indicator of QoL in Australia’s National HIV Strategy. PozQoL has also been implemented in a national study in the US (in English and in Spanish).

Further details
For more information about PozQoL, please take a copy of our brochure or contact Dr Cristina M. Kolajczak m.mkolajczak@latrobe.edu.au.
# Research projects

**Reducing Health Disparities for Older LGBTI Australians**

*Australian Research Council Linkage Project*

- Anthony Lyons, Catherine Barrett (Alice’s Garage), Victor Minichiello, Mark Hughes (Southern Cross University), Karen Fredriksen-Goldsen (University of Washington, USA), Beatrice Alba, Andrea Waling, COTA Australia, National LGBTI Health Alliance, SANE Australia, Carers Australia

This project utilised quantitative and qualitative methods to provide detailed data on the health and support-related challenges and needs of older LGBTI Australians, as well as the educational and support needs of service providers. It is developing essential resources to support policymakers and service providers in reducing the health disparities faced by older LGBTI Australians.

**Writing Themselves In 4: Understanding the Lives of LGBTI Young People in Australia**

*Governments of Victoria, New South Wales, South Australia (via SHINE SA) and the Australian Capital Territory*

- Adam Bourne, Anthony Lyons, Jennifer Power

This survey of LGBTI young people living in Australia aged 14–21 builds on the success of previous surveys in this series conducted in 1998, 2004 and 2010. It examines a range of health and wellbeing concerns among LGBTI young people and seeks to understand the positive and protective factors in their lives.


*Victorian Government Department of Health and Human Services, Victorian Government Department of Premier and Cabinet*

- Anthony Lyons, Adam Bourne, Ruth McNair (University of Melbourne)

This project involves a national survey aimed at providing comprehensive and up-to-date data on the health and wellbeing of LGBTI Australians aged 18 years and older. It is the third project in the Private Lives series, following Private Lives 2 conducted in 2011 and Private Lives 1 conducted in 2005. The project began in late 2018.

**Primary Prevention of Family Violence Against LGBTI Communities: Literature Review and Data Analysis**

*Victorian Government Department of Premier and Cabinet*

- Yvonne Lay (Our Watch), William Leonard, Matthew Parsons, Marina Carman

A report was produced that outlined research and grey literature on the prevention of LGBTI family violence, including the drivers of LGBTI family violence. The report looked at best practice models for the prevention of LGBTI family violence, gaps in the evidence base and areas for further research.

**Developing an LGBTI Safe Housing Network to Prevent Homelessness and Build Social Connection and Resilience**

*Victorian Health Promotion Foundation*

- Ruth McNair (University of Melbourne), Cal Andrews (University of Melbourne), Jennifer Power, William Leonard

The project aims to establish, pilot and evaluate a Victorian LGBTI safe housing network. The network will assist LGBTI people at any age who are experiencing or are at risk of homelessness to gain stable and safe housing. The project aims to improve the mental health of LGBTI people accessing the network by building their social connection and resilience and significantly reducing their likelihood of experiencing homelessness in the future.
Use and Willingness to Use PrEP Among MSM in Europe

Hornet, European Centres for Disease Control
Adam Bourne, Teymor Noori, Anastasia Pharris, Antonio Spiretti (European Centres for Disease Control), Alex Garner (Hornet)

In collaboration with the European Centres for Disease Control and the gay geo-social networking application Hornet, we are conducting a large online survey of men who have sex with men (MSM) living in Europe and Central Asia to examine use, and willingness to use, HIV pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP). The survey also examines potential PrEP candidacy and how this correlates with current or potential future use.

Factors Associated with PrEP Uptake Among MSM in Taiwan

Hornet
Adam Bourne, Stephane Wen-Wei Ku (Division of Infectious Diseases, Department of Medicine, Taipei Veterans General Hospital), Carol Strong (National Cheng Kung University, Taiwan), Chia-Wen Li (Department of Internal Medicine, National Cheng Kung University Hospital, Taiwan), Alex Garner (Hornet)

This pilot national survey of MSM in Taiwan sought to understand the factors that may be associated with the uptake of pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP). The findings have been presented at the 22nd International AIDS Conference in Amsterdam and are now the foundation of a larger project (to commence in 2019) that examines sexual health and harms associated with drug use among this population.

TRANSFORM: Targeted Research Advancing Sexual Health for MSM

Department for International Development UK, Swedish International Development Cooperation, Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation
Adam Bourne, Thesla Palanee-Phillips (Wits Reproductive Health Institute, South Africa), Joshua Kimani (University of Nairobi, Kenya), Liz Fearon and Peter Weatherburn (London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, UK), Adrian Smith (University of Oxford, UK)

This is a collaborative project with colleagues at the Wits Reproductive Health Institute in Johannesburg, University of Nairobi and in the UK on a large scale, mixed-methods study of sexual health and wellbeing among gay, bisexual and other MSM in Kenya and South Africa. The study aims to describe the unmet need for prevention, diagnosis and treatment of HIV among MSM in these two countries and to determine acceptable programmatic responses to these needs. Alongside comprehensive HIV and STI screening, TRANSFORM also includes a qualitative component, allowing for the examination of social and sexual networks of gay, bisexual and other MSM in Kenya and South Africa. The study aims to describe the unmet need for prevention, diagnosis and treatment of HIV among MSM in these two countries and to determine acceptable programmatic responses to these needs. TRANSFORM is funded as part of Evidence for HIV Prevention in Southern Africa (EHPSA) initiative, supported by the UK Department for International Development, the Swedish International Development Cooperation and the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation.

Understanding LGBTI Lives in Crisis

Lifeline Australia
Andrea Waling, Adam Bourne, Anthony Lyons, Sheila Dhall (Lifeline Australia), Gene Lim

In partnership with Lifeline Australia, and with support from QLife and ACON (AIDS Council of New South Wales), this project explores LGBTI+ use of crisis support services (CSS) in Australia. This is the first research of its kind in Australia that explores the needs of LGBTI+ people during times of personal or mental health crisis. It focuses on LGBTI+ people’s uptake and familiarity with CSS in Australia, LGBTI+ perceptions and experiences with crisis support services, and where LGBTI+ people might seek non-crisis service support during times of crisis. This study aims to contribute to building the evidence base for developing policy, programs and resources by those in the medical, health and community services professions to provide better crisis support for LGBTI+ Australians during times of personal or health crisis.

Examining Risk and Protective Factors for the Development of Gambling-Related Harms and Problems in Victorian LGBTIQ Communities

Victorian Responsible Gambling Foundation
Rachel Bush (Deakin University), Nicki Dowling (Deakin University), Andrea Waling, Petra Staiger (Deakin University)

This project explores the relationship between LGBTIQ+ status and gambling-related harms/symptom severity, and the degree to which LGBTIQ+ status exacerbates the relationships between risk factors (mental health, alcohol and other drug use, internalised homophobia, perceived stigma, discrimination), protective factors (resilience, social support, community connectedness) and gambling-related harms/symptom severity.
This project will enable us to: 1) understand the degree to which LGBTIQ+ status is related to gambling-related harms/symptom severity; 2) identify factors that contribute to or protect against the development of gambling-related harms/problems in this population; and 3) inform the future development of culturally-tailored gambling prevention/intervention programs for LGBTIQ+ individuals.

