

# Judith Lumley Centre

for women, children and family health research

#57 December 2022

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## Celebrating Professor Angela Taft's Retirement with a Festschrift

by Leesa Hooker, Catina Adams & Felicity Young

Professor Angela Taft, former director of the Judith Lumley Centre (JLC) and pioneer in preventing and responding to Violence against Women (VAW) and Reproduction and Sexual Health in primary healthcare settings, has retired from La Trobe University. Thankfully, Angela is continuing as an Emeritus Professor at La Trobe. Angela began her career at La Trobe in 2001 as a Research Fellow. A strong advocate for women's health and human rights, she co-established the La Trobe Violence Against Women (LAVAWN) network to bring together scholars from across the university. She was Director of JLC from 2014-2017.



Angela's work has been recognised nationally and internationally, with her early intervention trial to improve the safety and wellbeing of mothers experiencing intimate partner violence replicated in the USA and Peru. The World Health Organization has sought her expertise on interventions in primary healthcare settings and she has been funded by the United Nations Family Planning Association to develop a curriculum for health care professionals in Timor-Leste and Papua New Guinea to reduce VAW. Angela's most recent RCT, [HARMONY](#), was highly commended by the Victorian Multicultural Commission in 2021. She has been awarded the Champion for Women (Women's Health Victoria 25th anniversary), Public Health Fellow (Public Health Association of Australia), and NNVAWI Excellence in Policy and Practice (Nursing Network on Violence Against Women International).

Members of the JLC, family, friends and colleagues celebrated her life's work on the 5<sup>th</sup> of October 2022 with a formal farewell in the format of a modified Festschrift. A Festschrift usually includes a volume of writings by different authors presented as a tribute to a scholar. Our JLC Festschrift comprised an afternoon of congratulatory video and in-person messages to Angela from fellow national and international academics and former PhD students wishing her all the best in her future endeavours. Best wishes and endearing messages were received from as far away as the UK, Ghana, Brazil, and Singapore (snippets below). The [celebration](#) concluded with an abundant afternoon tea and bonhomie.

- Bijaya Pokharel, current PhD student: *"You've had such a big impact on my career...and I thank you so much for mentoring young researchers like myself and trusting us."*
- Ingrid Wilson, former PhD student: *"The impact she has had on my career has just been enormous, I wouldn't be where I am today without her."*

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## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Staff news

We said farewell to Professor **Angela Taft**, who has retired after 21 years at La Trobe (page 1).

### We congratulate:

- **Touran Shafiei** on her successful promotion to Associate Professor.
- **Catina Adams** on her successful promotion to Senior Lecturer.
- Adjunct Professor **Tanya Farrell** was awarded an Honorary Doctor of Public Health (page 9).

- Mercy Ostin, former PhD student: *"I want to congratulate you on a very wonderful career, and I thank you for the impact you've made in my life."*
- Marcos Signorelli, former PhD student: *"Her impact on my career, I have no words to describe how she helped me and supported me."*
- Kayli Wild, ARC DECRA Fellow: *"Angela you've always been there for me, you've been tough on me when I've needed it, but also the most supportive person I know. You've been instrumental in both the lead-up and in getting my DECRA, which has transformed my career... I am where I am today because of you Angela and your unwavering support."*
- Mridula Shankar, former research staff member: *"I am in constant admiration for Angela's zest for life, work, and play... she has this infectious energy, love, and enthusiasm."*
- Marilyn Beaumont, Women's Health Victoria: *"Without you beside us in terms of the deep work you were doing, the outcome for the women in Victoria and ultimately the women in Australia would not have been what it has become".*
- Sylvie Lo Fo Wong, Radboud University Medical Centre, Netherlands: *"I appreciated your loyalty, always... and I admire your perseverance, with not the easiest projects, you have had an impact on women in abusive relationships, which was and is still needed."*
- Gene Feder, Bristol University, UK: *"You've had a really big impact on my career, partly because our work has so much been done in collaboration and we've influenced each other."*



Angela Taft



Helen McLachlan leads the singing, with Della Forster and Rhonda Small



Angela Taft, Jessica Bee, Molly Allen-Leap



Laura Whitburn, Della Forster, Fiona Bruinsma, Touran Shafiei



Lael Ridgway, Jan Nicholson

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## Student news

**Fiona Burgemeister** passed her PhD titled *"Implementation and evaluation of place-based initiatives for children"*. Supervisory team: **Prof Jan Nicholson, Prof Lisa Amir, Dr Sharinne Crawford, Dr Stacey Hokke and Dr Naomi Hackworth**. Fiona also was awarded a Nancy Millis medal in recognition of the exceptional quality of her thesis.

