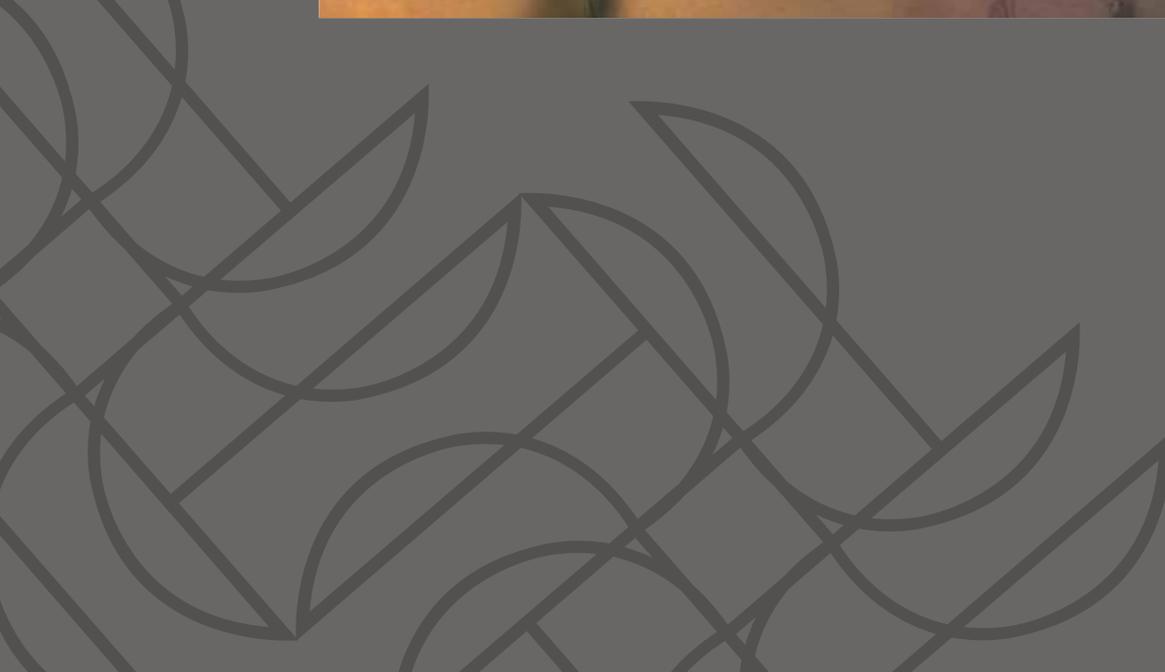


ARCSHS

ANNUAL REPORT 2015

Executive Summary



SUMMARY OF ACHIEVEMENTS



Professor Jayne Lucke

The Australian Research Centre in Sex, Health and Society (ARCSHS) is located 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.

Director's report

2015 has been a great year for ARCSHS with successes in many areas of our work.

It was a great pleasure to celebrate our top ranking in the Australia Research Council (ARC) Excellence in Research in Australia exercise. ARCSHS' work was represented by the 4-digit Field of Research code of 1199 Other Medical & Health Sciences and again received a ranking of 5 (Well above world standard). This is a wonderful result for the Centre and demonstrates the world class quality of the research we do.

We began the year with the fantastic news that two research projects received funding from the ARC. The Centre also received the exciting news of a successful ARC Discovery Early Career Researcher Award, and a National Health and Medical Research Council Translation of Research into Practice Fellowship.

It was a great year for Gay and Lesbian Health Victoria (GLHV), which is part of ARCSHS, with funding announced from the Victorian State government for Safe Schools Coalition Victoria, Rainbow Network and the Healthy Equal Youth Project. Val's Café, a network that seeks to promote healthy

ageing and improve the health of older lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI) people, also received a further three years funding.

A number of research projects delivered their findings throughout the year. A notable example is A Closer Look at Private Lives 2, a follow-up study from the Private Lives 2 study in 2012. The project focussed particularly on the mental health and well-being of LGBT Australians. The report was launched by the Hon. Martin Foley, Victorian Minister for Mental Health, Equality, Disability and Ageing, Housing and Creative Industries.