The Experiences of LGBTI People Living with Disabilities
Gay and Lesbian Foundation of Australia (GALFA)
Rose Mann (independent researcher), William Leonard
The project involved two stages: a literature review of the effect of discrimination, disadvantage and social inclusion on the health and wellbeing of LGBTI people with disabilities, and analyses of two large national surveys – one of sexual minority women, the other of LGBT people – that include questions on disability.

Preventing Harm, Promoting Justice: Legal Responses to ‘Gay Conversion’ Therapy
La Trobe Transforming Human Societies Research Focus Area
Timothy Jones (La Trobe University), William Leonard, Anna Brown and Lee Carnie (Human Rights Law Centre)
This project explored the history, prevalence and nature of the ex-gay movement in Australia. Ex-gay therapy is a counselling practice aimed at making lesbian and gay people straight; or, at the very least, assisting lesbian and gay people to repress their same-sex attractions. In partnership with the Human Rights Law Centre, this project provided evidence to determine the need for legislative or other measures to inform regulatory and legal reform appropriate to Australia.

Silver Rainbow LGBTI Aged Care Awareness Training
Commonwealth Government Department of Health
Pauline Crameri, Jennifer Power
The Commonwealth Government has provided funding for the delivery of national LGBTI aged care training. The training is managed by the National LGBTI Health Alliance and, in Victoria, will be delivered by Rainbow Health Victoria program Val’s LGBTI Ageing and Aged Care and Transgender Victoria to a mix of rural, regional and metropolitan aged and community care services across the state.

Domestic and Family Violence Sector LGBTI Capacity Building Project
Family Safety Victoria
Marina Carman, Matthew Parsons, Graham Brown
Rainbow Health Victoria is providing the HOW2 training program to all 133 specialist family violence services across the state of Victoria over 2018–2020. This training aims to improve the sector’s ability to provide safe and inclusive support to LGBTI people experiencing domestic violence. Rainbow Health Victoria is also providing support to 19 organisations that have been subsidised to achieve full Rainbow Tick accreditation (the Rainbow Tick program is a national accreditation program for organisations that are committed to safe and inclusive practice and service delivery for LGBTI people). This support is taking the form of a custom-designed ‘all-staff’ professional development module to increase the capacity of domestic violence workers to support LGBTI people experiencing domestic and family violence. The project also includes an evaluation of the efficacy of large-scale ‘whole sector’ LGBTI inclusive practice interventions driven and supported by governing or regulatory bodies.

Val’s LGBTI Ageing and Aged Care
Victorian Government Department of Health and Human Services
Pauline Crameri, Jennifer Power
Val’s LGBTI Ageing and Aged Care is a Rainbow Health Victoria program that works to improve healthy ageing pathways, care, and visibility of older LGBTI people. The program works directly with service providers to foster an understanding of the histories and experiences of older LGBTI people and how these histories and experiences may impact access to support services. Through its work, the program aims to create safe and inclusive aged care and health services that recognise and value older LGBTI people.

Healthy Equal Youth (HEY) Project: A Victorian Same-Sex Attracted and Sex and Gender Diverse (SSASGD) Youth Suicide Prevention Initiative
Victorian Government Department of Health and Human Services
Jami Jones, Adam Bourne, William Leonard
The HEY Project consists of a consortium of 10 place-based and 7 state-wide partners and aims to improve the mental wellbeing of SSASGD young Victorians. HEY is managed by the Youth Affairs Council of Victoria (YACVic), and Rainbow Health Victoria continues to provide strategic advice to the Victorian Government, YACVic and HEY Partners.
Rainbow Network

Victorian Government Department of Health and Human Services
Jami Jones, Adam Bourne, William Leonard

Rainbow Network is a state-wide Victorian support and capacity building network for anyone working with LGBTI young people. It provides training, resources, a monthly e-bulletin, secondary consultations and professional supervision to individuals and organisations that work with and on behalf of LGBTI young people.

Rainbow Health Victoria

Victorian Government Department of Health and Human Services
Adam Bourne, Marina Carman, Jennifer Power, William Leonard

Formerly known as GLHV@ARCSHS, the newly renamed Rainbow Health Victoria is funded by the Victorian Government to improve the health and wellbeing of LGBTI Victorians and the care they receive.

OUT in the CALD: Promoting Culturally Diverse, LGBTI-Inclusive Services

Victorian Government Department of Premier and Cabinet
William Leonard, Sunil Patel, Victorian Transcultural Mental Health (VTMH) (St Vincent’s Hospital)

Rainbow Health Victoria in partnership with VTMH developed information and training resources for agencies that provide health-related services to LGBTI people affiliated with faith-based and multicultural communities. The project was funded through the Victorian Government’s Community Harmony Grants Program.

Rainbow Tick Accreditation Program

Licencing agreement with Quality Innovation Performance (QIP)
Pamela Kennedy, Jennifer Power, William Leonard

The Rainbow Tick Accreditation Program is a national LGBTI-inclusive accreditation program. It consists of six standards against which organisations can be accredited to demonstrate that all of their practices, procedures and protocols are LGBTI-inclusive. The Rainbow Tick Standards were developed by Rainbow Health Victoria in collaboration with QIP, a not-for-profit accreditation organisation. Organisations that gain Rainbow Tick accreditation are listed on a national registry.
RISE Study (Recent Diagnosis and the Impact of Support on the Experiences of HIV)

National Health and Medical Research Council
Garrett Prestage (The Kirby Institute)
Graham Brown, Feng Jin (The Kirby Institute), Limin Mao (The Kirby Institute),
Andrew Grulich (The Kirby Institute),
Rebecca Guy (The Kirby Institute),
John Kaldor (The Kirby Institute),
Basil Donovan (The Kirby Institute),
Christopher Fairley (Monash University),
Asha Persson (UNSW), Christine Selvey (NSW Health), Lisa Bastion (WA Health)

This partnership study led by the Kirby Institute brings together researchers with health departments, clinicians and community organisations of all eight Australian jurisdictions, with their diverse characteristics and approaches to optimising the HIV continuum of care. The project will identify predictors of progressing to each step in the continuum of care for PLHIV.

Critical Perspectives on Serodiscordance in Family Life

Australian Research Council Discovery Project
Myra Hamilton (UNSW), Christy Newman (UNSW), Asha Persson (UNSW),
kylie valentine (UNSW), Joanne Bryant (UNSW), Jack Wallace

This project will produce the first empirical picture of Australian families affected by HIV, hepatitis C or hepatitis B. Qualitative research will be conducted with individuals, families and other stakeholders to reveal the interplay between diversity in family forms and understandings and experiences of serodiscordance, or mixed infection status. In developing a critical theory of serodiscordance that departs from the biomedical emphasis on ‘risk management’, novel insights are anticipated on accommodating difference and disruption, managing secrets and stigma, and responsibilising care and treatment within families. New and important knowledge will also be generated regarding the contributions of families to community wellbeing.