**Catina Adams** has been awarded a PhD for her thesis titled *"How does the Enhanced Maternal and Child Health Program in Victoria Support Women Experiencing Family Violence?"* Supervisory team: **Prof Angela Taft and A/Prof Leesa Hooker**

**Kerryn O'Rourke** passed her PhD titled *"Realist Evaluation of a Volunteer Doula Program for Women Experiencing Socioeconomic Disadvantage, in Melbourne Australia"*. Supervisory team: **A/Prof Touran Shafiei, A/Prof Michelle Newton, and Dr Jane Yelland**

**Tanisha Springall** has been awarded a Master of Applied Science for her thesis titled *"Exploring Breastfeeding Initiation and Maintenance for First Nations Women and Infants in Victoria, Australia"*. Supervisory team: **Prof Helen McLachlan and Prof Della Forster**

## New Higher Degree Student

**Mini Varughese** (Professional Doctorate): *"Improving breast milk feeding for preterm infants in the neonatal unit"*. Supervisory team: **Prof Lisa Amir and Dr Melissa Buultjens** (Department of Psychology & Public Health)

## A personal note

By Leesa Hooker

I started my PhD study with Angela in January 2013 after working as a project manager on an RCT with her the year prior. I was an experienced clinician and educator but a very novice researcher, stepping into the intimidating world of the Mother and Child Health Research Centre (now JLC) and higher degree study. Three years later, I had published many academic papers and was awarded a research medal for my PhD on family violence and Maternal and Child Health (MCH) nursing practice. While this outcome was due to personal hard work, much of the credit must also be attributed to the quality of supervision I received. Angela displayed real passion for 'violence against women' research which was infectious, and she projected genuine interest and confidence in my succeeding as a future research leader.

Angela has an incredible intellect and was a formidable supervisor, with very high expectations that were strived for, but not always met. While praise from her was hard earned and often sparse, I was always made to feel capable of anything I wanted to achieve. Her constructive feedback and enthusiasm made me want to do better. She makes HDR students feel they are her highest priority, which I know isn't always true, especially at the time of my PhD, when she became extra busy as Director of JLC.

Throughout my candidature (and beyond), I was encouraged at great length to 'lean in' and accept opportunities she manufactured, consequently building networks with many influential national and international colleagues e.g., through the Safer Families CRE and the Nursing Network on Violence Against Women International. I was initially a student representative on this international network but am now the immediate past President. This group of world leading academics in the field of family violence research provides me with ongoing mentorship and facilitates international opportunities in grant writing, research projects and joint publications.

I am forever grateful to Angela for all that she has seen in me and supported me with. Her modelling of exemplary HDR supervision is something I continue to benefit from and enjoy, as I now take on the JLC research stream lead on preventing and responding to VAW and have many of my own PhD students at the Centre. Thank you, Angela.





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## Grants

Congratulations on the following grants awarded to JLC staff:

### Victorian Government's Crime Prevention Innovation Fund \$265,876

*Preventing drink spiking: Community action to address drug and alcohol facilitated sexual violence in the Bendigo region. A/Prof Leesa Hooker, Dr Jess Ison (page 9)*

### 2023 Australian Research Council (ARC) Discovery Project Grant \$220,000

*The great disruption of COVID-19: Reimagining the work-family interface.*

A/Prof Mandi Cooklin, Dr Liana Leach (ANU), Dr Stacey Hokke, A/Prof Jodi Oakman (School of Psychology & Public Health), A/Prof Rebecca Giallo (Deakin University) and Prof Jan Nicholson

### ABC Grant, La Trobe Theme Investment Scheme

*EVE: Usability, impact and acceptance of an Mhealth app to engage and support childbearing women*

Fiona Faulks, A/Prof Leesa Hooker, A/Prof Kristina Edvardsson, Nicole Carlon (Northern Health), Josh Farrington (Medicity)