Other studies went out into the field in 2015, such as the eighth round of the HIV Futures survey. This is the only national survey of people living with HIV in Australia, covering health, treatments, work, finances, sex and relationships.

ARCSHS staff had another productive year, with 50 refereed journal articles published and a further 27 accepted or advanced publications. The Centre also produced another 60 publications (reports, monographs and non-refereed publications). Staff also presented their findings at over 100 international and national conferences, or other meetings in the academic, community or government sectors.

Two ARCSHS staff members were invited to present at the Victorian Royal Commission into Family Violence, and another was invited to appear at the Senate Inquiry into the matter of a popular vote, in the form of a plebiscite or referendum, on the matter of marriage in Australia. With same sex marriage legalised in Ireland and the USA nationally this year, let's hope that change is around the corner. Findings by ARCSHS researchers Emily Bariola and Anthony Lyons published this year support the case for policy change, linking same sex marriage to better health.

Stories in the mainstream media based on our research and activities attracted an audience of around 4 million in 2015. Our followers on the ARCSHS twitter and Facebook accounts almost doubled during the year. In July alone, our Tweets reached 62,000 twitter users. Many of our staff write for The Conversation, and my own

column 'Facts of Life: Views on sex, health and society' has generated around 100,000 readers for some stories and additional mainstream media interest of similar size.

Our Centre is also home to a range of programs that promote research translation. These programs, many of which are part of GLHV, have an impressive public profile. Across all ARCSHS-associated accounts this adds up to over 2500 followers on Facebook and over 4000 on twitter, as well as around 6000 subscribers to newsletters. The combined visits to websites and projects based at ARCSHS is over 10,000 a month.

We were thrilled this year to have our own Emeritus Professor Anne Mitchell AO inducted into the 2015 Victorian Honour Roll of Women. This annual induction recognises the achievements of remarkable Victorian women who have demonstrated leadership and excellence in their field.

The ARCSHS Higher Degree by Research postgraduate program continued to go from strength to strength in 2015 with students presenting their research at conferences, winning awards, publishing papers and continuing to work on their projects. ARCSHS also continued to deliver its path-breaking, online, undergraduate, elective unit called 'Contemporary Issues in Sexuality Studies' for the fifth time.

During the year, ARCSHS has developed and adopted a new Strategic Plan 2016-2019. This plan sets the key strategic direction for ARCSHS to strive to become the leading centre in Australia in sexuality research. The plan is a key public document that outlines ARCSHS's mission, strategic direction, aims and expectations of performance for the period 2016-2019. It also outlines research themes to be continued and developed.

I would like to thank all our staff for their hard work this year, including the numerous casual staff who helped on various projects. This year has been a year of remarkable achievements, and I look forward to building on these successes next year.

Professor Jayne Lucke
Director

2015 HIGHLIGHTS

Sector participation



22 International academic societies/associations

10 Commonwealth government advisory groups

15 State government advisory groups

66 Boards/steering groups of community organisations

Publications



50 Refereed plus 27 advanced publications

41 Non-refereed

20 Monographs and reports

9 Book sections

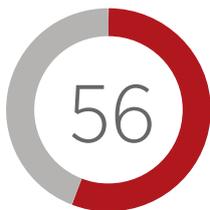
Journals

91 Journal reviews

18 Editorial roles in journal



Presentations



at meetings



international and national conferences

Staff and students



30 Equivalent Full Time (EFT) Staff



22 PhD students (4 completions)



5,500 people received training

Media profile



41 Newspaper, magazine and electronic articles



24 Media appearances



4,250 Twitter followers



2,500 Facebook followers



4,000,000 audience reached through mainstream media

Budget



\$5.036 m in funding

MORE INFORMATION

The full 2015 Annual Report is available for download at: latrobe.edu.au/arcshs/about/annual-reports

Visit the ARCSHS website for more information about our Centre and our work.

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