Combating the Rapid Rise of Sexually Transmitted Infections Among Older Australians: Improving Safe-Sex Practice and Health, Social and Economic Outcomes

Australian Research Council Discovery Project
Anthony Lyons, Victor Minichiello,
Catherine Barrett (The OPAL Institute),
Graham Brown, Sharron Hinchliff (University of Sheffield),
Sue Malta (National Ageing Research Institute),
Briony Dow (National Ageing Research Institute),
Jo Root (COTA Australia),
Bianca Fileborn (UNSW), Wendy Heywood (Social Research Centre),
Pauline Crameri, Beatrice Alba

This project involves a national survey and face-to-face interviews with Australians aged 60 years and older. It seeks to understand why rates of STIs have risen among older Australians by exploring their experiences of sex and relationships, safe sex practices and knowledge of sexual health.
Reducing Health Disparities for Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Peoples

Australian Research Council Linkage Project
Alison Reid (Curtin University), Bruce Maycock (Curtin University), Rebecca Guy (UNSW), Graham Brown, Limin Mao (UNSW), Lisa Hartley (Curtin University), Roanna Lobo (Curtin University), Praveena Gunaratnam (UNSW)

This collaborative project led by Curtin University aims to develop a greater understanding of migrants from CALD backgrounds and the factors that predict poor health outcomes related to BBVs and STIs. These outcomes include higher rates of infection, late diagnosis and low treatment uptake. Mixed methods will be used to engage a diversity of migrants and address knowledge gaps including migrants' understanding of sexual health and disease transmission, risk behaviours, and the sociocultural and structural factors influencing help-seeking behaviours. The availability of population-level data is vital to inform better models of care that reflect the heterogeneity and diverse needs of CALD people. Delayed access to healthcare in migrants from CALD backgrounds results in late diagnosis, low treatment uptake, and poorer health outcomes with enhanced risk of infection to sexual partners and increased burden on the health system. The project will develop a systematic methodology for collecting periodic behavioural surveillance data using culturally appropriate methods. This data will assist in developing culturally responsive health services to meet the needs of CALD people.

HIV Futures 9
Commonwealth Government Department of Health
Jennifer Power, Graham Brown, Anthony Lyons, Adam Bourne

HIV Futures is a series of national surveys of PLHIV in Australia that has been repeated periodically since 1997. The survey focuses on the psychological and physical wellbeing of PLHIV, treatment use, relationships, stigma and discrimination. The data provides evidence against which indicators in the Australian National HIV Strategy are measured.

W3 Project: Understanding What Works and Why in Peer-Based Health Promotion Approaches in HIV and Hepatitis C
Commonwealth Government Department of Health
Graham Brown, Suzy Malhotra (Living Positive Victoria), Sione Crawford (Harm Reduction Victoria)

The What Works and Why Project has been a groundbreaking study that used systems thinking to investigate the role of peer-led programs and their influence in their community, policy and sector systems. Over an 18-month period, the W3 Project collaborated with peer staff at Living Positive Victoria and Harm Reduction Victoria to develop approaches to evaluate peer-based programs at the project and organisational level. Drawing on the W3 Framework for peer programs, we applied the key functions of peer-based programs (Engagement, Alignment, Adaptation and Influence) and took an action research approach to develop quality and impact evaluation tools that are usable, practical and sustainable within the resources of a community organisation. This study developed, trialled and refined 12 quality and impact data collection tools across a range of peer-led programs. We also applied the W3 Framework to identify relevant indicators that align with the contracting requirements of funders. In 2019, the W3 Project will be collating the results into a manual for the community sector.

W3 Peer Insights: Understanding Motivators and Barriers to the Uptake of Hepatitis C Treatments Among People Who Inject Drugs
Commonwealth Government Department of Health
Susan Chong, Graham Brown

This study investigates the evolving motivators and barriers for people who inject drugs (PWID) to access hepatitis C treatment and the implications for scaling up health promotion, testing and treatment programs. Utilising the W3 Framework for peer-based programs, the project is drawing on the expertise and insights of peer staff and volunteers to investigate the evolving experiences, perspectives, barriers and enabler for PWID regarding the scale-up and implementation of hepatitis C treatments. In 2018, the study conducted two rounds of focus groups and interviews across Australia in partnership with peer-based organisations Harm Reduction Victoria, NSW Users and AIDS Association, Peer Based Harm Reduction WA, and the Australian Injecting and Illicit Drug Users League. Short broadsheet reports describing the evolving experiences of PWID, and the implications for refinement or reorientation of strategies to scale-up treatment, are being developed throughout the study.
HIV and Priority CALD Communities

Commonwealth Government Department of Health
Jennifer Power, Graham Brown, Adam Bourne, Roslyn Le Gautier

There are increasing numbers of PLHIV in Australia who are migrants and/or from CALD communities, yet little is known about the health needs or experiences of this population. This study explores the management, care and support needs of PLHIV from CALD communities.

Blood Borne Virus Sector Development Program: Supporting the HIV and Hepatitis Workforce

Victorian Government Department of Health and Human Services
Emily Lenton, Jen Johnson, Marg Sutherland, Graham Brown

The BBV Sector Development Program works to support and strengthen the Victorian BBV workforce as it meets the challenges of elimination targets, new prevention technologies, scaling up of testing and treatment, and reducing stigma associated with BBVs. The program produces the monthly BBV News e-bulletin with a summary of the latest HIV and hepatitis news, research and resources, and upcoming events. The BBV Sector Development Program facilitates a number of Communities of Practices including the BBV Workforce Network, the Hepatitis C Community of Practice and the HIV Intersections Community of Practice. Each year, the program coordinates two all-day forums in collaboration with researchers and other community and health practitioners, focusing on a particular topic chosen from a scoping of workforce development priorities and current research projects. In 2018, the program also produced a series of reports and practice summaries from the Victorian HIV and hepatitis pre- and post-test discussion consultation.

HIV Intersections Community of Practice

Victorian Government Department of Health and Human Services
Jen Johnson, Graham Brown

This project will strengthen the work of the HIV Intersections Community of Practice in Victoria to support agencies and programs to work in HIV in intersecting issues including, but not limited to, HIV and international mobility, CALD communities and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities. The project includes maintaining the HIV Intersections Community of Practice Network, facilitating quarterly half-day community of practice learning forums, and producing reports to detail key themes, actions and priority questions to inform future workforce and program directions.

Integrated Hepatitis C Service Reorientation Project

Victorian Government Department of Health and Human Services
Emily Lenton, Jen Johnson, Graham Brown

This two-year project will support the Integrated Hepatitis C Service (IHCS) in reorienting towards community outreach and partnership models of care, in collaboration with local Primary Health Networks (PHNs), to increase the capacity of primary health to manage hepatitis C. The project aims to develop a consistent framework for the IHCS nurse-led model of care to increase rates of hepatitis C testing and treatment; build capacity of primary care services in community settings to deliver hepatitis C care; and foster IHCS to work collaboratively with their partners, including the PHNs, in the tertiary, primary and community health sectors.