### ABC Grant, La Trobe Theme Investment Scheme

*Victimisation and perpetration of alcohol and other drug-facilitated sexual violence*

Dr Jess Ison, A/Prof Leesa Hooker, Benjamin Riordan, Gabriel Caluzzi, Ingrid Wilson, Anne-Marie Laslett, Jacqui Theobald, Kirsty Forsdike, Elena Wilson

## Sexual and Reproductive Health Research at the Judith Lumley Centre

By Kristina Edvardsson

The Sexual and Reproductive Health research stream in the Judith Lumley Centre (JLC) has two key focus areas: unintended pregnancy and abortion, and reproductive coercion. The senior researchers in the stream, myself (lead) and Associate Professor Leesa Hooker, are research fellows in the [NHMRC Centre of Research Excellence in Sexual and Reproductive Health for Women in Primary Care](#) (SPHERE CRE), and Professor Angela Taft is a SPHERE CRE Chief Investigator. This gives us and our students unique access to collaboration with leading national and international expertise in sexual and reproductive health research.

Key research currently being undertaken within this stream includes population-level estimates and trends of sexual and reproductive health risk factors and outcomes, disparities in these trends across population sub-groups, and measurement development and validation. Our team has a strong focus on rural health, facilitated by Leesa's joint appointment between JLC and the La Trobe Rural Health School (based at La Trobe's Bendigo campus), which is Australia's largest rural health school.

We utilise large population-based datasets, routinely collected and administrative data, nationally representative surveys, and data linkage, as well as qualitative data to generate new understandings of observed trends, patterns, and relationships. These methods also allow marginal groups to be represented in our research. Datasets include the Victorian Perinatal Data Collection (VPDC), the National Perinatal Data Collection (NPDC), the Australian Longitudinal Study of Women's Health (ALSWH), and data linkage with the Medicare Benefits Schedule (MBS), Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) and hospital admissions datasets.

The stream has expanded by three new students in the last year:

**Desirée LaGrappe** is a previous Johns Hopkins University Gender Equity & Justice scholar with international nursing and research experience in high-income and low-income countries. During her PhD, she will develop and validate a clinically relevant prevalence measure for reproductive coercion. In 2021, Desirée was awarded a prestigious NHMRC PhD scholarship, and her work is greatly facilitated by her broad international and national research and clinical networks.

**Brianna Pike** commenced her Professional Doctorate in 2022 and will explore the impact of reproductive coercion on victim-survivors' safety, life choices, and help-seeking behaviours. Brianna is an experienced social worker, sexual assault counsellor, consultant, and educator. During her studies, she will engage with sexual assault services and victim-survivors of reproductive coercion to advance the understanding of how reproductive coercion impacts victim-survivors more broadly, beyond initial health impacts, and how services assess and respond to victim-survivors' needs.

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## Grants continued

### ABC Grant, La Trobe Theme Investment Scheme \$21,204

*The language of labour pain: understanding how words influence women's experiences*

**Laura Whitburn**, Elizabeth Newnham, (University of Newcastle), **Lester Jones** (Singapore Institute of Technology), Allan Cyna (Adelaide Women & Children's Hospital, University of Adelaide).

### ABC Grant, La Trobe Theme Investment Scheme \$24,780

*Supporting children's resilience and mental health through risky play: Children's and parents' experiences of the Risky Kids program*

**Shannon Bennetts**, **Sharinne Crawford**, **Stacey Hokke**, **Clair Bennett**, **Jasmine Love**, Hulya Gilbert (School of Humanities & Social Sciences), **Karli Treyvaud** (Department of Psychology & Public Health), **Jan Nicholson**.

### ABC Grant, La Trobe Theme Investment Scheme \$24,637

*Evaluating babymates: a mobile app supporting social connections for expectant and new fathers*

**Sharinne Crawford**, **Stacey Hokke**, **Amanda Cooklin**, **Shannon Bennetts**, **Kimberley Mallan** (Australian Catholic University), **Tess Crane** (Department of Psychology & Public Health), **Jan Nicholson**.

### ABC Grant within the La Trobe Theme Investment Scheme

*Differences in how men and women are studied in alcohol research: A systematic review*

**Megan Cook**, **Sarah MacLean**, **Amanda Cooklin** and team.

**Genevieve Edwards** commenced her PhD studies in Semester 2, 2022 and will examine how rurality influences pregnancy options for women with unintended pregnancy. Genevieve is a registered nurse who has dedicated over half of her 20-year nursing career to delivering sexual and reproductive health services, in a variety of educational and primary health care settings in regional, rural and remote parts of Australia. She is currently a lecturer at the Australian Catholic University. Her PhD will extend work on unintended pregnancy and abortion undertaken by myself, Leesa, and Angela; papers which are currently under review.

Our team presented our research at the Children by Choice Reproductive Rights and Abortion 2022 Conference held in Brisbane in August, where we also had the opportunity to meet with national collaborators for the first time since the pandemic. The team is hosting a recently established university-wide research interest group with a focus on sexual and reproductive health topics including unintended pregnancy, abortion, and reproductive coercion. The group was initiated to connect researchers across La Trobe with aligned research interests, and will provide opportunities for collaboration on joint publications, grant applications, supervision of HDR students, and general information sharing. The first meeting was held in November 2022. For more information, please contact [k.edvardsson@latrobe.edu.au](mailto:k.edvardsson@latrobe.edu.au).

Following Angela's retirement in 2022, I will be leading the Sexual and Reproductive Health research stream. Angela will remain in a mentorship role and continue to support our team. Angela will also continue her involvement in the SPHERE CRE and other external organisations.



*Kristina Edvardsson, Leesa Hooker, Angela Taft and Desiree La Grappe*

## Breastfeeding for First Nations women and infants

By Tanisha Springall

In 2017, a First Nations caseload midwifery model was introduced at the hospital where I worked. I was one of the first to have my son, my first child, in this new model of care. It was incredible to receive culturally safe care throughout my pregnancy and I was grateful to have this option.

As an Aboriginal midwife, I was then offered an opportunity to be involved in the evaluation of this model; the Baggarrook Yurrongi project. I was first involved as a research assistant, and then, with encouragement, as a HDR student. My supervisors (Prof Della Forster and Prof Helen McLachlan) and I identified a need to focus on breastfeeding outcomes for First Nations women and infants and this became the topic for my Master's degree thesis. I was privileged to undertake telephone surveys with participants, where women shared their experiences of

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## Grants continued

### Large Collaboration Grant, La Trobe Theme Investment Scheme: \$97,526

*Sustaining maternity service provision in Australia: improving clinical outcomes, optimising workforce recruitment and retention, and building research capacity*

**Della Forster, Helen McLachlan, Stefan Kane** (Royal Women's Hospital), **Sue Walker** (Mercy Health), **Emily Callander** (Monash University), **Jeannie Cheong** (Royal Women's Hospital), and team

### Large Collaboration Grant, La Trobe Theme Investment Scheme: \$118,721

*Altering the lifecourse trajectories of disadvantaged parents and children: a place-based initiative*

**Jan Nicholson, Leesa Hooker, Lisa Amir, Amanda Cooklin, Christine East, Kristina Edvardsson, Della Forster, Rebecca Giallo**, (Deakin University), **Helen McLachlan**, **Susan Morton**, (University of Auckland), **Michelle Newton, Touran Shafiei**.

### Graduate Research Industry Engagement Allowance (GRIEA)

- Awarded to **Fiona Burgemeister** \$2,000.

having a baby supported by the First Nations-specific caseload model. I collected data for the overall project, and also asked women specific questions for my Master's research on breastfeeding.

My thesis, entitled 'Exploring breastfeeding initiation and maintenance for First Nations women and infants in Victoria, Australia' consisted of two components. The first component was a systematic review of breastfeeding rates and the factors associated with breastfeeding for First Nations women in Australia; the first systematic review of its kind. The second component explored breastfeeding outcomes for women who participated in the Baggarrook Yurrongi project. These breastfeeding outcomes included breastfeeding initiation, breastfeeding at three months, factors associated with breastfeeding at three months, and reasons for stopping breastfeeding.

In the systematic review, we found that nationally, rates of breastfeeding were lower for First Nations women compared to the general population. There was evidence that First Nations-specific maternity services, among other factors, improved rates of breastfeeding for First Nations women and infants. In the Baggarrook Yurrongi project, we found that First Nations women, most of whom received care in the culturally specific model, had high rates of breastfeeding initiation and breastfeeding at three months in comparison to national rates of breastfeeding for First Nations women. Together, these findings demonstrate that culturally-specific midwifery models of care can enhance rates of breastfeeding among First Nations women.