W3: Influence of Communities

Australian Federation of AIDS Organisations (AFAO)
Graham Brown, Adam Bourne, Andrew Westle, Jeannie Ellard

Drawing on the W3 Project, this study investigated how, when and where gay men are influenced about HIV, and whether the work of AIDS Councils supports this learning directly and indirectly. This research included a series of seven focus groups and ten interviews from across Australia with gay and bisexual men as well as staff from AIDS Councils and AFAO. The report was completed in late 2018.

Profiles of People Living with HIV in Australia

ViiV Healthcare Australia
Graham Brown, Jennifer Power, Gosia Mikolajczak

Supporting PLHIV to manage their health, treatments and quality of life requires an understanding of their diverse experiences. This study took a novel approach to re-analyse the HIV Futures 8 survey (a national survey of the health and wellbeing of Australian PLHIV), to identify a set of broad profiles of PLHIV in Australia with different health statuses and capacities to access clinical services. The aim of this study was for clinicians and the HIV health and community sector to draw on these profiles to support their considerations of the diversity of PLHIV in Australia with respect to health needs and capacity to access and engage with services.
PLHIV Peer Navigator Implementation Study—Seeding Study

ViiV Healthcare United Kingdom
Graham Brown, Adam Bourne, Christopher Fisher, Suzy Malhotra (Living Positive Victoria), Timothy Krulic (Living Positive Victoria)

This seeding project aimed to establish an implementation study alongside the scale-up of the Victorian PLHIV Peer Navigator Project conducted by Living Positive Victoria. The project collaboratively developed protocols and data collection tools and secured funding for a two-year study to be conducted from 2019. The full study aims to identify the core elements of peer navigator programs that ensure adoption and integration into clinical services while maintaining fidelity to the key functions of a peer-based program.

PozQoL Project Stage 3: Implementation Study of a Quality of Life Measure for People Living with HIV

ViiV Healthcare Australia and ViiV Healthcare United Kingdom
Graham Brown, Jennifer Power, Anthony Lyons, Gosia Mikolajczak (ARCSHS and University of Melbourne), Aaron Cogle (National Association of People with HIV Australia), Suzy Malhotra (Living Positive Victoria), Craig Cooper (Positive Life NSW), Simon O’Connor (Queensland Positive People), Fraser Drummond (ViiV Healthcare Australia) Konstantinos Lykopulos (ViiV Healthcare United Kingdom)

The PozQoL scale is a validated quality of life measure for people with HIV that has been developed for the HIV community, support and healthcare sector. The PozQoL implementation study aimed to assess the usability and sensitivity of PozQoL in measuring changes in health-related quality of life as a result of interventions or services. The study was conducted in partnership with community, peer and health organisations across Australia and will be completed in early 2019.

Cure Study: Exploring Understandings, Expectations and Experiences of Hepatitis C Treatment and Cure

AbbVie Pty Ltd
Jacqui Richmond, Jeanne Ellard (AFAO), Jack Wallace, Peter Higgs (La Trobe University), Margaret Hellard (Burnet Institute), Alex Thompson (St Vincent’s Hospital, Melbourne)

New treatments are available to cure hepatitis C in 12 weeks with few side effects. In order to understand the experience of taking these treatments, 20 patients on the new treatment regimens were interviewed about their experience of treatment and their expectations of achieving a cure.
W3: Understanding Networks in Flux
La Trobe University Building Health Communities Research Focus Area and La Trobe University Social Research Platform
Graham Brown, Alan Shiell (La Trobe University), Margaret Hellard (Burnet Institute), Mark Stove (Burnet Institute), Martin Holt (Centre for Social Research in Health), Christopher Roche (La Trobe University), Peter Higgs (La Trobe University), Jennifer Johnson, Emily Lenton, Gosia Mikolajczak, Daniel Chamberlain (La Trobe University), Susan Chong

Advances in the prevention and treatment of HIV and hepatitis C will require major reorientation in the roles and relationships among community, health, research and policy organisations. Building on the W3 project, the Understanding Networks in Flux study is investigating how and why organisation network structures adapt, or remain resistant, to rapid change. Using the Victorian HIV and hepatitis C sectors as an exemplar, in 2017/18 we collected baseline data through an online survey and interviews with organisations playing key roles in the Victorian HIV and hepatitis C response. The results were analysed and presented to the Victorian sector in late 2018.

Building University-Wide Capacity in Complexity and Systems Science, and Implementation and Improvement Science
La Trobe University Building Healthy Communities Research Focus Area
Graham Brown, Virginia Lewis (Australian Institute for Primary Care and Ageing), Natasha Lannin (La Trobe University), Jodi Oakman (La Trobe University)

This project aims to build two research networks at La Trobe University: the Complexity and Systems Science Research Network and the Implementation and Improvement Science Research Network. The networks will enhance the interdisciplinary research in these areas and strengthen the capacity of research at La Trobe University.

Australian Contraceptive Choice Project (ACCORd): Increasing the Use of Long Acting Reversible Contraception
National Health and Medical Research Council
Jayne Lucke, Danielle Mazza (Monash University), Kirsten Black (University of Sydney), Angela Taft (La Trobe University), Kevin McGeechan (University of Sydney), Marion Haas (University of Technology Sydney), Jeffrey Peipert (Washington University, USA)

ACCORd offered general practitioners (GPs) across Victoria specialised training in long-acting reversible contraceptives (LARCs). It recruited GPs to undertake training in ‘LARC First’ contraceptive counselling and rapid referral for insertion. The aim of the study was to examine whether improved knowledge and rapid referral increases LARC uptake and reduces unintended pregnancy.
Muscling Up: Australian Men, Sexualisation and Body Image Enhancement

Gary Dowsett, Duane Duncan (National Drug Research Institute), Steven Angelides, Andrea Waling, Andrew Westle

This study investigates men’s views about male body image and the social pressures for bodily development based upon appearance. The research examines how male bodies are represented in popular culture and the ways in which men’s appearances and social roles are changing, with a focus on the increasing sexualisation of men’s bodies in popular culture. Using a qualitative approach, this study utilises 30 in-depth interviews with men aged 18–45, exploring questions related to male body image, masculinity and health. Three focus groups with women are also utilised to investigate women’s perspectives on the changing nature of male body image.

Sixth National Survey of Secondary Students and Sexual Health

Christopher Fisher, Graham Brown, Gosia Mikolajczak, Paulina Ezer, Lucille Kerr, Rosalind Bellamy, Jayne Lucke

A national survey of the sexual attitudes, knowledge and experiences of Australian adolescents has been carried out approximately every five years since 1992. The sixth survey occurred in 2018 with a national report to be released in early 2019. The sixth survey will add to this long-term project informing policy, program and curriculum development, measurement and reporting on key national strategic indicators related to STIs and BBVs, and ongoing contributions to the scientific literature on the sexual health and wellbeing of young people.