I took a slightly longer path to completing my thesis – submitting five months later than expected – but received the good news in October that I had passed. I was excited to attend my graduation in December. This was my first graduation ceremony as I was not able to attend my undergraduate graduation, so it felt extra special this time. I want to thank La Trobe University, JLC, and my supervisors Helen and Della for the unwavering support and guidance to complete my degree.



*Baggarrook project team with participating mums and babies*



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## Awards

### Vice-Chancellor's Research Excellence Award

- **Excellence in Industry Engagement:** Prof Helen McLachlan in recognition of her ability to partner effectively to conduct impactful research with direct societal benefits.

### School of Nursing & Midwifery Awards for Research Excellence: Vice Chancellor's Research Awards

- **Mid-Career Research Excellence (LRHS):** A/Prof Leesa Hooker
- **Mid-Career Research Excellence:** A/Prof Kristina Edvardsson
- **Excellence in Industry Engagement:** Prof Helen McLachlan and team for the project "Culturally safe continuity of midwifery care for First Nations women – translating evidence into practice"

### Engagement Australia awards - Excellence in Indigenous Engagement

- **'Baggarrook Yarrongi' program won the Engagement Australia 2022 Excellence Awards prize for "Excellence in Indigenous Engagement".** The project was conducted by Prof Helen McLachlan, A/Prof Michelle Newton, Prof Della Forster, Fiona McLardie Hore, Pamela (Res) McCalman and team in partnership with the Victorian Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (VACCHO), and three Melbourne hospitals (Royal Women's Hospital, Joan Kirner Hospital and the Mercy Hospital for Women). See Page 10

### Accessibility and Inclusion Academic Award (student nominated)

- Awarded to Dr Jess Ison in recognition of her awareness of student mental health in her teaching and creating an inclusive learning space.

## My PhD Journey

By Fiona Burgemeister

I submitted my PhD 'Implementing and evaluating place-based initiatives for children' in May this year, and found out in September that I passed. What a relief! The setting for my PhD project was Communities for Children (CfC) – one of Australia's largest place-based initiatives. My research explored how evidence-based programs can be effectively implemented in place-based initiatives for disadvantaged children. I found that implementation was facilitated by organisational readiness, skilled and enthusiastic staff, adequate resourcing, and attention to 'place'. I worked closely with the Australian Department of Social Services to design my three studies so that the findings would be useful to them and help influence how services are delivered to improve outcomes for Australian children. I published four papers along the way – a scoping review, a qualitative paper from interviews with government personnel who oversee CfC, and two papers from an online survey with community personnel who select and implement CfC programs and services. I am very thankful to my wonderful supervisors for their guidance and support along the way – Jan, Lisa, Sharinne, Stacey and Naomi Hackworth (yes, a lot, it's a long story...).

During my PhD, I provided research support to JLC's Prevention of Violence Against Women and Children team. This experience, along with the solid grounding in research skills I gained during my time at JLC, led to me being offered a Post-doctoral Research Fellow position at the Safer Families Research Centre at The University of Melbourne. My first project is looking at women's experience of psychological violence – a poorly understood and under-researched topic. I am currently working three days a week in this role, and two days a week at La Trobe on a couple of projects. JLC was a wonderful Centre to undertake my PhD. The regular program of educational activities meant that I learned so much along the way. And PhD students receive an abundance of formal and informal support. I met so many smart, articulate, generous, and kind people, and made lifelong friends. The final step of my PhD journey was graduation in December – yay!



Jan Nicholson and Fiona Burgemeister

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## Conference presentations

World Breastfeeding Week free webinar, GOLDLearning, 2 August 2022

- **Lisa Amir:** "Urban design solutions to support breastfeeding in public".

Sexual violence research initiative (SVRI) Conference in Cancun, Mexico. 19-22 September 2022:

- **Felicity Young:** "Integrating violence against women in national midwifery curriculum in Timor-Leste" (plenary presentation). Presented on behalf of Kayli Wild, Guilhermina de Araujo, Lidia Gomes, Angelina Fernandes, Leesa Hooker, Angela Taft
- **Felicity Young, Bijaya Pokharel and Asha Padiseti:** "Culturally competent and online: domestic violence and abuse training for primary healthcare practitioners" (parallel session). Presented on behalf of Angela Taft, Jennifer Neil, Kelsey Hegarty, Gene Feder, 22 September 2022



National Birthing on Country Conference in Alice Springs, 10 October 2022

- **Helen McLachlan, Pamela (Res) McCalman and Della Forster:** "Supporting the midwifery workforce to work in Birthing on Country services"



## JLC COVID-19 research generates national interest

Dr Shannon Bennetts was featured in the media in July this year, following publication of her lead-author paper in PLOS ONE. Her research examined the role of pets for families with children during the COVID-19 pandemic. Children with stronger bonds with their pets were found to be experiencing greater anxiety. It is likely that children who were feeling distressed or unsettled were seeking additional comfort from their pets. This research received excellent media coverage, with Shannon being interviewed by *The Herald Sun* (article image below), 3AW Melbourne, ABC Sydney, and ABC Adelaide (Paper co-authors: Sharinne Crawford, Tiffani Howell, Fiona Burgemeister, Catherine Chamberlain, Kylie Burke, Jan Nicholson).



## Staff Giving program

The Judith Lumley Centre is very proud to be listed to receive donations as part of the La Trobe's Staff Giving – Golden Lanyard program. Through the program, La Trobe University staff can make tax-deductible donations to the Judith Lumley Centre to support research that addresses major public health issues for women, children and families. Donors will receive a golden lanyard in acknowledgement of their generosity. The Alumni and Advancement team organised a special morning tea in October to celebrate the occasion with cupcakes made especially for the event. To find out more about the Golden Lanyard Staff Giving program or to donate visit <https://www.latrobe.edu.au/giving/ways-to-give/staff-giving/donate>





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## La Trobe University – Research Month Presentations

- **Lisa Amir** presented “Using data from MoBa (Norwegian Mother, Father and Child Cohort Study) to explore maternal medication use during lactation” in a session on Big Data Analysis Community of Practice. 13 October 2022
- **Della Forster, Robyn Matthews, and Rebecca Hyde** were panel members: ARCH Seminar Series Safe Maternity Care - Our in-depth work studying the midwifery workforce spanning the past five years has important learnings about the profession, the pre-pandemic situation and how the sector is affected by the pandemic. 27 October 2022
- **Sharinne Crawford** was part of a panel sponsored by Cultures of Health Research cluster, the Healthy People, Families and Communities Theme and the Social Change and Equity Theme. “Running a successful interdisciplinary health research collaboration”. 31 October 2022

## Tanya Farrell awarded an Honorary Degree

Congratulations to Adjunct Professor Tanya Farrell who was awarded a Doctor of Public Health (*honoris causa*) in a ceremony at La Trobe University on the 27<sup>th</sup> of September. Tanya is a recognised leader and expert in nursing, midwifery and maternity services who has made an indelible contribution to the professions of nursing and midwifery, and more broadly across the health industry through her operational, strategic, and innovative approaches to the provision of health services. Tanya sits on the Chair Consultative Council on Obstetric and Paediatric Mortality and Morbidity and is Senior Maternity Advisor at Safer Care Victoria.



*Michelle Newton,  
Helen McLachlan,  
Della Forster,  
Tanya Farrell,  
Charlie Benzie,  
Rebecca Hyde,  
Stefanie Zugna*

## Victorian Government funding grant awarded for a project on prevention of drink spiking

Congratulations to Leesa Hooker and Jess Ison for being awarded a grant of \$265,876 from the Victorian Government Department of Justice and Community Safety. Crime Prevention Innovation Fund for their project ‘Preventing drink spiking: Community action to address drug and alcohol facilitated sexual violence in the Bendigo region’. 2022- 2024 Hooker, L., Ison, J., Wilson, I., Laslett, A., Wilson, E., Theobald, J., Forsdike, K., Donaldson, A.