National Survey of Secondary Students and Sexual Health Trends Over Time

Christopher Fisher, Gosia Mikolajczak, Paulina Ezer, Lucille Kerr, Rosalind Bellamy, Jayne Lucke

The national survey of secondary students and sexual health, recently completing its sixth wave of data collection, has consistently surveyed adolescent sexual attitudes, knowledge and experience since 1992. Detailed statistical trend analyses will be completed across all waves to identify long-term changes in knowledge, behaviour and attitudes across cohorts of Australian adolescents.
M3: Media, Masculinities and Mental Health

La Trobe University Building
Healthy Communities Research Focus Area

Andrea Waling, Adam Bourne, Jennifer Power, Michael Kehler (University of Calgary), Lucy Kerr

Young men increasingly use online spaces and dating applications to search for sex, intimacy, and relationships. This involves sharing photos that entice, but also lead to increased body surveillance and scrutiny. Research has shown the effect of this on women’s sense of self and body image, but these practices are comparatively under-researched for men. This project uses qualitative interviews to investigate the relationships between young, Australian heterosexual men’s engagement with online dating, body image anxieties, and health risk behaviours. The implications extend to: sex education, legal and policy responses to sexual harassment, and interventions to improve men’s health and wellbeing.

LifeStyles Sex-Ed

LifeStyles/SxWell Australia

Christopher Fisher, Paulina Ezer, Lucille Kerr, Rosalind Bellamy, Pamela Blackman

This project supports the maintenance and moderation of Sex-Ed, a website to support teachers involved in sexuality education.

Systems Approach to Sexual Literacy

La Trobe University
Transforming Human Society Research Focus Area

Christopher Fisher, Graham Brown, Jayne Lucke, Paulina Ezer, Damian Wilson, Susan Chong, Shane Kavanagh, Evelien Spelten, Greg Powell, Cathleen Farrelly, Sandra Connor, David O’Keeffe, Eric Walsh-Buhi (San Diego State University)

Improving sexual health outcomes across all populations remains an ongoing challenge in Australia and globally. Recent research suggests a need for a more holistic, systems-based approach to identifying, measuring and developing programs to improve sexual literacy at a population level. This initiative brings together experts across a wide array of disciplines at La Trobe to develop a collaborative multi-disciplinary research agenda to address sexual literacy. Work this year was expanded thanks to a Research Focus Area grant that brought together an international team to map research activity in this space and develop new research to address gaps in the field.
Rainbow Health Victoria

When 2018 came to a close, the big news moving forward was that GLHV@ARCSHS had resolved to undergo a name change as of 2019. We are now operating under the name Rainbow Health Victoria.

Many things had changed since we began as Gay and Lesbian Health Victoria back in 2003. We recognised the need to adopt a name that reflects the broad scope of our work and engagement with the LGBTI community. At the same time, our early brief remains as relevant as ever:

- Developing training and resources
- Providing advocacy and contributing to system reform relating to best practice
- Disseminating resources and research
- Fostering and contributing to research and evaluation.

We are currently preparing a new website and a suite of written and digital resources. We will also be engaging in a series of consultations, meetings and informal coffee chats with key stakeholders to work out how we can more effectively produce, promote and package the evidence, training and resources you need.

We are very pleased that two major surveys of LGBTI Australians have been re-funded and will launch again in 2019. Private Lives is a national survey of the health and wellbeing of LGBTI people and Writing Themselves In is a national survey of LGBTI young people. Private Lives was conducted by ARCSHS on two previous occasions and Writing Themselves In was run on three previous occasions (see Research projects section, p15). These surveys were vital in making the experiences and needs of LGBTI people visible. They led to important changes in government policy and the funding of programs in mental health and at schools, and informed training and other programs to promote inclusive practice.

Rainbow Health Victoria is proud to be associated with these studies and encourages our partners and stakeholders to participate and engage over the coming year. It will be very interesting to see what has changed and what has stayed the same, and to consider how this could influence policy, programs and practice moving forward.

Other notable moments for Rainbow Health Victoria in 2018 are as follows:

- We were involved in the launch of four important research reports, and are continuing to engage with stakeholders around the resulting recommendations and actions:
  - Research on LGBTI Experiences of Disaster and Emergency Management
  - The Experiences of LGBTI People Living with Disability
  - Policing for Same-Sex Attracted and Sex and Gender Diverse Young Victorians
  - Preventing Harm, Promoting Justice: Legal Responses to ‘Gay Conversion’ Therapy

- We provided advice and input to Our Watch, an organisation that raises awareness and engages the community to prevent violence against women and their children, on a report analysing the current research on primary prevention of family violence against people from LGBTI communities.

- We received funding to begin work on a sector-wide program to promote inclusive practice in the family violence sector. We look forward to adding to the growing evidence base of LGBTI-inclusive sector-wide development strategies.

- Vafi’s LGBTI Ageing and Aged Care, in partnership with arts organisation All the Queen’s Men, hosted a one-day symposium on LGBTI ageing and aged care on 24 October, followed by the second Coming Back Out Ball on 25 October. Both events provided a unique opportunity for older LGBTI people and all those interested in promoting their health and wellbeing to share their stories, skills, suggestions and humour.

- Rainbow Network (RN) provided training to over 1000 professionals from 40 organisations in the areas of youth health, family and child services, mental health, housing, sport and recreation and local government. All of RN’s issues-based forums were fully booked out, and its community of practice group continued to provide a space for professional learning and knowledge sharing. Watch out for the RN Facebook page and new website launching in 2019!

- We delivered over 70 all-staff professional development sessions, and 40 organisations participated in HOW2 training (see Domestic and Family Violence Sector LGBTI Capacity Building Project, Research Projects 2018 section). This resulted in around 2500 people being trained across all of our programs, with trainees spanning sectors such as aged care, family violence, youth, as well as many other organisations in health and human services. We look forward to building on these great contributions to inclusive practice in 2019.

- 54 organisations are currently registered for Rainbow Tick accreditation. Twenty-four organisations across six states have been accredited, with the greatest uptake in Victoria (77% of accredited organisations).

Finally, in 2018, we farewelled our Director, Liam Leonard, who has led the team for the last six years. We would like to pay tribute to Liam’s significant contribution. Jennifer Power and Marina Carman have now been appointed as Co-Directors. Between them, they bring a range of experience in research, community engagement and large-scale training programs. We look forward to working with you into the future.
The ARCSHS Higher Degree Research (HDR) program celebrated several successes in 2018. Students gave 23 presentations at conferences and other academic forums, published 9 papers and 1 book chapter. Many students also presented their work at the monthly ARCSHS Learning Forums.

At the start of the year, we had 15 students. During the year, Luke Gahan, Alissar El-Murr and Jack Wallace were awarded their PhDs. Three additional student theses are currently under examination. In 2018, we also welcomed three new students, Rosalind Bellamy, Jake Franklin and Alice McDonald. By the end of the year, we had 15 active students who are at various stages of preparing research proposals, collecting data and writing their theses. We had also made offers, with scholarships, to two potential new students for 2019 and had several industry-sponsored PhD scholarships in development for the new year.