For full articles see:

<https://www.latrobe.edu.au/news/articles/2022/release/research-to-tackle-drink-spiking>



*Leesa Hooker, Lee Edmonds, Jess Ison and Minister Anthony Carbines  
(Photo: Bendigo Advertiser)*

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## Opinion pieces

**Amir L, Rudner J.** Needs of breastfeeding women should be considered in city design. *Canberra Times*, 1 August 2022

**Forsdike K, Laslett A, Hooker L.** "This Melbourne Cup, alcohol and sport collide. We need to watch out for domestic violence" *The Conversation*. 1 November 2022.

**Forster D.** Call the midwife? This may not be an option if shortages worsen. *The Age*, 7 December 2022

## In the media

**Professor Lisa Amir** was interviewed about her 20-year career at the Royal Women's Hospital. Leading the way in breastfeeding care. *News, Royal Women's Hospital*, 3 August 2022



*Lisa Amir was interviewed for ABC News in Southbank about breastfeeding rates*

Women help each other through online breastfeeding support groups as support dwindles amid pandemic. *ABC News*, 6 August 2022

**A/Prof Leesa Hooker and Dr Jess Ison** were interviewed by *ABC PM* Dating app users experiencing high levels of sexual violence survey finds 4 October 2022

## 'Baggarrook Yarrongi' program wins the Engagement Australia 2022 Excellence Awards prize for "Excellence in Indigenous Engagement"



The 'Baggarrook Yarrongi (Women's Journey) – Improving the health of First Nations mothers and babies' project aimed to assess the capacity of the maternity services to implement, embed and sustain a culturally responsive caseload midwifery model for women having a First Nations baby. The broader aim was to help 'close the gap' in maternal and infant health outcomes for First Nations people. The project was conducted by Helen McLauchlan, Michelle Newton, Della Forster, Fiona McLardie Hore, Pamela (Res) McCalman, Tanisha Springall, Touran Shafiei and team in partnership with the Victorian Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (VACCHO), and three Melbourne hospitals (the Royal Women's Hospital, Joan Kirner Hospital, and the Mercy Hospital for Women).

The Engagement Australia Award for Excellence in Indigenous Engagement recognises "outstanding collaborations between tertiary education and Indigenous communities in Australia, New Zealand and beyond, that directly reduce disadvantage, and empower and give voice to First Nations peoples."

The Award was presented at a gala dinner held in Sydney on the 21 November 2022 as part of the Engagement Australia Conference; the work of 24 finalists across seven award categories were celebrated. Our huge congratulations to Helen, Della, Michelle, Fiona, Res, Tanisha, Touran and team! Helen and the team also won La Trobe's Vice-Chancellor's Research Excellence Awards Excellence in Industry Engagement.



*Della Forster, Gina Bundle, Storm Henry, Michelle Newton, Fiona McLardie-Hore, Helen McLachlan*



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## In the media continued

A/Prof Leesa Hooker and Dr Jess Ison were interviewed about drink spiking:

- [WA police offer drug testing kits to catch drink-spiking offenders](#). *ABC News* 7 October 2022
- [La Trobe University Bendigo researchers fighting drink spiking](#). *The Canberra Times*, 18 November 2022
- [Drink spiking is most common at home by someone you know, say La Trobe University researchers](#). *ABC Ballarat*, 16 November 2022

Dr Jess Ison was interviewed about government plan to end violence against women and children. [Housing key to women's safety](#). *ABC PM*, 17 October 2022

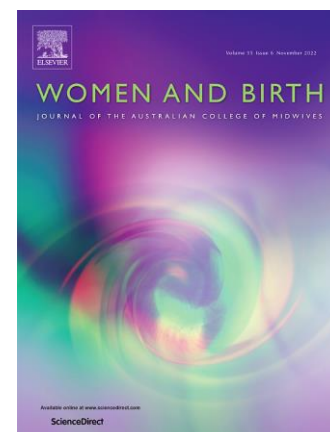
Robyn Matthews received media coverage on 7 December 2022 for the FUCHSIA study (Future Proofing the Midwifery Workforce in Victoria: a Statewide Cross-sectional Survey Exploring Health, Wellbeing and Sustainability):

- [Burnt-out midwives are leaving as some feel birth conditions 'unsafe'](#). *The Age*
- Seven News, Nine News, ABC TV News and ABC Radio Melbourne

## JLC First Nations Research Featured in *Women & Birth* Special Issue

By Res (Pamela) McCalman

Three JLC publications have been selected by the guest editors of *Women and Birth* (WOMBI) to feature in the journal's latest special issue, "Best start to life – for First Nations families". WOMBI is the official journal of the Australian College of Midwives and first published a special "Birthing on Country in Australia" issue in 2019. These articles were recognised for contributing to research aiming to improve health outcomes for First Nations women and newborns.