Postgraduate supervisors contribute their time and expertise to work with students on their studies. Supervisors work in teams, with at least one principal supervisor and one co-supervisor for each student, as well as a panel of two or three other academic staff members who meet once a year to monitor each student’s progress. Table 1 provides a summary of 2018 postgraduate students, their supervisors and thesis titles. Affiliations are provided for supervisors who are external to ARCSHS.

**Staff-supervised postgraduate students enrolled at La Trobe University in 2018**

**Alissar EL-MURR, PhD**
(conferred 30 June 2018)
Violence Against Women Policies in Victoria, Australia: Emergence, Rupture and Continuity of Discourse
Supervisors: Graham Brown, Gillian Fletcher (School of Humanities and Social Sciences, La Trobe University) and Jennifer Power

**Luke GAHAN, PhD**
(conferred 30 June 2018)
Understanding the Experiences of Separation within Same-sex Parented Families
Supervisors: Jennifer Power, Amaryll Perlesz (Bouverie Centre, La Trobe University) and Rhonda Brown

**Jack WALLACE, PhD**
(conferred 30 June 2018)
Transforming Hepatitis B: Building an Ecological Model of Hepatitis B to Inform Public Health Policy Responses
Supervisors: Marian Pitts, Deborah Gleeson (School of Psychology and Public Health, La Trobe University) and Jennifer Power

**Emily Jane BARIOLA**
Exploring LGB Wellbeing and Identify Formation Through the Lens of Positive psychology: An Alternative to the Minority Stress Model
Supervisors: Anthony Lyons and Jayne Lucke

**Roz BELLAMY**
An Exploration of Creative Health Promotion Methods Among Young LGBTQIA+ People
Supervisors: Christopher Fisher, Adam Bourne and Quinn Eades (School of Humanities and Social Sciences, La Trobe University)

**Victoria COOK**
Sex, Gender and Sexuality in Teenagers’ Peer Cultures
Supervisors: Christopher Fisher and Steven Angelides
Undergraduate Teaching Program: Contemporary Issues in Sexuality Studies

Jennifer Power
In Semester 2, 2018, ARCSHS delivered its undergraduate elective unit Contemporary Issues in Sex and Sexuality for the seventh time. The unit is notable for its engaging subject matter, which focuses on a range of issues and debates relating to sexual health, sex and consent, gender politics and sex education. The course is delivered online and involves live lectures as well as a set of online learning activities. Contemporary Issues in Sex and Sexuality cuts across disciplinary boundaries to offer a valuable and interesting learning experience for students from all backgrounds. The unit draws on a wide range of sources including media, web-based material and theory from the social sciences and health to help students examine and re-assess the range of meanings, values, assumptions and expectations embedded in social understandings of sex and sexuality.

In 2018, the unit was completed by 27 students from various La Trobe campuses.
Awards and achievements

David O’Keeffe, Ivy McGowan, Jen Sykes and Jessica Murphy
La Trobe University, College of Science, Health and Engineering Professional and Administrative Awards, Teamwork and Collaboration Award 2018

Graham Brown
2018 Australasian Sexual Health Alliance Mid-Career Interdisciplinary Achiever Award, IUSTI Asia Pacific Sexual Health Congress, Auckland, New Zealand.
Lectures and seminars

ARCSHS Keynote Presentation

15 MAY
The Honourable Michael Kirby AC CMG
Former Australian High Court Justice
Where to next after marriage equality?

ARCSHS Seminar Series

24 APRIL
Dr Christina Kenny
Australian National University
Gender rights and citizenship in post-colonial Kenya.

4 JULY
Dr Sarah McLean
La Trobe University
Middle-aged same-sex attracted women and the social practice of drinking.

17 OCTOBER
Dr Howie Lim
University of Malaya
Uptake of PrEP services among men who have sex with men (MSM) in Malaysia: Preliminary findings from myPrEP demonstration project.

28 NOVEMBER
Dr Chris Pepping
La Trobe University
Development of couple relationship interventions for same-sex couples.

12 DECEMBER
Professor José Ignacio Pichardo Galán
Universidad Complutense de Madrid
LGBT+ rights in a transcultural comparative perspective: The case of Spain.

Dr Jamie Hakim
University of East Anglia
The rise of chemsex: Queering collective intimacy in neoliberal London.
## Funding

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ARCSHS Funding 2018</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Australian Research Council (ARC)</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Reducing health disparities for older LGBTI Australians</td>
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<td><strong>National Health &amp; Medical Research Council (NHMRC)</strong></td>
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<td>Developing and implementing systems to optimise treatment care and support among people diagnosed with HIV</td>
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<td>Gay and Lesbian Health Victoria (funded by DHSVIC)</td>
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<td>Rainbow Network: GLBTI Youth Suicide Prevention</td>
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<td>Managing the Roll Out of HOW2 Program to all Family Violence Service Providers by 2020</td>
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<td>Private Lives 3: The Third National Survey of the Health and Well-being of LGBTI Australians</td>
<td>448,768.00</td>
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<td><strong>Chief Minister Treasury and Economic Development Directorate, ACT</strong></td>
<td>5,000.00</td>
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<td>Writing Themselves In 4</td>
<td>100,000.00</td>
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<td><strong>Department of Premier and Cabinet, Victoria</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Health Administration Corporation, NSW</strong></td>
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<td>Writing Themselves In 4</td>
<td>26,250.00</td>
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<td>Ansell Limited</td>
<td>5,000.00</td>
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<td>Ansell Sex-Ed Website</td>
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<td><strong>Australian Federation of AIDS Organisations</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>How, when and where are gay men influenced about HIV, and how does the work of AIDS Councils support this learning directly and indirectly?</td>
<td>55,227.27</td>
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<td><strong>Gay and Lesbian Foundation of Australia</strong></td>
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<td>The lived experience of LGBTI people living with disabilities</td>
<td>10,000.00</td>
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<td><strong>Lifeline Australia</strong></td>
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<td>Understanding LGBTI Lives in Crisis</td>
<td>33,669.00</td>
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<td><strong>London Sch of Hygiene &amp; Tropical Medicine</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Technical Assistance for Southern Africa Regional Programme for HIV prevention evidence</td>
<td>26,332.14</td>
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### ARCSHS Funding 2018

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<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>2018 (AUD)</th>
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<tr>
<td>Shine SA</td>
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<td>Writing Themselves In 4</td>
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<td>Victoria Police</td>
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<td>Policing for same sex attracted and sex and gender diverse (SSASGD) young Victorians</td>
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<td>Viiv Healthcare Australia</td>
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<td>Cluster analysis of data from HIV Futures 8</td>
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<td>Development of a Short Validated Quality of Life (QoL) Scale</td>
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<td>Peer Navigator Implementation Science Demonstration Project</td>
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<td>Miscellaneous</td>
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<td>Course fees, royalties and other income</td>
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<td>Postgraduate</td>
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<td>La Trobe University</td>
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<td>Research Centre Support</td>
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<td>La Trobe Internal Contribution</td>
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<td><strong>Funds received from the sources listed here totalled</strong></td>
<td><strong>6,026,777.72</strong></td>
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Professional participation