The recent virtual issue was published online in October this year. The release coincided with the recent "Best Start to Life" national gathering, hosted in Mparntwe (Alice Springs). Prof Helen McLachlan and I were lucky to be able to attend this gathering and were invited to speak at multiple panel discussions.

I'd like to congratulate everyone involved in the Baggarrook Yurrongi project, including Tanisha Springall, Prof Helen McLachlan, Prof Della Forster, and Fiona McLardie-Hore, for contributing to this important work. Congratulations also to Carol Reid for publication of her PhD paper about supporting First Nations parents experiencing complex trauma. These articles are open access, so please feel free to share, using the #BSTL2022, @MollyCentre and @LTUJudithLumley.

The featured JLC articles are:

McCalman et al [Trust, privacy, community, and culture: Important elements of maternity care for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women giving birth in Victoria](#). <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S1871519222001020>

Springall et al. [Breastfeeding rates of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women in Australia: a systematic review and narrative analysis](#) <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S1871519222000373>

Reid et al. [Using participatory action research to co-design perinatal support strategies for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander parents experiencing complex trauma](#) <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S1871519221001980>



# Judith Lumley Centre

for women, children and family health research

#57 December 2022

## Lunchtime Seminars

- **Dr Deirdre Gartland**, *Murdoch Children's Research Institute*, Mothers' and children's mental and physical health in the context of family violence in a large longitudinal population cohort, August 2022
- **Dr Adrian Walker**, *University of New South Wales*, The health and service use of people with intellectual disability in New South Wales, Australia, September 2022
- **Prof Vicki Anderson**, *Murdoch Children's Research Institute*, Supporting parents to optimise children's outcomes from brain injury, October 2022
- **Prof Catherine Mills**, *Monash Bioethics Centre, Monash University*, Maeve's law, motherhood and mito: Mitochondrial donation in Australia, November 2022
- **Dr Briony Hill**, *Monash University*, Socioecological perspectives to wellbeing across preconception, pregnancy and postpartum, December 2022

We hold lunchtime seminars on the **first Wednesday of every month** from February to December, from **12.30 - 1.30 pm**.

These seminars showcase the work of our colleagues as well as national and international academics and researchers. They are free. Members of the wider community are welcome to attend.

Please refer to our website at [www.latrobe.edu.au/jlc/news-events/seminars-and-clubs](http://www.latrobe.edu.au/jlc/news-events/seminars-and-clubs)

## Maggie Flood Bursary Winner

In 2021, JLC alumna Dr Maggie Flood generously established the Maggie Flood Bursary for HDR students at JLC to assist with costs associated with their research. The Maggie Flood Bursary will be awarded each year for five years. This year's Maggie Flood Bursary was awarded to Deb Pidd. The Bursary will enable Deb to attend three training workshops in trauma-informed practice with the Blue Knot Foundation. Deb's thesis is titled: "Enhancing shared-decision making between women who have experienced a psychologically traumatic birth and their maternity care providers: developing an evidence-based woman-centred support pathway".

Congratulations Deb!



Sharinne Crawford and Deb Pidd

## JLC End of Year Celebration

Staff, students, and canine friends gathered in Bundoora Park on Friday 10 December to celebrate the year's achievements.

*Time to Celebrate!*



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## Graduations

Dr Catina Adams (PhD), Dr Fiona Burgemeister (PhD) and Tanisha Springall (Master of Applied Science, Research) are congratulated by their JLC supervisors at the graduation ceremony on 16 December at Bundoora.



*David Edvardsson (Acting Dean, School of Nursing & Midwifery), Lisa Amir, Della Forster, Fiona Burgemeister, Helen McLachlan, Tanisha Springall, Jan Nicholson, Catina Adams, Stacey Hokke, Chris Pakes (Pro Vice-Chancellor, Graduate and Global Research)*



*Angela Taft, Catina Adams, Leesa Hooker*



*Fiona Burgemeister with Nancy Millis medal*



*Helen McLachlan, Tanisha Springall, Della Forster*

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