Membership of Advisory Bodies, Associations, Boards and Committees

International

AIDS 2018 pre-conference Making It Happen symposium | Organising Committee Member and Symposium Co-facilitator | Graham Brown

American Men’s Studies Association, Board of Directors | Member | Andrea Waling

American Psychological Association, Society for the Psychological Study of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Issues | Member | Anthony Lyons

Association for the Social Sciences and Humanities in HIV | Academy Member | Director and Board Member | Gary Dowsett

Association of Reproductive Health Professionals | Member | Jayne Lucke

Australasian HIV and AIDS Conference, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Resources Steering Committee | Member | Jen Johnson

Australasian HIV and AIDS Conference, Committee for Theme D: Social, Political and Cultural Aspects of HIV and related infections in the Australasian Region | Chair | Jennifer Power

Australasian HIV and AIDS Conference, National Steering Committee | Member | Jennifer Lyons

Australasian HIV and AIDS Conference, Track C Committee | Member | Adam Bourne

Australasian Sexual Health Alliance, Behavioural Research and Advocacy Stream Conference Committee and Executive Committee | Member | Christopher Fisher

Australian and New Zealand Mental Health Association | Member | Anthony Lyons

European Society of Contraception and Reproductive Health | Member | Jayne Lucke

International Academy of Sex Research | Members | Gary Dowsett, Jayne Lucke

International AIDS Society | Members | Adam Bourne, Anthony Lyons, David O’Keeffe, Gary Dowsett, Graham Brown, Jayne Lucke, Jennifer Power

International Association for the Study of Sexuality Culture and Society, Committee | Interim Member | Gary Dowsett

International Positive Psychology Association | Member | Anthony Lyons

International Society for Critical Health Psychology, Executive Committee | Member | Adam Bourne

Midlands Sexual Health Research Collaborative, University of Nebraska | Director Emeritus | Christopher Fisher

MPact (formerly MSMGF)/UNAIDS Special Advisory Platform for Advancing HIV Prevention, Care and Human Rights for Men Who Have Sex With Men | Member | Adam Bourne

Society for the Scientific Study of Sexuality, Board of Directors | Member | Christopher Fisher

ViIV Healthcare, Global Implementation Science Advisory Committee | Member | Graham Brown

ViIV Healthcare, Global Quality of Life Advisory Committee | Member | Graham Brown

National

ACON, Domestic and Family Violence Advisory Committee | Member | Matthew Parsons

Australian Federation of AIDS Organisations, Board of Directors | Member | Susan Chong

Australian Aged Care Quality Agency, Standards Guidance Reference Group | Member | William Leonard

Australian Longitudinal Study of Women’s Health, Strategic Advisory and Stakeholder Committee | Member | Jayne Lucke

Australian Ministerial Advisory Committee on Blood Borne Viruses and Sexually Transmitted Infections | Member | Graham Brown


Australian Sociology Association | Members | Andrea Waling, Gary Dowsett

Australian Women’s and Gender Studies Association | Member | Andrea Waling

Burnet Institute, EC (Eliminate Hepatitis C) Partnership, Health Promotion Working Group and Research and Evaluation Working Group | Member | Graham Brown

Burnet Institute, EC Partnership, Training and Education Working Group | Member | Jen Johnson

Centre for Social Research in Health, Scientific Advisory Committee | Member | Jayne Lucke

Centre for Social Research in Health, Stigma Indicators Advisory Committee | Member | Anthony Lyons

Community of Practice for Action on HIV and Mobility, National Management Group | Members | Graham Brown, Jen Johnson

Kirby Institute, HIV Treatment Cascades Working Group | Member | Graham Brown

Kirby Institute, Sexually Transmitted Infections Treatment Cascades Working Group | Member | Graham Brown

Macquarie University Union | Life Member | Gary Dowsett

Melbourne HIV Cure Consortium, Steering Committee | Member | Andrea Waling

Public Health Association of Australia | Members | Jayne Lucke, Anthony Lyons
State

Department of Health and Human Services, Commonwealth Home Support Programme, Home and Community Care, Diversity Working Group (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Intersex Sectoral Development) | Member | Pauline Crameri

Department of Health and Human Services, Victorian End of Life and Palliative Care Framework Implementation Advisory Group | LGBTI Representative | Pauline Crameri

Family Safety Victoria, LGBTI Family Violence Resource Reference Group | Member | Matthew Parsons

Gay and Lesbian Foundation of Australia, LGBT Homelessness Advisory Group | Member | William Leonard

Ilbijerri Theatre Company, Ilbijerri Health Promotion Reference Group | Member | Jen Johnson

LGBTQIA+ Domestic and Family Violence Network Leadership Network | Member | Matthew Parsons

Municipal Association of Victoria, Victorian Community Care Advisory Committee | LGBTI Representatives | Pauline Crameri, William Leonard

North Western Melbourne PHN, Suicide Prevention and Intervention Taskforce | Member | Anthony Lyons

The Royal Children’s Hospital, Gender Service Consumer Advisory Group | Member | Jami Jones

Victoria Police Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Intersex Portfolio Reference Group | Member | Sunil Patel

Victorian Department of Health, Hepatitis C Elimination Working Group | Member | Jen Johnson

Victorian Government, LGBTI Family Violence Working Group | Member | Matthew Parsons

Victorian Hepatitis B Alliance | Member | Jen Johnson

Victorian HIV Implementation Working Group | Member | Graham Brown

Victorian Transcultural Mental Health, St Vincent’s Hospital Reference Group | Member | Sunil Patel

West Australian Department of Health, Growing and Developing Healthy Relationships Inaugural Advisory Group | Member | Jayne Lucke

Youth Affairs Council of Victoria, Policy Advisory Group | Member | Jami Jones

La Trobe University

Academic Board | Member | Christopher Fisher

Anthony Smith Travel Award Committee | Member | Anthony Lyons

Centre for Alcohol Policy Research, Advisory Committee | Member | Anthony Lyons

College of Science, Health and Engineering, Academic Misconduct (Research) Officer | Member | Gary Dowsett

College of Science, Health and Engineering Research Committee | Member | Anthony Lyons

Institute for Human Security and Social Change, Advisory Committee | Member | Gary Dowsett

Olga Tennison Autism Research Centre, Advisory Committee | Member | Anthony Lyons

Research and Graduate Studies Committee | Member | Jayne Lucke

School of Psychology and Public Health, Executive Committee | Member | Anthony Lyons

School of Psychology and Public Health, Research Committee | Member | Adam Bourne

Sexual Literacy Working Group | Chair | Christopher Fisher

Transforming Human Society Research Focus Area | Member | Jennifer Power
Involvement in Journals

**AIDS and Behavior** | Reviewer | Graham Brown
**AIDS Education and Prevention** | Reviewer | Graham Brown
**American Journal of Sexuality Education** | Reviewer | Christopher Fisher
**Archives of Sexual Behavior** | Reviewer | Christopher Fisher
**Australian and New Zealand Journal of Public Health** | Reviewers | Christopher Fisher, Graham Brown
**BMC Psychology** | Associate Editor | Anthony Lyons
**BMC Public Health** | Reviewer | Graham Brown
**BMC Women’s Health** | Editorial Board Member, Gynaecology, Gynaecological Disease and Reproductive Health section | Jayne Lucke
**BMJ Open** | Reviewers | Christopher Fisher, Graham Brown
**British Journal of Health Psychology** | Advisory Board Member | Adam Bourne
**Culture, Health and Sexuality** | Editorial Advisory Board Members | Gary Dowsett, Reviewers | Andrea Waling, Graham Brown
**Drug and Alcohol Review** | Reviewers | Adam Bourne, William Leonard
**Drugs: Education, Policy and Prevention** | Reviewer | Adam Bourne
**Educational Research** | Reviewer | Christopher Fisher
**Emerald Publishing** | Reviewer | Andrea Waling
**Frontiers in Psychology** | 'Gender, Sex and Sexuality Studies' section | Reviewer | Gosia Mikolajczak
**Frontiers in Psychology** | Reviewer | Andrea Waling
**Frontiers in Public Health** | 'Population, Reproductive and Sexual Health' section | Associate Editor | Christopher Fisher
**Gender and History** | Reviewer | Steven Angelides
**Global Public Health** | Reviewer | Adam Bourne
**Health and Social Care in the Community** | Reviewer | William Leonard
**Health Education and Behaviour** | Reviewer | Graham Brown
**Health Promotion Journal of Australia** | Reviewers | Christopher Fisher, Graham Brown
**International Journal of Drug Policy** | Guest Editor | Adam Bourne
**International Journal of STD and AIDS** | Reviewer | Adam Bourne
**International Journal of Transgenderism** | Reviewers | Jennifer Power, William Leonard
**Journal of Children and Media** | Reviewer | Andrea Waling
**Journal of Children and Media** | Reviewer | Andrea Waling
**Journal of Happiness Studies** | Reviewer | Jennifer Power
**Journal of Health Psychology** | Reviewer | Jennifer Power
**Journal of Homosexuality** | Editorial Board Member | Christopher Fisher, Reviewer | Andrea Waling
**Journal of Interpersonal Violence** | Reviewer | Andrea Waling
**Journal of Men’s Studies** | Reviewer | Andrea Waling
**Journal of Population, Reproductive and Sexual Health** | Review Editor | Andrea Waling
**Journal of Reproductive and Infant Psychology** | Reviewer | Jennifer Power
**Journal of the International AIDS Society** | Reviewers | Graham Brown, Jennifer Power

**Media International Australia** | Reviewer | Christopher Fisher
**Men and Masculinities** | Reviewer | Andrea Waling
**PLOS ONE** | Reviewer | Graham Brown
**Political Psychology** | Reviewer | Gosia Mikolajczak
**Puerto Rico Health Sciences Journal** | Reviewer | Christopher Fisher
**Qualitative Research Journal** | Reviewer | Andrea Waling
**Routledge Press** | Reviewer | Andrea Waling
**Sex Education: Sexuality, Society and Learning** | Editorial Board Member | Gary Dowsett, Reviewers | Christopher Fisher, Steven Angelides
**Sexualities** | Editorial Board Member | Gary Dowsett, Reviewer | Andrea Waling, Graham Brown, William Leonard
**Sexual Health** | Guest Editor | Adam Bourne, Reviewers | Andrea Waling, Graham Brown, William Leonard
**Sexuality, Culture and Health book series** | Co-editor | Gary Dowsett
**Sexuality Research and Social Policy** | Reviewer | Christopher Fisher
**Sexually Transmitted Infections** | Associate Editor | Adam Bourne
**Sociology Compass** | Reviewer | Andrea Waling
**Sociology** | Reviewer | William Leonard
**Somatechnics** | Reviewer | Steven Angelides
**The European Journal of Contraception and Reproductive Healthcare** | Member | Jayne Lucke
**Trends and Issues in Crime and Criminal Justice** | Reviewer | William Leonard
**Women’s Studies International Forum** | Reviewer | Andrea Waling


Articles in Refereed Journals—Advance Online Publication


Non-Refereed Articles in Scholarly or Professional Journals


**ARCSHS Reports and Monographs**


**International Conference Presentations**


Rozbroj, T. (2018, September). Exploring the relationship between parents’ distrust of vaccines and beliefs that their children were harmed by vaccination. Oral presentation at the 12th Vaccine Congress, Budapest, Hungary.


**Conference Abstracts Published in Proceedings**


**National Conference Presentations**


Presentations at Meetings


Angelides, S. (2018, February). *Experiences of steroid use.* Oral presentation at Fit for Purpose: The Legal, Medical and Social Barriers and Enablers to Safer PIED Injecting, Melbourne, Australia.


Rozbroj, T. (2018, July). *Why do some people believe that vaccines are too risky?* Oral presentation to the Department of Sociology, Faculty of Arts, Charles University, Prague, Czech Republic.


**Newspaper and Magazine Articles**


Lucke, J. (2018, September). Boys will be boys or girls. *Australian Women’s Weekly*.


Power, J. (2018, April 2). Drug use can have social benefits, and acknowledging this could improve rehabilitation. *Knowledge Science Report*.


**ARCSHS Media Appearances**


Taylor, J. (2018, August 1). Newspaper interview with A. Dias for "Young bisexual men are the least likely to have come out, triple j survey finds." *Hack*. Triple J. Published at https://www.abc.net.au/triplej/programs/hack/


**Contribution to Policy**

Glossary

ACON  AIDS Council of New South Wales
AFAO  Australian Federation of AIDS Organisations
AIDS  Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
ARCSHS  Australian Research Centre in Sex, Health and Society
ART  Antiretroviral therapy
BBV  Blood borne virus
CALD  Culturally and linguistically diverse
CBO  Community-based organisation
GIPA  Greater Involvement of People living with HIV
HDR  Higher Degree Research
HIV  Human immunodeficiency virus
LARC  Long-acting reversible contraceptive
LGBTIQA  Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex, queer and/or questioning, asexual
(note: variations such as LGBTI+ are also used in this report)
MSM  Men who have sex with men
PLHIV  People living with HIV
PrEP  Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis
PWID  People who inject drugs
QIP  Quality Innovation Performance
SSAC  ARCSHS Strategic and Scientific Advisory Committee
SSASGD  Same-sex attracted and sex and gender diverse
STI  Sexually transmissible infection
WHO  World Health Organisation
La Trobe University acknowledges that our campuses are located on the lands of traditional custodians in Victoria and New South Wales. We recognise their ongoing connection to the land and value their unique contribution to the University and wider Australian society.

La Trobe University is committed to providing opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and communities, through teaching and learning, research and community partnerships across all our campuses.

The wedge-tailed eagle is one of the world’s largest eagles, and to the Wurundjeri people, represents Bunjil, the creator spirit of the Kulin Nations – the land on which our Melbourne campuses are located.

There is a special synergy between Bunjil and the La Trobe University logo of the eagle. The symbolism and significance for both La Trobe and for Aboriginal people challenges us all to ‘gamagoen yarrbat’ – to soar.